

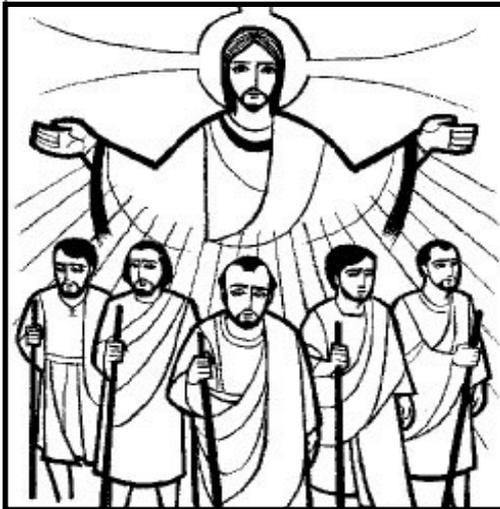


CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY V (A)
8th Feb 2026**



*'For poor, sick, afflicted
thy mercy we crave,
and comfort the dying,
thou light of the grave.
Ave ! Ave! Ave Maria!
Ave! Ave! Ave Maria'*

You are the light of the world

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OUR SCHOOLS

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ
Head : Mrs B Quirke
Tel : 852692

St Margaret's & All Saints Federation
Gamesley SK13 6HB
Head : Mrs G Beaumont
Tel : 855818

St Philip Howard Secondary
SK13 8DR
Head : Mr J Kayes
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 8th	FIFTH SUNDAY 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) M&J Cannon RIP (fam)	
Mon 9th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Margaret Blackburn (NS/MD)	
Tues 10th	St Scholastica 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Wed 11th	Our Lady of Lourdes (World Day of Prayer for the Sick) 12.45pm (BB) Requiem Mass for Margaret Blackburn RIP	
Thurs 12th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Fr Paul Entwistle RIP (NS/MD) <i>(Deanery meeting, New Mills)</i>	
Fri 13th	feria 9.30 (BB) Margaret Blackburn RIP (AS)	
Sat 14th	Ss Cyril & Methodius 9.30 (HAD) Cecilia Addy RIP (fam)	
Sun 15th	SIXTH SUNDAY Day of Prayer for the unemployed 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) J&E Ashton, wedd. anniv. (fam) <i>(brief HAD council meeting after Mass)</i>	

<p>FIFTH ORDINARY SUNDAY (A)</p> <p>Psalter Week 1</p> <p>Introduction: The Lord calls us to show our light by works of kindness to the needy.</p> <p>First Reading : Is 58 : Practise justice and compassion : you will be blessed.</p> <p>Resp.Ps. THE GOOD MAN IS A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS FOR THE UPRIGHT</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Cor 2 : Paul preaches a simple message to the sophisticate.</p> <p>Gospel : Mt 5 : Salt & light : Jesus wants us to enrich the world.</p> <p>Comm. ant. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE CONSOLED.</p>

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish: Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Arthur King, Maura Farrell, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Ted Carrick; *Mary Eardley, Evelyn Jones, Marion Robinson, Norma Mellor, Lisa Marie Dineley, Sandra Murphy, Eileen Blomeley: May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen*

PARISH NOTES

TODAY Many if not the majority among us, are doing their little bit of Christ's work, in cultivating their own small corner of his vineyard. The parents who teach the Christian way of life to their children by word, and especially by example, are spreading the Christian faith. The workmen, whether in office or factory, who show that they are Christians by their honesty, charity for their fellowmen, their respect for God, and the things of God, in their speech, are spreading their Christian faith. All those who show moderation in their personal expenditures and donate some of their savings to help their brethren, their fellow men who are in need, these are true disciples of Christ and are cooperating with him in bringing God's children back to their Father who is in heaven. Life on earth is short. The demands of our Christian life may not always be easy, but we know that if we live up to them, we are other Christs. We are continuing his great work by our own good example to our neighbour, and we are giving glory to God, and are earning for ourselves the eternal light of heaven.

THIS FIFTH Sunday is declared the day of prayer for the victims of trafficking. Each year, 8th February (when not a Sunday) is the memorial of Saint Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. There are 50 million victims of human trafficking across the world and as many as 130,000 in the UK, hidden in plain sight in your neighbourhood. Pope Francis described human trafficking as "blood money" and a "crime against humanity". We are all called to combat this evil trade. To find out more and what you can do, go to santamartagroup.org/resources.

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL These sayings about salt and about the light of a lamp come in various places in the Gospels, to challenge or encourage the disciples of Jesus. In Mark the saying about salt is joined to other sayings about salt, not by logic but simply by the catch-word 'salt'. Here in Matthew, right after the opening promises of the Sermon on the Mount, they are surely a challenge to the disciples – not the Twelve, but all the disciples of Jesus, both those who kept company with Jesus and those who have followed after. The image of salt is obvious enough: food cooked without salt can be bland and tasteless, utterly unexciting. So a half-hearted or shallow proclamation of the gospel wins no converts. The message of the gospel must be piquant, sharp and challenging. If it does not change the life and temper of the hearer it has lost its piquancy and may as well be thrown out. The proclamation of Jesus aroused annoyance and opposition; the same will no doubt be the case in the world of today. The image of a lamp is gentler and wholly positive. Think of the flame of a small oil-lamp in the darkness of a large one-roomed house! Under a tub or a bowl or even a bed it will have no effect at all on the darkness, but on a lamp-stand it can bring light into the farthest corners, make social life and activity possible and bring joy to a

whole family and its friends. At the beginning of the Sermon these two images challenge disciples to share the salt and the light of the message they will receive with all who have ears to hear.

SANCTUARY: A Retreat hosted by The Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service Exclusively for Altar Servers The Briars Retreat Centre, Crich 8th – 10th May 2026.

I hope our dedicated altar servers consider attending this event, which the parishes will fund.

WARMER WELCOME WORKSHOP, Monday 9th February at 7.00pm. The next online gathering for volunteers with parish-based drop-ins, lunch clubs or cafés features guest speaker Jo Holland from the UK-wide network 'Places of Welcome'. If you're thinking of starting one, come and find out how others do it! Visit bit.ly/warmerwelcome to book your place.

CHURCH CLEANING We are grateful to the dedicated gleamers who week-by-week keep our churches spick and span. More helpers are needed to share the load. If you are free to help in any way and at any time, please let me know and I'll put you in touch.

THE DIOCESAN YEARBOOKS have arrived, and are available from the back of church, price £6.

NEXT SUNDAY is proclaimed **Unemployment Sunday**. Lent begins a week on Wednesday (18th), when Ashes will be offered in both our churches.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) J Greenall; 2nd (£20) Catherine Pease.

SPRINGTIME CONCERT At St Andrew's church Hadfield, Sunday 26th April, 7pm. "An Evening with Philippa Hanna". Ticket available from Rob Cranston : £7.50.

STANDING ORDERS: Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection (or tote)" 00510567. St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

SAFEGUARDING If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk; / phone 07513 725411.

SAINTS THIS WEEK St Scholastica (480 - 547) was born in Nursia, the twin sister of St Benedict. She was dedicated to God from an early age and followed her brother to Cassino, where she died. **OUR LADY OF LOURDES** The **Lourdes apparitions** are several Marian apparitions which took place in 1858 by Bernadette Soubirous, the 14-year-old daughter of a miller, in the town of Lourdes in the Pyrenees. From 11 February to 16 July 1858, she reported 18 apparitions of "a Lady". St Bernadette described the lady as wearing a white veil and a blue girdle; she had a golden rose on each foot and held a rosary of pearls.

After initial scepticism from the local clergy, these claims were eventually declared to be worthy of belief by the Catholic Church after a canonical investigation. **Ss Cyril and Methodius** are honoured in the Catholic calendar for 14th Feb. No mention of **St Valentine!** St Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint commonly associated with "courtly love." St. Valentine was presented with a judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision. St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269. On the day of his execution, he left the girl he cured of blindness a note signed, "Your Valentine." St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, beekeepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people.

SCHOOL HOLS begin for the half-term break next Friday.

CATECHETICAL INSPIRATION Sisters Hyacinthe and Lucy travelled from their Dominican convent in the faraway New Forest to St Mary's Hall on Friday evening, where they spoke engagingly to a good crowd of local parish catechists on the theme of passing on the faith to adults and children. Their presentation was received attentively, and with a good interchange of views at question time. I hope they felt their 480-mile return journey was worthwhile. Those attending certainly felt so. Thank you Sisters!