



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY VI (A)
15th Feb 2026



We pray through St Cajetan that those who wish to find employment would find help for themselves & their families to live with dignity.

Listen to our petitions, we pray; bring our petitions to Our Lord. Amen.

*‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him.*

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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 15th	SIXTH SUNDAY Day of Prayer for the unemployed 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) J&E Ashton, wedd. anniv. (fam) <i>(30-minute HAD council meeting after Mass)</i>	
Mon 16th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Martin Allison RIP (CW)	
Tues 17th	Shrove Tuesday 9.30 (HAD) Margaret Blackburn RIP (AB)	
Wed 18th	ASH WEDNESDAY day of fasting & abstinence 9.30 (HAD) Vincent Wathey RIP (CW) 7pm (BB) service with imposition of ashes	
Thurs 19th	Lenten feria 9.30 (HAD) Marie Jubb (fam) <i>Deanery Lenten Station Mass, St Anne's Buxton 7pm</i>	
Fri 20th	Lenten feria 9.30 (BB) DCA <i>Stations of the Cross : Hadfield, 3pm</i>	
Sat 21st	Lenten feria 9.30 (HAD) the Mannion family (FJ)	
Sun 22nd	FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) dec'd of Holtom & Perry fams RIP (fam)	

SIXTH SUNDAY (A)

Psalter Week 2

Introduction: Choose between right and wrong. The Spirit guides you to righteousness

First Reading : **Ecclus 15.** No-one is forced to do wrong. We can choose.

Resp.Ps. THEY ARE HAPPY WHO FOLLOW GOD'S LAW

Second Reading : **1 Cor 2 :** Eternal Glory is part of God's promise to us.

Gospel : **Mt 5 :** Jesus teaches the hard path to salvation.

Comm. ant. GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, SO THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM MAY NOT PERISH, BUT MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

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, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Leo McReavy, Colin Taylor, Roger Maher; ***James Flanagan, Florence Thompson: May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen***

PARISH NOTES

TODAY is the Sixth Sunday of ordinary time. Those longer of tooth will remember it was called *Quinquagesima Sunday*—exactly 50 days to Easter Sunday. At the heart of the message from God's Holy Word in the liturgy we discern: *We must be truthful always, and people of our word. This virtue is not only necessary for our salvation, but is the basis of rational intercourse between men in civilized society. While our civil courts still deem it necessary to impose oaths on contestants and witnesses (since they have, unfortunately, to take account of the liars and deceivers who still are a menace to society), the truthful man need not be afraid of insulting or dishonouring God by calling him as his guarantor, if asked to do so. True and loyal service of God therefore begins in the heart and has its value from this interior disposition. Keeping the ten commandments is our way of proving to God that we are grateful, obedient and loyal to him who gave us all we have and who has promised us future gifts infinitely greater still. And just as our love for God is proved by our true love for our neighbour, so the last seven of the commandments impose on us obligations regarding our neighbour. It is only by fulfilling these seven that we can fulfil the first three which govern our relations with God. This truth is expressed by our Lord in the words: It you are offering your gift at the altar, and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there . . . first be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.*

THIS SIXTH Sunday is declared the day of **prayer for the unemployed**. The patron saint for the unemployed is **St Cajetan**, ordained priest in 1516. He founded in 1524 a community of priests who were to lead an apostolic life. They were to look with disdain all earthly belongings, to accept no salaries from the faithful; only from that which was freely donated were they allowed to retain the means of livelihood. He founded a bank to help the poor and offer an alternative to usurers (loan sharks). His concern for the unemployed, giving them the necessary financial help in their time of need, made him their patron.

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL Jesus is the completion of the Law of God given to Israel through Moses. He has come not to sweep it away but to perfect it. In this part of the Sermon on the Mount Matthew has gathered together six instances (four this week, two next Sunday) of the ways in which Jesus brings the Law to perfection. The first factor to notice, however, is that Jesus does not hesitate to adjust the divine Law on his own authority, for he too has divine authority. Each correction begins with a statement of the old Law and boldly goes on, 'But I say this to you...' Each of the corrections has its own character. The first is about enmity, the sixth about love. About enmity, it is not enough merely to forego violent injury; we must even expel enmity from our hearts, positively seeking reconciliation, whether the offence is our fault or not. About lust, it is similarly not enough to forego acts of lust; we must not even harbour such thoughts in our hearts. About divorce, the easy toleration of divorce in the Jewish Law is swept away, and Jesus uncompromisingly calls it fornication. About truth, it is not enough to keep a legal oath; we must be people whose every word can be relied upon. These are Jesus' demanding standards.

THE SEASON OF LENT Ash Wednesday is celebrated this week. Here are some of the rules and regulations binding on Catholics on Ash Wednesday and throughout the penitential season of Lent: We

must fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. Additionally, we must abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent.

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, penance, fasting and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practise self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

The norms of fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. Fasting means a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but they are not to equal that of a full meal. The rule of abstinence from meat is binding upon Catholics aged 14 and onwards. While those are the only two days of full fasting and abstinence required, all of Lent should be a time of spiritual formation and preparation for Easter. Also recommended are spiritual studies, beginning with the Scriptures as well as the traditional Lenten Devotions (daily Mass, Confession, Stations of the Cross, and the rosary), and all the self-denial summed up in the Christian concept of 'mortification.'

ASH WEDNESDAY Please note that Mass with imposition of ashes is celebrated at Hadfield at 9.30, and that a service with ashes-imposition is arranged for 7pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are planned for St Charles 3pm, Fridays during Lent.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) S Shaw; 2nd (£20) C Brown.

DEANERY LENTEN STATION MASS led by Bishop Patrick is diaried for St Anne's Buxton next Thursday 19th at 7pm, with confessions heard for 30 minutes before Mass.

CAROLE WARDLE WRITES: "I have signed up the Parish to do CAFOD's "The Big Lent Walk" with a target of raising £200 whilst walking 125 miles. It will be a joint enterprise for anybody in the Parish to join in and to contribute to. With Sue H's assistance, we shall plan some group walks to have a collective chip away at the miles. Full details to follow on the notice board and at the back of church including sponsorship forms and QR code."

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES "Respond to Our Lady's invitation, and join Bishop Patrick, in the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026. Departing from East Midlands airport on Monday 13th July, enjoy five days in Lourdes with over 200 people from across our diocese. Those with additional needs will be cared for by our health team and helpers' team. Mary invites us all to come to this holy place. More details from the tour operator: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-nottingham/>"

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is on Friday 27th February. CAFOD invites parish communities to respond through prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the needs of families facing floods and drought in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Through support for CAFOD's Lent Appeal, parishes and schools can help families grow food and care for their communities in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change. Please encourage your parish and school communities to support CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal. Further information about CAFOD's Lent Appeal, Big Lent Walk and parish collection resources are available at cafod.org.uk/parish The link to the parish appeal film is www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZGgWnwNwDw

THE FUNERAL Requiem Mass for the late Joe Singleton RIP is diaried for Mon 9th March at St James, Hattersley at 10.30.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS This Sunday after Mass there is a 30-minute St Charles meeting. A further meeting is indicated for Sunday 8th March. **Immaculate Conception** meeting is taking place at 2pm on Sunday 22nd March.

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.