



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

**LENT 2 (a)
1st March 2026**



*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end,
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that
desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the
right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Thomas Merton*

and he was transfigured in their sight

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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 1st March	LENT II 9.15 (BB Joe Singleton RIP (D&JW) 11am (HAD) Jean Ashton's family	
Mon 2nd	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) Mary Matthews RIP (fam)	
Tues 3rd	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) for the parish	
Weds 4th	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) P Smith (CF)	
Thurs 5th	Lent feria / St Frances of Rome 9.30 (HAD) Sp Int	
Fri 6th	Lent feria First Friday visits 9.30 (BB) Kevin Down RIP (J&CB) <i>f/by Stations;</i> <i>Stations (HAD) 3pm</i>	
Sat 7th	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) Dead List	
Sun 8th	LENT III 9.15 (BB) M Norton RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) Sylvia Cannon RIP (MD)	

SECOND LENT (A)

Psalter Week 2

Introduction: We journey on our pilgrim way to the glory which is revealed now - and promises an eternity of joy!

First Reading : **Gen 12** : Abram begins the pilgrimage to the promised land.

Resp.Ps. **MAY YOUR LOVE BE UPON US O LORD, AS WE PLACE ALL OUR HOPE IN YOU**

Second Reading : **2 Tim 1** : Keep on journeying with faith and perseverance.

Gospel : **Mt 17** : The end of the story is told : the Lord shows and promises his glory!

Comm. ant. **THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, WITH WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED; LISTEN TO HIM.**

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; Adrian Chatterton, Joe Maguire, Victor Key; ***Dominic Kiely, Dorothy Yarwood, Freda Winterbottom, Jean Ambrey, Carol Anne Hall, Pauline Brown, Frank Bates : May eternal light shine on them : Amen***

PARISH NOTES

TODAY we celebrate the second Sunday in Lent. We move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL The Transfiguration was the moment when the disciples were shown the divinity of Jesus on the Holy Mountain. The scene is reminiscent of Moses' encounter with God on Sinai, when his face, too, shone like the sun. Moses and Elijah are present because they are the two Old Testament figures who experienced the presence of God on the Holy Mountain. With his usual impetuous generosity Peter attempts to 'freeze' the moment. The public declaration of Jesus as God's Son at the Baptism is repeated, but with the addition that Jesus is the authorized divine teacher; Matthew is alert to the implications for the Church of the presence of Christ as Teacher. The cloud is also a symbol of God's presence, to which the human response can only be to fall to the ground in fear and reverence. The awesome moment of revelation cannot, however, last, and Jesus brings his disciples back to the dire realities before them with the reminder that his death must precede the revelation of his glory at the Resurrection. Until they have experienced the limitless generosity of his death, and the vindication by God of this love, they are not ready to spread the message of Jesus.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK ***Sts Perpetua and Felicity (- 203)*** were martyred at Carthage during the persecution of Septimius Severus. With so many martyrs of the third and fourth centuries we have to say "they were martyred but nothing else is known about them." That is

not the case here. We have a detailed contemporary account of their arrest, trial, sufferings and martyrdom, written partly by the saints themselves and partly by an eye-witness. Devotion to them spread rapidly and they are mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

PUBLICATIONS 'Magnificat' has sent this week three publications: For March, for April and for Holy Week. Please see the back of church if you wish to purchase copies.

CAFOD envelopes are due back this weekend. Please drop them into the collection basket or basket at the back of church.

CAFOD'S LENT APPEAL Further information about the 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 **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."

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are planned for Immaculate Conception at 10am & St Charles at 3pm, Fridays during Lent.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) M Wild; 2nd (£20) N Garlick.

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP plans to meet this week on 4th at 10.30.

FRIST FRIDAY VISITS are planned for 6th. Please advise any additions/subtractions to/from the usual list.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS St Charles meeting is indicated for Sunday 8th March. **Immaculate Conception** meeting is taking place at 2pm on Sunday 22nd March.

BISHOP'S FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME declares the need to establish parish consultative groups to forward the programme in both our parishes. Hence the need for:

PARISHES MEETING At 4pm this Sunday, 1st March at St Charles, all parishioners will be given a chance to add to the conversation and to offer to help the Mission-Outreach commitment. Come One ! Come all!!

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.

MARCH 1st is customarily the feast day of St David, patron of Wales. That celebration is overlooked this year by the Lent Sunday. We may however note that the Welsh Senedd this week approved the adoption of the Assisted Dying Bill for that country. This was greeted by the Catholic church in Wales with alarm & despondency. Furthermore, the hierarchy of England & Wales, through its 'life issues' spokesman Archbishop John Sherrington issued this statement:

"Lent is a time when we ponder human fragility, suffering and death. We do so in a spirit of hope, looking towards the triumph of Easter and the promise of eternal life. Through fasting, we unite in the suffering of others. Through almsgiving, we support those in need. We also respond by turning our minds to prayer. This year, I especially ask your prayers for those who are suffering near the end of their lives and for those who care for them. We are facing the threat of a profound change in our culture which would happen if assisted suicide were to be legalised. I urge you to pray for parliamentarians who continue to consider this matter. This bill is wrong in principle as assisted suicide is the direct taking of life. In practice, the bill is a threat to truly compassionate care at the end of life. In its current form, it would require Christian hospices and care homes to co-operate with the act of assisted suicide. The conscience clauses are also woefully inadequate. Moreover, as many voices have articulated in the debate, and as has been seen in other countries, assisted suicide will put the lives of the vulnerable at risk. This Lent, we can support Parliamentarians through our prayers. In doing so, we remember the courage and service shown by our English Saint, St Thomas More. Let us ask for his intercession, and that of Our Lady."

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