



**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**



**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**LENT 3 (a)  
8th March 2026**



I wandered lonely as a Cloud  
That floats on high o'er Vales and  
Hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden Daffodils;  
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

*Wordsworth*

*He really is the saviour 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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Sun 8th	<b>LENT III</b> 9.15 (BB) D Orr RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) Sylvia Cannon RIP (MD) <i>HAD council mtg after Mass</i>	
Mon 9th	<b>Lent feria</b> no parish Mass today ( <i>elsewhere for J Singleton RIP</i> )	
Tues 10th	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Sheila Smith's welfare	
Weds 11th	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Chris Fawley (P&PA)	
Thurs 12th	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) C Redford's welfare (fam)	
Fri 13th	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (BB) D Grace RIP (SQ) <i>f/by Stations; Stations (HAD) 3pm</i>	
Sat 14th	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) for the parish	
Sun 15th	<b>LENT IV Laetare Sunday / Mothering Sunday</b> 9.15 M Norton RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	

### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (A)

#### Psalter Week 3

**Introduction:** The Lord offers living water to the woman at the well; we are reminded of our baptismal commitment.

**First Reading : Ex 17 :** Moses offers water from the rock to the thirsty people in the desert. The people rebel!

**Ps. O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE:  
HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS**

**Second Reading : Rom 5 :** Faith and hope are St Paul`s themes today.

**Gospel : Jn 4 :** The Samaritan woman receives the water Jesus offers : water for eternal life!

**Comm. ant. FOR ANYONE WHO DRINKS IT, SAYS THE LORD, THE WATER I SHALL GIVE WILL BECOME IN HIM A SPRING WELLING UP TO 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 :*** Eamonn O'Hara, John Daley, Terence Makings, Tom O'Keefe; Anne Gregory, Christopher Eaton, Stephen Bardsley, John Fallon, Norma Clarke: ***May eternal light shine on them : Amen***

## **PARISH NOTES**

***TODAY*** we celebrate the third Sunday in Lent. The Church begins the second phase of Lent—an extended meditation on Baptism—with one of the key gospel passages that were taught to the catechumens of the early Church as they prepared to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Those who will be called to renew their baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil, as well as those being baptized or received into the full communion of the Catholic Church, are being addressed by the Lord in a special way today through his dialogue with the foreigner from whom he asks a drink of water: a conversation that teaches the entire Church something very important about prayer.

***THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL*** In this lively dialogue Jesus almost seems to be teasing the Samaritan woman, deliberately leading her into misunderstanding about what he means by living water or about the conditions of worship. Nothing daunted, she gives as good as she gets, replying with a cheeky series of sarcastic questions, gradually edging nearer to the truth: an open-minded Jew – greater than our father Jacob – a prophet – and finally acknowledging him as the Messiah. With its serious message it is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people as they are, and of his openness with women. On these last three Sundays of Lent before Palm Sunday in Cycle A, the Church lays before us the three great symbols of the baptisms which will be celebrated at Easter. This concerns not only those who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil, but all those who are invited to renew our baptismal promise and commitment at Easter. Then we enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink, into the light which enlightens the blind (the Cure of the Man Born Blind) and true life (the Raising of Lazarus).

***SAINT OF THE WEEK St Frances of Rome (1384 - 1440)*** was born in Rome and was married at the age of 13. Although she had wanted to be a nun, she was happily married for 40 years and had three sons. She distributed gifts to the poor and ministered to the sick. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her obedience and patience in adversity (including her husband's banishment, the death of two of her sons from plague, and the loss of all her property). She was a mystic and contemplative, part of the great flourishing of mysticism in that period, and after her husband's death she retired to a convent she had founded, where she died.

***CAFOD'S LENT APPEAL*** Further information about the Big Lent Walk and parish collection resources are available at [cafod.org.uk/parish](http://cafod.org.uk/parish) The link to the parish appeal film is [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZGgWnwNwDw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZGgWnwNwDw)

***CAROLE WARDLE*** gives this update: CAFOD : The Big Lent Walk. "The first group walk

took place last weekend with seven Pilgrims taking place. Thanks to Sue H's route, we managed to tick off 35 churches and chapels, some long gone, some repurposed. Snippets of local history along the way was very interesting. The second group walk will take place on **Saturday 14th March**, meeting at 10.30am at Green Lane, Simmondley where TransPennine trail starts. This is an easy walk, about an hour each direction taking in original Mottram railway sidings and shunting yard. Flora, fauna and hidden mosaics along the route (5-6km total). We should arrive at Lyme field Garden Centre 1130-1145 for comfort break and refreshment before heading back to the start point.

The third group walk will take place on **Saturday 28th March**. Meeting at 10.30am at St Charles, Hadfield. A circular walk via Old Hadfield, Padfield and Waterside taking in 12 churches and chapels past and present. (2 hours) Current distance 240km. Amount raised to date £300.00. Thank you for your support. Please feel free to join in the group walks. Alternatively, please let us know your individual mileage and we shall include it in our weekly totals. Carol has formed a Strava Group "Go, Make disciples – Walking Group". Please join this group if you can."

**PARISHES MEETING** Last Sunday afternoon's meeting to chart pathways to a parish plan to meet the Bishop's 'Go Make Disciples' deadline was very helpful. A good number from both parishes came along. Small planning groups were formed to meet soon to set ideas in place.

**Furthermore**, Sue Hoolahan led an informative chat about communications both within parishes, and providing access for outside interested parties to discover more.

1. We have an inter-parish website on which messages can be left.
2. Both parishes have active Whatsapp sites which are open to any & all parishioners. Want to join? Ask Angie at Immaculate Conception and Sue Hoolahan at St Charles.
3. Additionally there is a Facebook site: Facebook@stcharleshadfield
4. There is a need to reach out to younger folk via Tik Tok & Instagram. If you can help, please message Sue Hoolahan on 07596 728633.

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

**CHALLENGING TIMES** for local Catholic primary schools. St Charles school is being extensively repaired after recent weather damage. Staff and students of that school are 'bussed' each morning & afternoon to/from other local RC schools, where classroom & teaching arrangements have provisionally and providently been made.

**RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles:** 1st (£40) Fr Don; 2nd (£20) C Cowley.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING St Charles** meeting is indicated for this Sunday.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES** for April-start will soon be available for existing. If you also want to use this channel of financial support, please speak to the parish treasurers.

**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.

When our past has cast a shadow  
Even sunshine can't dispel,  
There is One who knows and loves us  
Who will meet us at the well.

When we find such love and mercy,  
It's our joy to run and tell.  
Come, and bring the others with you,  
Come, be women at the well.

Krista Besselman