



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

***Eleventh ordinary (b)
June 16th 2024***



***A HAPPY AND HOLY
FATHERS' DAY!***

'I bow my knees before the
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
from whom every family in heaven
and on earth is named,
that Father from whom all fatherhood
takes its title and derives its name.'

Eph 3.15

If only you had faith . . .

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DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 16th	Sunday XI 9.15 (BB) Joan Bone RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 17th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Mary Conroy	
Tues 18th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Audrey Edwards RIP (D&JW)	
Weds 19th	feria / St Romuald 9.30 (HAD) M&B Gee, thanksgiving	
Thurs 20th	feria / St Alban, martyr 9.30 (HAD) Mary McDonagh	
Fri 21st	St Aloysius Gonzaga 9.30 (BB) Mary Dempsey	
Sat 22nd	Ss JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE (martyrs) 9.30 (HAD) Mary Dempsey	
Sun 23rd	Sunday XII in ordinary time 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Marie Jubb RIP (fam)	

ELEVENTH SUNDAY (B)

Psalter Week 3

Introduction: The church is planted and nourished by Christ as a tree.

First Reading : Ez 17 : The Lord causes stunted trees to grow straight.

Resp. Ps. IT IS GOOD TO GIVE YOU THANKS O LORD

Second Reading : 2 Cor 5 Alive or dead, we are to please the Lord.

Gospel : Mark 4: The smallest seed produces the mightiest shrub.

Communion ant: *There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my 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, Joe Singleton, Joan Killeen, Winifred Cook, Rita Dwyer, Una Wilkinson, Christine Wild, David Healey, Mike Lally, Eric Gebbett, Jacob Ibbotson, Beatrice & John Eaton, Keith Winston.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Revv John Shaw, Tom Fitzgerald, Philip Soar, Ben Choyce, Ronald Hudson; John Staton, Joan Bone, Doreen Shockledge, Kimberley Ryan, Bernard Winterbottom, Peggy Bowdren, Derek Garlick: *May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them: Amen*

PARISH NOTES

***THIS SUNDAY** is the eleventh in ordinary time. It is designated “**Day for Life**”. The accent Pope Francis encourages us to focus on are human life’s beginning and end. Our Bishops have messaged: “There has been much discussion in the media recently about ‘assisted suicide’, whereby people who feel they are overburdened by suffering will be facilitated in bringing their lives to a premature end by a change in legislation. The Catholic Church opposes this. As Catholics, along with many people of other faiths and none, we share a different vision about what it is to be fully human, especially when we are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life. People who are coming towards the end of their lives can feel vulnerable, and recent research shows that many consider themselves a burden on their loved ones and wider society. Jesus shows us that life always has dignity and that there is no such thing as a useless life. We are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide.”*

*There is a **second collection** at both Masses.*

***THE GOSPEL** Jesus was a countryman, from the rich agricultural plains of Galilee, where wheat and fruit-trees abounded. It was natural from him to use such imagery for the Kingship of God which he was proclaiming. Today’s gospel-reading offers us two of the many images in Mark’s chapter of parables. What did Jesus want to teach by them? Images can carry many layers of meaning. First, the Seed Growing Secretly. Perhaps Jesus meant that God’s purposes are accomplished in spite of our feeble and fumbling efforts. Perhaps it was a warning that after long waiting the time for decision, the time of harvest had come with Jesus’ own mission. Then the Mustard-Seed: was this a reply to the discouraged disciples – or perhaps Jesus’ critical opponents – that his motley little group of undistinguished peasants, fishermen and tax-collectors would grow into God’s own mighty tree. Perhaps this is a first hint that Jesus’ mission is for all nations, not just for Israel. All nations would come, nest and find a home in its branches. At any rate, both images show that God is in charge, and has great plans which will be fulfilled despite our own inadequacies.*

***SAINTS ALIVE St Alban (3rd century)** was the first British martyr. Almost nothing about him is known for certain – even the date of his martyrdom is unknown, and historians’ estimates vary between 209 and 314 A.D. He was a Roman who lived in Verulamium and sheltered a fleeing Christian during a persecution. He was converted, and was executed, and on the hill where tradition said he was martyred, a great abbey grew up which eventually gave its name to the town. **St Aloysius Gonzaga (1568 - 1591)** at the age of 16 became a Jesuit novice in Rome, living the same life of severe austerity and penance that he had followed even when serving in the courts of dukes and princes. In 1591 an epidemic of plague broke out in Rome, and the Jesuits opened a hospital to care for the sick. Aloysius, still a novice, worked hard in the hospital until he himself caught the plague. He did not recover; but*

his determination to die for the faith having been fulfilled, died at midnight on the 20th of June with the name of Jesus on his lips. **St John Fisher (1469 - 1535)** was born in Beverley, in Yorkshire. He studied theology at the University of Cambridge, and had a successful career there, finally becoming chancellor of the University and bishop of Rochester: unusually for the time, he paid a great deal of attention to the welfare of his diocese. He wrote much against the errors and corruption into which the Church had fallen, and was a friend and supporter of great humanists such as Erasmus of Rotterdam; but he was greatly opposed to Lutheranism, both in its doctrine and in its ideas of reform. He supported the validity of King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and for this he was briefly imprisoned. When the King had divorced Catherine, married Anne Boleyn, and constituted himself the supreme Head of the Church in England, John Fisher refused to assent. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London on a charge of treason, and on 22 June 1535, a month after having been made a Cardinal by the Pope, he was executed. He was so ill and weak that he had to be carried in a chair to the place of execution. He was the only bishop to oppose Henry VIII's actions, on the grounds that they were a repudiation of papal authority, but even so he avoided direct confrontation with the other bishops, not holding himself up as a hero or boasting of his coming martyrdom: 'I condemn no other man's conscience: their conscience may save them, and mine must save me.' **St Thomas More (1477 - 1535)** was born in London, the son of a judge, and himself became an eminent lawyer. He married twice, and had four children. He was a humanist and a reformer, and his book, *Utopia*, depicting a society regulated by the natural virtues, is still read today. Thomas More was a close friend of King Henry VIII. As a judge, he was famous for his incorruptibility and impartiality, and he was made Lord Chancellor – the highest legal position in England – in 1529. When Henry VIII demanded a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, Thomas More opposed him. He resigned the chancellorship in 1532 and retired from public life; but he could not retire from his reputation, and so it was demanded that he take an oath to support the Act of Succession, which effectively repudiated papal religious authority. He refused, and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. After the execution of John Fisher, he was tried on the charge of high treason for denying the King's supreme headship of the Church, found guilty, and sentenced to death. He went to his execution, on 6 July 1535, with a clear conscience and a light heart; he told the spectators that he was still "the king's good servant – but God's first," and carefully adjusted his beard before he was beheaded. He fought his fight without acrimony, telling his judges that he wished that "we may yet hereafter in Heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation."

FOR WORSHIPPERS AT ST CHARLES Next Sunday, June 23rd will be our first 'Label Sunday'. Some helpful notes on its organisation are freely available from the back of the church. We hope you will be able to participate.

FUND-RAISING Last Saturday's BB Garden Fete was another victim of this month's unseasonable weather. It became the 'Church Fair'. Huge efforts to manoeuvre pews and tables were rewarded with a very encouraging turnout, and a handsome result. The latest I heard was that over £700 was added to parish funds. Many, many thanks!

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles : £40: A Heard; £20 : C Brown.

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 "Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

ELECTION MEETING A group from our local churches have arranged a hustings -- an open meeting for voters to put questions directly to candidates. All the candidates for the High Peak Constituency have been invited to attend and be questioned by electors, and most have confirmed their intention to be present. It will take place on **Tuesday 18th June from 7.30pm to 9pm at Central Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Glossop SK13 8AT**. You can send your questions to glossopdalehustings@gmail.com in advance of the meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bryan & Monica Gee, celebrating their Platinum Jubilee of marriage this week! Thanks be to God! Prospere! Procede!

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH Hadfield celebrates its 150th anniversary soon. They kindly invite one and all to Flower Festival, Fri 28th to Sun 20th June. Lots of party food to enjoy as well. Please see the poster at the back of church.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON You will note an addition to the box at the bottom of p.2. This is the day's Communion Antiphon for that Mass. Ideally this should be announced and led by that day's lector, after the priest has consumed the precious blood from the chalice.