



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2nd Feb 2025



*Through the intercession of Saint Blaise,
bishop and martyr,
may God deliver you
from every disease of the throat
and from
every other illness:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

Now Lord, lettest thou thy servant go in peace

Canon Don Bowdren

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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 2nd	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 9.15 (BB) Patsie Dunne RIP (RT) 11am (HAD) M&J Cannon & dec'd of Cannon & Stevenson fams	
Mon 3rd	St Blaise; St Oskar; St Werbergh 9.30 (HAD) for the parish	
Tues 4th	St Gilbert of Sempringham 9.30 (HAD) J Gowns RIP (VC)	
Weds 5th	St Agatha 9.30 (HAD) G&A & Louise	<i>f/by Weds Group</i>
Thurs 6th	St Paul Miki & comps, Japanese martyrs 9.30 (HAD) M&E O'Connor	
Fri 7th	St John Bosco <i>FIRST FRIDAY VISITS TODAY DV</i> 9.30 (BB) Edith Pratt RIP (D&JS)	
Sat 8th	St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bahkita 9.30 (HAD) M&S Lawless	
Sun 9th	Sunday IV 9.15 (BB) C Bermingham RIP (D&CN) 11am (HAD) Larry Farrell RIP (fam)	

<p>THE PRESENTATION (c)</p> <p><i>Psalter wk 4</i></p> <p><i>Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.</i></p> <p>First reading Malachi 3:1-4 : <i>'The Lord whom you seek will come to his Temple.'</i></p> <p>Resp : THE LORD OF HOSTS, HE IS THE KING OF GLORY</p> <p>Second reading : Hebrews 2:14-18 <i>'He had to be made like his brothers, so that he might become merciful.'</i></p> <p>Gospel : Luke 2:22-40 <i>'The child grew filled with wisdom'.</i></p> <p>Comm ant: MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION, WHICH YOU PREPARED IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THE PEOPLES.</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, Joe Singleton, Maura Farrell, Joan Killeen, Winifred Cook, Rita Dwyer, Una Wilkinson, Christine Wild, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Bro Philip Revell, Beatrice Eaton, Keith Winston.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Revv Bishop Bagshawe, James Hannigan, Ted Carrick; Vera Derbyshire, Gertrude Ashton, Linda Griffin, Mary Teresa Fish, Jan Slugocki, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Mary Eardley, Evelyn Jones, Marion Robinson: May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY Today the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as **Candlemas Day**, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy. The previous (1962) liturgical calendar refers to this feast as the "Purification of Mary." This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practise the tradition of keeping out the Crib or other Christmas decorations until this feast day. I fear that the rush to cash in on St Valentine has overtaken that tradition.

Founded by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997, today is the **World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**. He attached it to "Candlemas Day" because the consecrated men and women are to be the light in the world, imitating Jesus, the Light of the World. We will want to give thanks for the many devoted Sisters in our various convents nearby over countless years. Their work for Catholic education is their saintly legacy. We may pause for prayer for Brother Philip Revell of St Charles parish. He is presently resident in the USA, and undergoing intensive medical care.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE We have taken note of the recent death of **Carol Byrne** (78) (latterly of The Boulevard, Hollingworth). Her funeral rites are planned for 21st Feb at Dukinfield Crematorium. As we pray for her eternal rest, we pray also for the comforting of Thomas, her son.

THE BLESSING OF THROATS will be offered after Monday's Mass, the feastday of St Blaise.

THE GOSPEL The story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon's welcome, 'a light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel', and by his warning to Mary, 'a sword will pierce your heart'. Simeon reiterates the angel's promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel's task to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack? Each of us has a private picture of the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. All we know for sure is that 'the child grew to maturity', and that Mary 'pondered all these things in

her heart', with Simeon's welcome and warning before her mind.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK St Ansgar or Oscar (- 865) was born in Amiens at the start of the ninth century and educated at the monastery of Corbie in Picardy. He went as a missionary to Denmark in 826 but had little success; but in Sweden he did better. He was elected Bishop of Hamburg (this was at that time a missionary see dedicated to evangelizing the North) and appointed papal legate to Denmark and Sweden by Pope Gregory IV. He encountered huge difficulties in his work of evangelization, but he overcame them. He died in Bremen on 3 February 865. He is known as "the apostle of the North." **St Gilbert of Sempringham (1083 - 1190)** He was born at Sempringham, near Bourne in Lincolnshire, the son of Jocelin, an Anglo-Norman lord of the manor, who sent him to the University of Paris to study theology. When his father died in 1130 and he became lord of the manor of Sempringham, he used his inherited wealth to found an order of monks and nuns, known as the Gilbertines. When he was 90, some of his lay brothers revolted and spread serious calumnies against him, but he received the support of King Henry II, and Pope Alexander III freed him from suspicion and confirmed the privileges granted to the order. Gilbert resigned his office late in life because of blindness and ill health, and died at Sempringham in about 1190, at the age of 106. **St Agatha** was martyred at Catania in Sicily, probably during the persecution of Decius (250-253). Devotion to her was widespread in the Church in the earliest times and she is mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass. **THE WEDNESDAY GROUP** meets on the 5th after morning Mass at St Charles. Newcomers always welcome!

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS I hope, God willing, to bring the Blessed Sacrament to the sick & housebound on Friday 7th.

PUBLICATIONS Our monthly 'Day by Day' & 'Magnificat' are found at the back of church. The take-up of these devotional works is decreasing. Our present parish subscription for 'Magnificat' runs to fifteen monthly copies. If we continue to lose users, we will have to reduce the delivery to ten. If you are no longer parish-copy user - maybe you have taken out a private subscription - then please let me know.

'CHRISTIAN ART' is a Catholic website that sends daily delights our inboxes. A stunning work of art connected to the readings of the day, and a splendid reflection is offered. No cost! A great spiritual benefit. I commend it to you!

PARISH AGM for Immaculate Conception took place last Sunday afternoon. The chair's report as well as the finance statement were well-received, and can be found at the back of church. My thanks & yours to those who serve our parishes in leadership roles.

SCHOOL MASS Good to hear that many of the children from St Margaret's have arranged on 7th to come to BB morning Mass.

TOTE WINNERS St Charles 1st, (£40) : M Gee; 2nd, (£20) J Pascieznik.

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.

SUMMING UP worshippers at Immaculate Conception will have noted that the SumUp machine is readily available for cash-free parish support and donations of any kind.

AND FINALLY I found myself following one of the innumerable supermarket delivery vans. Emblazoned on the back a bold notice 'MEAT FREE'. Hoping this was an invitation, I hoped the van would pull over, and I could claim some steaks and chops, free-of-charge, as the van proclaimed. I wonder if the message had been mis-punctuated, should have read 'Meat-Free'?

