



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Lent III (c)
23rd March 2025



V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary,...
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord
R. Let it be done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary,...
V. And the Word was made flesh
R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary,...
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that, we to whom the incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

I am who am

Canon Don Bowdren
St Charles Rectory
Woolley Bridge Rd
Hadfield SK13 1PQ 852351
& 07762057572

*don.bowdren@dioceseofnottingham.uk /
daniel.bowdren@gmail.com*

Deacon: Rev Dr Owen Le Blanc

*longdendale-catholics.co.uk
Facebook@stcharleshadfield*

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 23rd	LENT III 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Holy Souls	
Mon 24th	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) Private int.	
Tues 25th	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (Solemnity) 9.30 (HAD) welfare of Harry Bailey's family (Sr C)	<i>BB Stations, 10.00</i>
Weds 26th	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) Pr. int	
Thurs 27th	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) Sean Quinn RIP (fam)	
Fri 28th	Lent feria 9.30 (BB) Pr. int	<i>(3pm HAD, Stations of the Cross)</i>
Sat 29th	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) Sp int	<i>10.15-11.15 (HAD) : exposition & adoration ; Confessions from 10.30am</i>
Sun 30th	LENT IV (Laetare; Mothering) 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Holy Souls	

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (C)

Psalter Week 3

Introduction: *The Lord of compassionate love calls us to be freed from the the slavery of sin.*

First Reading: Ex 3 : Moses meets the Lord in the burning bush. God reveals Himself as "I am"

Responsorial Psalm: THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10 : The Man who thinks he is safe should beware of a fall.

Gospel: Lk 13 : Jesus points to the fig-tree as a parable for repentance.

Comm ant: THE SPARROW FINDS A HOME, AND THE SWALLOW A NEST FOR HER YOUNG: BY YOUR ALTARS, O LORD OF HOSTS, MY KING AND MY GOD.

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, Maree Davies, Rita Dwyer, Una Wilkinson, Christine Wild, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Bro Philip Revell, Keith Winston.

Please recall in prayer our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Revv Ted Byron, John Berry; Sean Quinn, Eileen Berry, Christine Liley: May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY 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.

THE 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).

SAINTS ALIVE The Annunciation: Our Blessed Lady receives a visit from the Angel Gabriel. And so in her womb begins The Son of God becoming flesh. Just nine months to Christmas Day!

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is arranged for Saturday mornings at St Charles. This devotion will be from 10.30 to 11.30, initially on the Saturdays of Lent. All, of course, are welcome.

RED MISSIO BOXES should be brought to church in the next few weeks, please.

THE DIOCESAN WOMEN'S LENT RETREAT Venue: Good Shepherd Church, Nottingham (NG5 4HT) : Saturday 5th April. The theme of the retreat is 'The Sacred Heart: An Icon of Hope'.

ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT Join men from across the diocese on Saturday 12th April at Mount St Bernard Abbey.

A REMINDER that there will be an additional one-off second collection for the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, authorised by the Bishops of England and Wales, this Sunday.

MONSIGNOR MOORE has kindly agreed to come to the oratory at St Charles **next Saturday 29th** March to hear Confessions and offer absolution, from 10.30.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CONFESSIONS ON 5th APRIL ARE CANCELLED.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS at St Charles on Friday afternoons at 3pm; at BB at 10am on Tuesdays.

A HOME BAKE is planned at Immaculate Conception for next (Mothering) Sunday. Calling all bakers for what you are willing to make and how many up to your willing to make. Contact either Sue Hickinson or Angie Cass and let them know what you are willing to make, and in what quantity.

TOTE WINNERS St Charles 1st, (£40) S Shaw; 2nd, (£20) A King.

Immaculate Conception: 1st, (£40) D Walsh; 2nd, (£20) M McCormick.

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.

DEAR DEER In the early dawn lovely light on Tuesday, a young deer strode across the church lawn, and into the rectory garden. A perfect delight!

FISHING AND WISHING The well on the rectory drive was once again clogged with debris both natural and man-made. I spent a little time with my Brigadoon-bought fishing net hand in clearing and cleaning. I fishing out a cache of hidden coins, cast in by well-wishers over many years. It dawned on me that many folk come to a wishing-well as to a pray of prayer. Anyhow, I brought the collection of coins to clean them and deposit them in the votive stands, light candles, and offering the evening rosary for their wishes.

TROPICAL TALES One or two folk ask if I can print some more of my *Zambian-mission days memoirs*.

Here's a Lenten letter from March 1991:

Views from the Stations

The distractions which prey on the pray-er at our twice weekly Stations of the Cross are manifold; both inside the Airport church and out. The shuffling unshod feet as we follow the footsteps of the Master; giggles of little children staring scrutably at the pious pictures on the walls; among the children, small girls carrying even smaller babies slung on bent backs; po-faced altar boys trying and not trying to blow out candles which flank the processional cross; the tortured Zambinglish from keen students eager to practise their skills; and of course the other impenetrable local dialects sung or spoken to keep the linguistic balance! Not easy to translate into a virtually unwritten language such gems as "their looks became like so many arrows that wounded those hearts that loved each other so tenderly!"

But the other source of distraction is the view beyond the veil of Veronica, the weeping women and the like. The church is nearly all windows, and what they reveal is revealing. From the first station, from behind Pilate's back I can see columns of burdened women, in single file and faces blank, carrying immense piles of sticks and charcoal down the sandy hill – returning from a day or days in the forest, hacking a smouldering living. Each is anxious to reach home before sunset, a journey of maybe another 5 – 8 kilometres. The dispassionate look etched on their faces is one of the memories of Zambia.

Behind Simon of Cyrene, I can see the derelict communal latrines and wash places that were part of the colonial legacy to this compound. It is the erstwhile "blacks-only" compound of segregation days; but the contemporary tragedy is that derelict they may be, but replaced they are not. Dysentery and gastro-enteritis are curiously and tragically endemic.

Behind the prostrate figure of the thrice-fallen Christ I can see the magnificent sweep of the Zambezi, swollen with flood waters from 1,500 kilometres away, rich with bream and tiger fish, and snorting with hippos, eerily silent with crocs. Beyond, the sun is coming in for a crash sundown landing over Botswana – or may be Namibia – that stretch of river playful with an abundance of elephant.

But in the near foreground is another distraction. While Jesus is being stripped of his garments, women (strangely, never men!) and children gather expectantly for the daily water ration from the communal tap. Twice last week they may well have made do with a hyssop stick soaked in vinegar, for the tap remained dry, at the sadistic whim of a valve turner-on in town. But perhaps he was one of those council workmen on strike while still waiting for pay arrears from last year...

As we fall to our knees in front of the outstretched Divine arms on Calvary, a different aspect presents itself. In the foreground the pointed grass roofs of our lowliest shanty compound, Mwandu. Sans electric; sans sanitation; sans roads; and all too often, sans water. Yet rich in human values of neighbourliness; everyone knows everyone else's business. I was on visitation there a few evenings ago, a flock of eager children and adults dogged my feet, reporting on delights and disasters by turn as we approached each succeeding hut. In more than a few places, a fire of fiercely-burning African hardwood under an immense barrel of chibuku—the local (and potentially lethal) home-brew. Yet a place of open friendliness and intoxicating welcome; a place of scant English, but expressive sign language! And in the far distance, beyond the Zambezi, the ultimate contrast: Elephant Hills 5* hotel complex outside Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Magnificent in detached splendour, with an abundance of water for landscaped pools and golf courses. And the Promised Land in the imagination of the compound-dwellers who gaze across at it from behind their charcoal fires and tins of lit paraffin. *Beati pauperes*

And last of all, there, hidden under a burgeoning and immense cloud of spray, behind where the 15th Station might be: the Mosi O Tunya – Victoria Falls, the tallest and widest in the world: God's triumphant statement of his power and majesty. Distractions? Or commentaries? Perhaps a bit of both!

