



**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**



**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**Lent IV (Laetare; Mothering)  
30th March 2025**



O Mother blest, whom God bestows  
on sinners and on just,  
what joy, what hope thou givest those  
who in thy mercy trust.

*Thou art clement, thou art chaste,  
Mary, thou art fair:  
of all mother sweetest, best;  
none with thee compare*

*I will return to my Father*

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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 30th	<b>LENT IV (Laetare; Mothering)</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Holy Souls	
Mon 31st	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Jean Ashton's ints (fam)	
Tues 1st Apl	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) pr int	<i>BB Stations, 10.00</i>
Weds 2nd	<b>Lent feria / St Francis of Paola</b> 9.30 (HAD) (school Mass in church) Joe Singleton's welfare (J&DW)	
Thurs 3rd	<b>Lent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Sheila Wynne's welfare (AB)	
Fri 4th	<b>Lent feria / St Isidore</b> 9.30 (BB) Pr. int	<b>FIRST FRIDAY VISITS DV</b> <i>(3pm HAD, Stations of the Cross)</i>
Sat 5th	<b>Lent feria / St Vincent Ferrer</b> 9.30 (HAD) Sp int	<i>10.15-11.15 (HAD) : exposition &amp; adoration ;</i>
Sun 6th	<b>LENT IV / Passion</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) P&M Williamson (foundation Mass) <i>(St Charles parish council mtg)</i>	

  

<b>LENT 4 (C)</b>	
<b>Psalter Week 4</b>	
<b>Introduction:</b> <i>We celebrate this mass in the joy of forgiveness, and gratefully eat the manna, the food that our Father gives us for our journey to the Kingdom where his banquet is prepared for us.</i>	
<b>First Reading:</b> Josh 5 : The people of God keep the passover on their entry into the promised land.	
<b>Responsorial Psalm: TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD</b>	
<b>Second Reading:</b> 2 Cor 5 : God reconciled us to himself through Christ.	
<b>Gospel:</b> Lk 15 : Your brother here was dead and has come to life.	
<b>Comm ant:</b> <b>YOU MUST REJOICE, MY SON, FOR YOUR BROTHER WAS DEAD AND HAS COME TO LIFE; HE WAS LOST AND IS FOUND.</b>	

### **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, 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 David Everitt, Geoff Kitchin, James Kearns; Kathleen O'Grady, Tim Killeen, Mary Bramhall, Barbara O'Neill, Ian Daniels, Peter Cranston, John Thornton : May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

## **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS SUNDAY** Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent; Easter is enticingly near. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** from the first word of the Introit, *Laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy, our foretaste of Easter joy. We ease back on our Lenten self-denials. The celebrant wears rose-coloured vestments. It is a Sunday set apart amongst the Sundays of Lent.

**WHY MOTHERING?** This Sunday is following "Lady Day" (the solemnity of the Annunciation), which celebrated the beginning of Divine life in mother Mary's womb. So it is primarily an honouring of Mary's mothering - and by extension the honouring of God's prodigal gift of human generation through mothers. Until relatively recently it was the first Sunday in the civil new —and tax year!

**THE GOSPEL** Today's gospel reading gives us a particularly attractive Lukan story of forgiveness. The story of the Prodigal Son is told with all Luke's love, artistry and delicacy of character-study. The wastrel son goes back home not because he is repentant, but simply because he is hungry. The loving father is perpetually on the look-out, despite the fact that the boy has written his father off with his implied 'I don't care whether you are alive or dead, I want my money'. He runs to meet the son, interrupting the carefully-prepared speech and pampering the returned wastrel. A chicken would have made a good party, or perhaps a lamb; but a fattened calf will feed the whole village! When the father loves the elder son enough to leave his guests at the party and go out into the field, the disgruntled stay-at-home invents slanders about the other's 'loose women' and is gently corrected by his father's 'your brother'. Luke's characters are always a bit like ourselves, good and bad at the same time. As here, they often reflect on their situation, 'What shall I do now?' (Build new barns to fit my harvest – ingratiate myself with my master's debtors – compose a pretty speech to soothe dad's anger) An unforgettable picture of the overflowing love and forgiveness of God.

**A PASTORAL LETTER** from Bishop Patrick is to be read this Sunday. This letter introduces our parishes to the fourteen-week **Mission Enabling Fund** campaign rolled out throughout the diocese. Stage one of this campaign is the conducting of a **parish census**, to be carried out this Sunday and next. Full guidance in census-filling will be offered at the beginning of Mass today (and to a lesser extent next weekend). This is a voluntary exercise, but I hope you take part.

**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.

**'TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FOR THE LORD'** My thanks to those who prepared for & supported the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our churches on Friday.

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

**MONSIGNOR MOORE** has kindly agreed to come to the oratory at St Charles on Saturday 12th April to hear Confessions and offer absolution, from 10.30 .

**PLEASE NOTE THAT CONFESSIONS ON 5th APRIL (NEXT SATURDAY) 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 this (Mothering) Sunday.

**BOXED SETS** of envelopes are available from this weekend from the back of church. If you have use envelopes in the past, and are now switching to Standing Order (a recommended switch!) please let the treasurer know—at St Charles, Derek Handley; at Immaculate Conception Emma Soper. If however you want to start using boxed-sets: let them know also.

**GREAT LEAP FORWARD** we spring into daylight saving time by having put our clocks an hour forward at 2am on Sunday morning. Or maybe earlier. Awake O Sleepers, to praise the Lord!

**FIRST FRIDAY VISITS** are planned, God willing for this coming Friday, the first in the month.

**FLOWERS FOR EASTERTIDE** There will be baskets available next weekend at the back of church to help the Paschal floral decoration in our churches.

**TOTE WINNERS** St Charles 1st, (£40) C Wardle ; 2nd, (£20) Fr Don.

**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.

*Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England - now!*

*And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops - at the bent  
spray's edge -  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song  
twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
- Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!*

*From 'Home Thoughts from Abroad'  
by Robert Browning*

