



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Easter II (Divine Mercy)
27th April 2025



Canticum of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

*At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace,
according to your promise.
For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.*

(Luke 2:29-32)

My Lord and my God!

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 27th	SUNDAY II of Easter (Divine Mercy) 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) David James RIP (PJ)	
Mon 28th	St George (<i>transferred</i>) 9.30 (HAD) Pope Francis RIP	
Tues 29th	St Catherine of Siena no parish Mass today (<i>Mass elsewhere for Joan Walsh's welfare</i>)	
Weds 30th	St Pius V no parish Mass today (<i>Mass elsewhere for C&J Wardle welfare</i>)	
Thurs 1st May	St Joseph the Worker no parish Mass today (<i>Mass elsewhere for MaryThomson</i>)	
Fri 2nd	St Athanasius no parish Mass today	
Sat 3rd	Ss PHILIP & JAMES apostles 9.30 (HAD) special int.	
Sun 4th	EASTER III 9.15 (BB) Fr Stepen Doyle's welfare (AM) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
<p style="text-align: center;">EASTER II (C)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalter Week 2</p> <p>Intro: We worship the Christ who was dead, and now lives forever.</p> <p>First Reading : Acts 5 : The number of believers increased steadily.</p> <p>RESP : GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HIS LOVE HAS NO END</p> <p>Second Reading : Rev 1 : `I was dead, and now live forever!`</p> <p>Gospel : Jn 20 : The post-resurrection gift: Forgiveness!</p> <p>Comm ant: BRING YOUR HAND AND FEEL THE PLACE OF THE NAILS, AND DO NOT DOUBT BUT BELIEVE, ALLELUIA.</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, Maree Davies, Rita Dwyer, Christine Wild, Mike Lally, Sue Hickinson, Jacob Ibbotson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Bro Philip Revell, Keith Winston.

Please recall in prayer those who have recently died: Pope Francis; Bernadette O'Reilly RIP.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Revv Danny Clavin, Ned Bedford; Eileen Lonergan, Barbara Stafford, Colin Brazier, Craid Doodson, Mark Binks, Mary Mycio, Beryl Rawlinson, Angela Grimes, Keith Rule:

May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN AND IS WITH US STILL! We enter into the Eastertide, extending our celebration of the Living Lord Jesus to Ascensiontide & beyond.

EASTER OFFERING Thank you for your kindness to your priest in last weekend's collection - and for so many other kind gifts this season.

EASTER THANKS Profound thanks to those many parishioners who laboured so energetically to prepare for the celebration of the resurrection. The wonderful floral displays in our churches won many admirers. May the Risen Lord shower you anew with his blessings.

THE GOSPEL The passage from John's Gospel has all the more significance because it brings the Gospel to a close. The story of the breakfast-party with the Risen Christ on the shore of the Lake of Galilee is a sort of appendix. The story-line of the main Gospel ends with Thomas blurting out 'My Lord and my God'. The Gospel therefore ends, as it began with the only two unmistakable declarations in the New Testament of the divinity of Jesus. 'The Word was God' and 'My Lord and my God' bracket the Gospel, showing the purpose and angle of the whole, to show that Jesus is God. It complements the other Gospels: they show a man who is also God, whereas this Gospel shows a God who is also man. It is with the divine authority that Jesus confers on his Church the divine power to forgive. Real forgiveness is indeed Godlike. It is not simply 'forgive-and-forget', but forgiveness in the knowledge that a hurt has occurred. Just as a bone, broken and merged together again, can be stronger than it was before it was broken, so forgiveness can create a real link of love on both sides, a treasured secret of divine graciousness between forgiver and forgiven.

THIS SUNDAY There is a cake-bake sale at St Charles after morning Mass. Alice, one of our altar servers, is seeking funding-help towards a school trip later in the year to Uganda. This trip will doubtless help the young ones to meet up with the Big Five game animals, but also give chance for helpfulness at a local school. Please give this venture your support.

TOTE WINNERS St Charles 1st,(£40) D Wilson; 2nd, (£20) J Walsh.

Immaculate Conception 1st,(£40) M Blackburn; 2nd, (£20) P Farrell.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD As part of our May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rob Cranston will host an Online Rosary Session every Tuesday evening at 7pm. The first session is Tuesday 6th May. This invitation is open to anyone from both our Churches. If you wish to participate please email Rob at the following address: **cranston1948@aol.com** and Rob will contact you with the relevant details.

NO 'FIRST FRIDAY' visits this week, since I will be away on retreat. I hope to resume those visits on 6th June.

A MAY PROCESSION is diaried for St Charles next Sunday, 4th May, during Mass, and on the 25th at Immaculate Conception

SUNDAY 11th May Monsignor Moore has kindly agreed to supply. His physical limitations means that he will offer only one Mass - at St Charles at 11am that day.

Those inconvenienced by the lack of 9.15 Mass at Immaculate Conception will note that Masses at a similar time are to be offered at St Mary's New Mills & St Mary's Glossop.

SPRING FAYRE is planned to take place at Immaculate Conception church on Saturday 17th May.

PUBLICATIONS APLENTY * Prayercards for the late Pope Francis; * The Diocesan Yearbook (£6); * the Diocesan Newspaper (free); * 'Magnificat' for May and June (£6). All of these are found at the back of church.

A TOUCHING CONDOLENCE card was slipped through the rectory letterbox midweek. It was offering deepest sympathy on the death of Pope Francis. The card was from members of the local Methodist church. Thank You!

AN EMPTY CHAIR Those who are into the third age may have a remembrance of the 'Sede Gestatoria'. This was the immense platform on which was enthroned a magnificent chair. The platform was carried on the shoulders of at least eight strong men. The throne was followed by two ostrich-feather fans, waved by elegantly-attired gentlemen. And on the throne sat the Holy Father, often seen wearing the Papal triple tiara, scattering blessings to left and right.

Fast forward some fifty years, and we have an abiding image of an altogether different 'sede gestatoria' – rather a 'sede infirmitatis'. A simple black wheelchair. The ostrich fans have gone, as also has the Papal tiara, replaced by a simple white skull cap, an association perhaps with those who favour beanies as headware.

We have entered into a period of waiting, watching (for white smoke), wondering and praying. It is the time of 'sede vacante': the time when the 'chair is empty'. But what chair? Somewhat more than the wheelchair. We belong to a church designated 'the Apostolic See' – literally 'of the chair of the apostle'. Our Holy Father's first duty is to teach, to guide, to instruct – which he does everyday in St Peter's square, in encyclicals, and in countless other ways. He does that from a teacher's chair – think 'the chair in history' at a university. That Papal symbolic chair is in fact in the Pope's own basilica – of St John Lateran in Rome. I went to the baptistery in St Charles and kissed the foot of the image of St Peter seated on a copy of that Roman chair.

We lament the death of a Pope who taught from the heart – and from a chair.
We pray for a worthy successor to his chair.

