



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**LENT 1 (a)
22nd Feb 2026**



TO KEEP THY LENT

It is to fast from strife,
From old debate
And hate ;
To circumsise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent ;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin ;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

Robert Herrick

Begone Satan!

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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

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, Arthur King, Maura Farrell, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Edward Walker, Bertie Bowker, Cyril Restieux, Leo Arendzen, Willie O'Dowd; **Patrick McKenna, Ian Morris, Josie Couban:**
May eternal light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

TODAY is the First Sunday in Lent. We join Jesus and are led by the Spirit into the dry & barren Judaeen desert. We pray 'and lead us not into temptation'.

On the First Sunday in Lent the diocesan bishops throughout the Catholic church invite catechumens & candidates to journey to the diocesan Cathedral. Those catechumens are accompanied by their sponsors, their families, and more often than not, by their parish priest. In the Cathedral they pledge to continue the 'journey to Jerusalem'. They eagerly pledge to spend the Lenten forty days finally preparing to be received into membership of the Church. Those who are unbaptised into any Christian church are Catechumens; those who are baptised non-Catholics, are declared Candidates. By acceptance by the Bishop, and with his blessing they are fortified for 'the last lap'. Sadly this year, since we have neither candidates nor catechumens from our parishes I am not making that making that journey of accompaniment. This circumstance adds an urgency to our local commitment to 'Go Make Disciples'.

A glance at the Receptions Register in the sacristy reveals the need also of how to keep those new disciples,

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL *By putting this scene of the testing of Jesus at the beginning of Lent, the Church shows that it sees Lent as a period of testing. Matthew sees this moment as the testing of God's Son, as the People of God Israel – God's son, whom he brought out of Egypt into the desert – was tested for forty years. We may also see it as the time when Jesus reflected on the mode of his mission. His mission was to bring the Kingship of God to a new realisation: how should he do this? The Tempter suggests false ways, which Jesus rejects, one after another, each time with a word from scripture, the Word of God. He rejects the idea of the Messiah merely producing the luxury of the plenteous messianic banquet (stones into food). He rejects the idea of a startling personal miracle which none could gainsay (the leap from the Temple). He rejects the suggestion of entering into league with the Tempter's own values of pride and dominion (rule over the world). At the same time Jesus shows himself to be the Second Moses, the founder of a new People of God: like Moses, he spends forty days and forty nights fasting; like Moses he is taken up onto a high mountain, from where he can see not merely all the territory of the Holy Land, but all the kingdoms of the earth.*

OUTSTANDING WOMEN *English Martyr-saints are honoured on Friday: **St Margaret Clitherow, née Middleton** (c.1553-1586) was born in York and lived there all her life, and died there on 25 March 1586. At 15, she married a butcher, John Clitherow, and three years later became a Catholic. Her brother-in-law William was a Catholic and after ordination as a priest became a Carthusian; he may well have influenced Margaret's decision to become a Catholic. Imprisoned for her non-attendance at church, she taught herself to read and later ran a small school for her own and her neighbours' children. Her husband remained Protestant but allowed her to hide priests in their house. It is said that*

she used to visit the Knavesmire (the Tyburn of the North) to pray for those who had been martyred there. She saw that her children were all educated in the faith through the services of a young man who had been imprisoned for his faith in York Castle. She knew this prison well having been detained there several times for non-attendance at Church of England services. In 1586 the secret hiding places in her home were discovered, and Margaret was arrested. In order to prevent her children and servants from being questioned (and to protect her children from destitution if she was found guilty) she refused to plead, thus preventing a trial. The punishment for this was being laid on sharp stones and then crushed to death. Her body was secretly buried by the authorities but was later discovered by friends, who buried her privately elsewhere, though the place of her burial has not yet been found. Her daughter Anne was imprisoned for four years for refusing to attend a Church of England service, and finally became a nun at St Ursula's, Louvain. Her sons Henry and William became priests. **St Anne Line** (c.1565-1601) was born at Dunmow (Essex) She and was hanged at Tyburn on 27 February 1601. In her teens, she became a Catholic and was disinherited, and in 1585 married Roger Line, also a disinherited convert, who was subsequently imprisoned then, already a sick man, exiled for his faith, dying in Flanders soon afterwards. Anne was left destitute and herself suffered poor health. She offered her services to the Jesuits and was asked to look after a house of refuge in London. She ran a large safe house for priests, taught children, and made vestments. To strengthen her resolution, she took voluntary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. On 2 February after a large number of people had been seen gathering at her house for Mass, she was arrested. Her trial was on 26 February. Despite the prosecution's failure to prove the charge of harbouring a priest the Lord Chief Justice directed the jury to find her guilty and condemned her to be hanged the next day.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are planned for Immaculate Conception at 10am & St Charles at 3pm, Fridays during Lent.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) C Wardle; 2nd (£20) A Wilkie.

Immaculate Conception: 1st (£40) C Wardle; 2nd (£20) A & T Travis.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is next Friday. CAFOD invites parish communities to respond through prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the needs of families facing floods and drought in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Through support for CAFOD's Lent Appeal, parishes and schools can help families grow food and care for their communities in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change. Please encourage your parish and school communities to support CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal. Further information about CAFOD's Lent Appeal, Big Lent Walk and parish collection resources are available at cafod.org.uk/parish The link to the parish appeal film is www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZGgWnwNwDw **CAROLE WARDLE WRITES:** "I have signed up the Parish to do CAFOD's "The Big Lent Walk" with a target of raising £200 whilst walking 125 miles. It will be a joint enterprise for anybody in the Parish to join in and to contribute to. With Sue H's assistance, we shall plan some group walks to have a collective chip away at the miles. Full details to follow on the notice board and at the back of church including sponsorship forms and QR code."

THIS WEEK, coinciding with CAFOD Family Fast Day, we are invited to spend time in prayer for the needy and the hungry in our world.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS St Charles meeting is indicated for Sunday 8th March. **Immaculate Conception** meeting is taking place at 2pm on Sunday 22nd March.

BISHOP'S FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME for the diocese. You will have seen publications coming from the diocese giving details of future plans. Such plans have been discussed on a number occasions at Hadfield council meeting. Amongst the plans is the need to establish parish consultative groups to forward the programme in both our parishes. At Masses in both parishes this weekend an invitation will be made to you to help this process. Please mark your diaries with 4pm on Sunday next, 1st March at St Charles, when all parishioners will be given a chance to add to the conversation and to offer to help the Mission-Outreach commitment.

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.

PIOUS OBJECTS Oftentimes when devout parishioners die, relatives and friends are unsure how to dispose of pious objects - statues, crucifixes, images etc. which were treasured by the deceased. The repository department welcomes such yester-treasures. A number of such objects has come our way recently, and can be viewed at the back of St Charles church. Please feel free to take note - and to take home if can.

SAFEGUARDING If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk; / phone 07513 725411.