



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

LENT 4 (a) Laetare
15th March 2026



Prayer to Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Pope Francis

Lord, that I may see!

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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 15th	LENT IV Laetare Sunday / Mothering Sunday 9.15 M Norton RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 16th	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) Sp int (AB)	
Tues 17th	ST PATRICK, BISHOP & PATRON OF IRELAND 9.30 (HAD) <i>service of word & sacrament</i>	
Weds 18th	Lent feria No parish Mass today	
Thurs 19th	ST JOSEPH, husband of Our Blessed Lady 9.30 (HAD) <i>service of word & sacrament</i>	
Fri 20th	Lent feria 9.30 (BB) Sean Quinn RIP (fam) <i>f/by Stations: Stations (HAD) 3pm</i>	
Sat 21st	Lent feria 9.30 (HAD) M Byrne RIP (fam) <i>HAD noon: baptism</i>	
Sun 22nd	LENT V (Passion Sunday) 9.15 Una McDermott RIP (D&JS) 11am (HAD) for the parish	

FOURTH LENT (A)

Psalter Week 4

Introduction: That we may be able to see the world and its people with the perception and insight of the Lord!

First Reading : 1 Sam 16 : The Lord chooses the least-expected - David - for the most dedicated service of the Kingdom.

Resp.Ps. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT

Second Reading : Eph 5 : Let the light of Christ shine through your behaviour.

Gospel : Jn 9 : The blind beggar has more insight into the person of Jesus than the sophisticated by-standers.

**Comm. ant. THE LORD ANOINTED MY EYES: I WENT, I WASHED, I SAW
AND I BELIEVED IN 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, 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 : Eamonn O'Hara, John Daley, Terence Makings, Tom O'Keefe; Anne Gregory, Christopher Eaton, Stephen Bardsley, John Fallon, Norma Clarke: ***May eternal light shine on them : Amen***

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY we celebrate the fourth Sunday in Lent. Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. It has a place apart amongst the Sundays of Lent. As in Advent we had Gaudete Sunday, so in Lent we have a Sunday commonly called ***Laetare*** Sunday, after the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon; it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant wears rose-coloured vestments. The Church's liturgy on this the Fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the 'man born blind'. It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the Light of God, who is the Risen Christ. The whole week, with its wealth of liturgical significance, is intensely interesting. Lent is half over, and Easter is enticingly near!

MOTHERING SUNDAY is also celebrated this weekend as we greet with the affection of our prayers all who have shared with Mary the privilege of God's gift of motherhood. May the Mother of God gladden your hearts. The celebration of Mothering comes fittingly at this time of the year

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL The second of the three great Johannine readings about water, light and life featured in the baptisms of Easter gives us the splendid account of Jesus bringing light to the blind man in the Temple. It is full of Johannine contrasts and irony. The 'Jews' or the Pharisees think they have the light and knowledge, but the more they abuse the man born blind, the clearer their own darkness and ignorance become. The more they try to thrust him away from Jesus, the more they push him into seeking refuge in him. Much of the colouring of the scene comes from the controversies towards the end of the first century, when the Pharisees were the only branch of Judaism to survive after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. The New Testament shows that there was bitter opposition between those Jews who accepted the divine claims for Jesus, and those who rejected them. This is especially clear in the fear of the blind man's parents that they would be excluded from the synagogue if they accepted that Jesus' grant of sight was a sign of his divine mission. The doughty and pugnacious man born blind has no such hesitation!

THIS WEEK The annual diocesan clergy retreat is taking place at Ampleforth Abbey in N Yorkshire. I hope to join this retreat, from Monday to Thursday. As a result, the parish timetable is different. Please note especially that Deacon Owen has agreed to conduct services of Word & Sacrament on Tuesday 17th (St Patrick) and Thursday 19th (St Joseph) at 9.30 am at St Charles.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK St Patrick (385 - 461) was born in Roman Britain, and died in Ireland about the middle of the 5th century. As a missionary bishop, he endured many hardships and faced opposition even from his friends and fellow Christians. Nevertheless, he worked hard to conciliate, to evangelize, and to educate local chieftains and their families. He is remembered for his simplicity and pastoral care, for his humble trust in God, and for his fearless preaching of the gospel to the very people who had enslaved him in his youth.

St Joseph Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is said of him in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From the human character of his son we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers in general. To those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or as the support of a whole family, he is a source of inspiration.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE Dedicated St Charles parishioner Terry Kane (83) died on 3rd March. His funeral arrangements are being planned. May he rest in peace.

A CAKE BAKE is held this Laetare Sunday at Immaculate Conception church.

LOLA advises that a small number of Easter greeting cards are available from the repository at the back of St Charles church.

CAFOD'S LENT APPEAL A third group walk will take place on **Saturday 28th March**. Meeting at 10.30am at St Charles, Hadfield. A circular walk via Old Hadfield, Padfield and Waterside taking in 12 churches and chapels past and present. (2 hours)

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

PARISH PRAYER At a recent St Charles parish council meeting it was suggested that we formulate a parish prayer, to commit our parish developments into the Lord's hands. If you want to propose such a prayer, please take a form from the back of church, and follow the instructions - before Easter Sunday.

HADFIELD READERS will want to join me in thanking Monica Watson for her faithful commitment to organising the rota for readers & bidding prayers over many years. She has handed that duty over to Rob Cranston.

Rob writes: "We need readers please for the services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. There is a form available on the table at the back of the Church for anyone who wishes to take part in these readings."

A TIME FOR EUCHARISTIC REFLECTION: This will be taking place at the Annunciation church, New Mills (SK22 3BW) on Saturday 28th March, starting with tea and coffee at 9.30am and finishing at 2.00pm. The theme of this day is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; we will be exploring and reflecting on some of the saints' thoughts on Adoration, as well as the practicalities of organising a service. There will also be an hour of Eucharistic Adoration at 11.00am. Whilst this day fulfils the requirements for Eucharistic Ministers to complete an annual day of renewal, all interested parishioners are welcome to attend and learn more about this beautiful sacrament. Please bring a packed lunch.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) K Holtom ; 2nd (£20) K Pitchford .

A RECONCILIATION SERVICE with confessions, will be held on Palm Sunday afternoon, 3pm, 29th March at St Mary's church, Glossop.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES for April-start are available for existing boxholders. If you also want to use this channel of financial support, please let me know.

CALLED TO LOVE is a retreat for singles, dating, and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded others, the retreat will be held at the Christian Heritage Centre, Lancashire, on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May. This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. To book, visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>

CALLED TO PRAYER The Presentation sisters have petitioned the Holy See for the canonisation of their foundress Nano Nagle. The sisters seek a miracle wrought through her intercession. Please pray through her intercession for the healing of Sister Teresita, who is terminally ill.

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.

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