



## CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



# PARISH NEWSLETTER

***Eastertide Sunday VII (a)***  
***17th May 2026***



**Come Holy Spirit,**  
fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit  
and they shall be created.  
R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the same Holy Spirit  
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy  
His consolations,  
Through Christ Our Lord,  
Amen.

***They devoted themselves to prayer***

**Canon Don Bowdren**  
St Charles Rectory  
Woolley Bridge Rd  
Hadfield SK13 1PQ  
852351 & 0776205752

*don.bowdren@dioceseofnottingham.uk /  
daniel.bowdren@gmail.co*  
Deacon: Rev Dr Owen Le Blanc

[longdendale-catholics.co.uk](http://longdendale-catholics.co.uk)  
[Facebook@stcharleshadfield](https://www.facebook.com/stcharleshadfield)  
[Facebook@TheImmaculateConceptionCharlesworth](https://www.facebook.com/TheImmaculateConceptionCharlesworth)

### 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 17th	<b>EASTERTIDE SUNDAY VII</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) for infirm parishioners & their carers (CW)	
Mon 18th	<b>Easter feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Doris Howbrook RIP (LH)	
Tues 19th	<b>Easter feria / St Dunstan</b> 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Weds 20th	<b>Easter feria / St Bernardine of Siena</b> 9.30 (HAD) Dead List	
Thurs 21st	<b>Easter feria / St Christopher</b> 9.30 (HAD) DCA ( <i>Deanery Meeting, Glossop</i> )	
Fri 22nd	<b>Easter feria / St Rita of Cascia</b> 9.30 (BB) DCA	
Sat 23rd	<b>Easter feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Chapter ints	
Sun 24th	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> 9.15 (BB) Ellen Storey RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	

## **EASTER VII (A)**

### **Psalter Week 3**

**Introduction:** We join the apostles in praying for the gifts of the Spirit at Pentecost.

**First Reading :** Acts 1: After the Ascension, Mary and the apostles wait on the Lord.

**Resp.Ps. ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

**Second Reading :** 1 Pet 4 : Hostility to the message of Christ is hallmark of its authenticity. Our suffering wins redemption.

**Gospel :** Jn 17 : We join Jesus with the apostles at the last supper, as he urges them to preach his message.

**Comm. Ant. FATHER, I PRAY THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ALSO ARE ONE, ALLELUIA.**

## **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 :** Rev Gerry McSpirit, Derl Daly, Kit McKeown & Charles Wall; Rashmi Parikh, Peter Kenyon, Joan Fawley, Anne Law: *May eternal light shine on them : Amen*

## **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS WEEKEND** we honour '**COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY**'.

**AN EXTRACT FROM OUR HOLY FATHER'S MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY** 'Our faces and voices are unique, distinctive features of every person; they reveal a person's own unrepeatable identity and are the defining elements of every encounter with others. the unmistakable sound of someone's voice. Faces and voices are sacred. God, who created us in his image and likeness, gave them to us when he called us to life through the Word he addressed to us. We too have heard and seen this Word in the voice and face of Jesus, the Son of God. In recent years, artificial intelligence systems have increasingly taken control of the production of texts, music and videos. This puts much of the human creative industry at risk of being dismantled and replaced with the label "Powered by AI," turning people into passive consumers of unthought thoughts and anonymous products without ownership or love. Meanwhile, the masterpieces of human genius in the fields of music, art and literature are being reduced to mere training grounds for machines. As we scroll through our feeds, it becomes increasingly difficult to determine whether we are interacting with other human beings or with "bots" or "virtual influencers." Another major challenge posed by these emerging systems is that of bias, which leads to acquiring and transmitting an altered perception of reality. The task laid before us is not to stop digital innovation, but rather to guide it and to be aware of its ambivalent nature. It is up to each of us to raise our voice in defence of human persons, so that we can truly assimilate these tools as allies. As Catholics, it is important to educate ourselves and others about how to use AI intentionally, and in this context to protect our image (photos and audio), our face and our voice, to prevent them from being used in the creation of harmful content. We need faces and voices to speak for people again. We need to cherish the gift of communication as the deepest truth of humanity, to which all technological innovation should be subservient.'

**A REFLECTION ON THE ASCENSION** 'The Mystery of Presence and Absence in Love : Someone needs to write a book on 'The Anatomy of a Farewell' or, better still, A Spirituality of the Ascension. Why such a book? Because we experience many painful goodbyes in life. There are so many times when someone we love has to go away, or we have to go away. There are many times when, for whatever reason, someone has to move on and irrevocably change a relationship. Almost always this is painful, sometimes so painful that it leaves us feeling restless and empty, as if all the colour, energy, and joy have gone out of our lives. But, as we know, usually this isn't the end of the story. Parents, for example, experience this when their children grow up and leave home to start lives of their own. When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his ascension, he told them: "It is better for you that I go away! You won't understand this now. You will grieve and have heavy hearts, but, later, this will turn to joy and you will understand why I have to do this because, unless I go away, I can't send you my spirit." That's why we rarely appreciate our loved ones fully, until they are taken away from us. The mystery of saying goodbye is really the mystery of the Ascension, the most under-understood mystery both inside and outside of religion. The Ascension is about going away so that our loved ones can fully receive our spirit. It's about the mystery of saying goodbye, when goodbye isn't really goodbye at all, but only love's way of taking on a different way of loving.'

**THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL** The final chapter of the discourse of Jesus at the Last Supper sums up the life and purpose of Jesus. It is strikingly modelled on the 'Our Father'. It is shot through with the warmth of the relationship of Jesus to his Father, with six invocations of the 'Father', and with the fact that Jesus came to do the will of the Father. 'Thy Kingdom come' is represented by the typical Johannine emphasis of knowing the Father. But most striking of all is the stress on the glorification of Jesus. The earliest kerygma about the Resurrection, as we have it in Paul's writings, is not about the empty tomb, but is about the glory of the risen Christ, that Christ is lifted up to his full participation in the divine glory of the Father. The hymn in Colossians puts him as first-born in creation and now first-born from the dead, so that he can be first in every way. In Philippians declares that he must receive the homage of bending the knee in the worship due only to God. This is not blasphemy, for it is 'to the glory of the Father' that the Risen Christ should share in this glory. In a way this gospel reading is a meditation on the effects or the culmination of the Ascension for the Risen Christ.

**VOLUNTARY SERVICE!** 'On Saturday 30th May from 10am to 2pm Glossop Willow Wood Hospice Shop is holding a Volunteer Recruitment Day. This is a great opportunity to visit and find out about volunteering in a Charity shop and what it entails. You gain as much as you give as a volunteer, using skills you already have and learning new ones, becoming part of a dedicated, friendly team and helping a really worthy cause. Come along and learn more.

**FIRST COMMUNION FLOWERS** There will be a collection on Pentecost Sunday at St Charles for First Holy Communion flowers. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated as there are so few children and families to contribute this year.

**CHARITIES' ROSARY** On Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 7pm, CAFOD, Missio, Aid to the Church in Need UK and Stella Maris – Apostleship of the Sea are joining together to host a unique online opportunity for the Catholic community of England and Wales to pray the Rosary 'for peace in our world'. Inspired by the words of Pope Leo at his first address from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica in 2025: 'Our blessed mother Mary always wants to walk with us, be close to us, she always wants to help us with her intercession and her love'. He invited us to pray together, 'for all of the Church, and for peace in the world.' Each participating charity will lead a reflection on one of the Sorrowful Mysteries, giving an insight into their work, with the fifth reflection being led by Rt Rev Bosco MacDonald, the Bishop of Clifton. Whether you're a volunteer, supporter, or simply someone who believes in the power of prayer, you are welcome. To register click here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/000881ee-a357-4630-a027-2dabe7f55e43@08f4ac77-938f-49be-8f24-000e77255cce>

**MAY PROCESSIONS** Next Sunday 24th May we hope to enjoy good weather for a May Procession at Immaculate Conception.

**SAINT OF THE WEEK Saint Rita of Cascia** (1377 - 1447) was born in Umbria in Italy. She was married at the age of 12 despite her frequently repeated wish to become a nun. Her husband was rich, quick-tempered and immoral and had many enemies. She endured his insults, abuse and infidelities for 18 years and bore him two sons, who grew to be like him. Towards the end of his life she helped to convert her husband to a more pious way of life, but he was stabbed to death by his enemies not long afterwards. He repented before he died and was reconciled to the Church. Her sons planned to avenge their father's death. When Rita's pleas were unavailing, she prayed that God should take their lives if that was the only way to preserve them from the sin of murder. They died of natural causes a year later. Rita asked to join the convent of St Mary Magdalen at Cascia. She was rejected for being a widow, since the convent was for virgins only, and later given the impossible task of reconciling her family with her husband's murderers. She carried out the task and was allowed to enter the convent at the age of 36. She remained there until her death at the age of 70. She is widely honoured as a patron saint of impossible or lost causes.

**THE WHY? COURSE** is for people enquiring about faith and church-life. It is a three-part course, over three evenings, or one day. Locally it is presented at Bradbury House on 1st, 8th & 15th June. It is condensed into one session on late Saturdays in July & August. Full details are found on fliers at the back of church.

**RECENT TOTE WINNERS** St Charles: 1st (£40) D Clough; 2nd (£20) D Wilson.

**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](mailto:Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk); / phone 07513 725411.