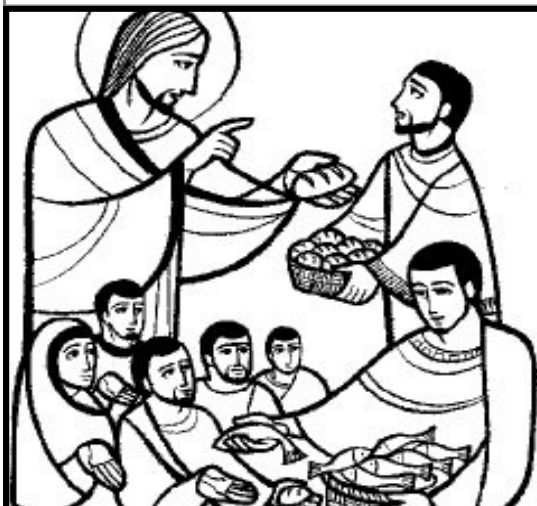




CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Eighteenth Sunday
2nd Aug 2026



*O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.*

Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of Christ.

Canon Don Bowdren

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OUR SCHOOLS

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ
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 2nd	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY 9.15 (BB) Derek Orr RIP (anniv) (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 3rd	feria 9.30 (HAD) Sally Hughes RIP	
Tues 4th	St Jean Vianney 9.30 (HAD) Beth McConnon RIP	
Weds 5th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Rena Kielty	
Thurs 6th	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD 9.30 (HAD) Nan Sullivan	
Fri 7th	feria 9.30 (BB) Mary Grealish	<i>FIRST FRIDAY VISITS</i>
Sat 8th	St Dominic 9.30 (HAD) Matt McGauly	
Sun 9th	NINETEENTH SUNDAY 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Mary Davison RIP	

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (A)

Psalter Week 2

Introduction to today's Word : The Lord sustains his people, with his word and food.

FIRST READING : Is 55 : Come and eat.

RESP PS : **HOW GOOD IS THE LORD TO ALL!**

SECOND READING : Rom 8 : Paul's love for Our Lord knows no bounds.

GOSPEL : Mt 14 : They ate as much as they wanted.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON : I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me will not hunger
and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

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, Isabella Phillips, Arthur King, Val Gebbett, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Revv John Grimshaw, Douglas Key, Michael Gilleran, Henry McDonald; *Patricia Byrne, Carole Murphy, James Sidebottom, Barbara Bailey: May eternal light shine on them : Amen*

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND The feeding of the multitude is recorded six times in the four gospels, more than any other event in the ministry of Jesus. Upon seeing the crowd, Jesus is moved with pity and heals the sick. As the evening draws on, Jesus has the people sit, and he takes the bread, looks up to heaven, blesses it, breaks the loaves, and orders them to be distributed. These same words are used in Matthew at the last supper, take, bless, break, and eat. The feeding of the multitude is a prefiguration of the Eucharist, which will be a sharing in the eternal messianic banquet. Jesus meets the need of the crowd in their lack and their poverty. Jesus also seeks to meet us. If we do not recognize our poverty, if we do not have a need, then what Jesus offers is of little value. When we realize our need, then there is room for Jesus to enter our life at that moment. It is also there that we recognize our need for one another and become a community of followers. The Gospel perspective is that we can never do it all by ourselves. We continually need God and one another to come to the fullness of life

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL Every mother knows the disaster-situation of the family day out when the shops turn out to be closed and the emergency supplies were left at home. This lot have been three days on the trot, and there must have been nothing left at all. Jesus turns the disaster into a party for that huge crowd of people. Left to our own resources we are helpless, but Jesus can deal with that. How many were there? We don't know, for the numbers are symbolic. In the Bible 'twelve' alerts us to the tribes of Israel. So the twelve baskets of scraps show that the crowd is the twelve tribes of Jesus' new Israel. The way Jesus takes the bread and says the blessing must remind any Christian of the Eucharist. So this gigantic field-party was a sort of Eucharist, Jesus at the centre of his people, entertaining them and cheering them. It probably wasn't very orderly. There would have been children enjoying the food and then running around and tripping up themselves and others as they sat on the grass. An African Mass is often like that, with lots of singing and dancing and celebration. That is why the Sunday Mass is so important: meet your friends and celebrate Christ together!

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE We note the deaths recently of **Marie Mary Briggs** (82) (Ashton) and **Pauline Anderson** (69) (Hadfield) the wife of well-known parishioner Phil. May they rest in peace, and their relatives & friends be comforted. Marie's funeral is planned for St Charles at noon on Thurs 13th August. Pauline's arrangements are still in hand.

SAINT OF THE WEEK St Dominic (1170 - 1221) was born in Castile (part of modern Spain) and became a canon of the cathedral of Osma. He accepted the mission of preaching against the Albigensian heresy, which was then strong in southern France. In 1216 he

founded the Order of Preachers, dedicated to saving souls by preaching and persuasion. Like the Franciscans, founded a few years before, the Dominicans put great importance on poverty, both of the individual and of the community, and of the need to be involved directly in the world while still living some form of monastic life. The Friars made a lasting impact on the life of mediaeval Europe, and the Dominicans in particular altered the course of intellectual history. Dominic died at Bologna on 6th August 1221.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS *St Charles: 1st (£40) G Collins, P Anderson; 2nd (£20) S Tetlow, C James.*

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.*

AND FINALLY *a recollection of an episode in one of my previous parishes:*

I'd travelled with the Bishop, the Vicar General and the local Mother General to the annual diocesan meetings 450 kilometres away in Mongu, in Zambia's western province. To my surprise the horrific roads punished us with but one puncture on the way there; the surprise was saved for the return journey. The tyres for our vehicles are imported from Korea – probably the North. The quality is at best variable. We were heavily laden not only with Bishop and Mother- and Vicar- General, but also four huge 50kg sacks of rice – grown in the Mongu area. After three more punctures we'd run out of tubes, tyres, patches and patience. At 8.15 p.m. just as the sun was setting, and after the fifth decade of our third rosary – phssssss! Another flat tyre. The last village was 12 kilometres back; the next was 20 kilometres ahead. Nothing but virgin bush, and nightfall. A deserted road (or rather its remains); a slightly sobbing Mother General seeking refuge from the mosquitoes in the twin-cab; the Bishop enthroned on an empty jerry-can, praying quietly; the Vicar General peering hopelessly to east and west for sign of a traveller; and yours truly scouring the bush for firewood to keep lions and elephants and snakes at bay. An hour into the night, and the distant sound of a vehicle doing battle with the potholes. It swept by at 15 agonising mph. The next one stopped, and our luck turned. There was a mission hospital (UCZ) some miles ahead and he would see if help could be had. The tyres were loaded and the next rosary begun. During the next three and a half hours wait every unimaginable animal was seen, heard, sensed – and of course discounted. Acts of perfect contrition were muttered, confession was accepted, and thoughts were of the "life-review" sort. However, my idiotic notion to light the fire was much applauded – if only to kindle thought of the Lower Place and arm against it. By 10.00 p.m. the welcome sound of the returning vehicle was heard and by ironic coincidence, that of another vehicle high-speeding from the other direction. Three drunken boys got out of the latter vehicle and were in the process of making improper suggestions and threats when our rescue vehicle hove to. Exeunt human predators; welcome Guardian Angels. On with the tyre, off with the Prelatial Party – to a 2.00 a.m. return to Livingstone! And the off-loading of rice and eminences.