



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

***Twenty-third Sunday (a)
6th Sept 2026***



We fly to thy patronage,
O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from all dangers,
O glorious and
blessed Virgin.
*(on Tuesday 8th we celebrate
Mary's birthday)*

***For where two or three are gathered
in my name,
there am I among them***

Canon Don Bowdren

St Charles Rectory
Woolley Bridge Rd
Hadfield SK13 1PQ
852351 & 07762057572

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

*longdendale-catholics.co.uk
Facebook@stcharleshadfield
Facebook@The Immaculate Conception Charlesworth*

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 6th	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY 9.15 (BB) PP's welfare 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 7th	9.30 (HAD) safe journey ints.	
(NOTE : No weekday (ie Mon to Sat incl) Masses until Sat 26th)		
	<i>Tues 8th HAD Service of Word & Sacrament</i>	
	<i>Weds 9th (HAD) funeral service 11.30 : P Hughes RIP</i>	
	<i>Fri 11th (BB) Service of Word & Sacrament</i>	
<i>(Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday 10.30-11.30 at HAD)</i>		
Sun 13th	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (EDUCATION SUNDAY) 9.15 (BB) donor's int 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Tues 15th	HAD Service of Word & Sacrament	
Fri 18th	(BB) Service of Word & Sacrament	
Sat 19th	10.30-11.30 (HAD) Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.	
Sun 20th	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY (HOME MISSION SUNDAY) 9.15 (BB) donor's int 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Tues 22nd	HAD Service of Word & Sacrament	
Sat 26th	9.30 (HAD) sp int 10.30-11.30 HAD Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.	
Sun 27th	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY 9.15 (BB) donor's int 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Note : Fri 2nd Oct : CAFOD Family Fast Day. First Friday visits postponed one week.		

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, Colin Orr, Tom Travis, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Rev P O'Hanlon; Philip Battey, Ernest Quinlan, Joan Haley, Francis Pollitt, Patrick Clarke, Alan Yardley, Phyllis Byrne: May eternal light shine on them: may they rest in peace : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND Welcome to the *Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary time*. 'When one looks at the miracles of Jesus, it is interesting to see that so many of them are connected to opening up or otherwise healing someone's eyes, ears, or tongue. These miracles, of course, always have more than a physical significance. Eyes are opened in order to see more deeply and spiritually; ears are opened in order to hear things more compassionately; and tongues are loosened in order to praise God more freely and to speak words of reconciliation and love to each other. To put it metaphorically, what Jesus is doing in these miracles is attaching the eyes, ears, and tongue to the great soul so that what a person is now seeing, hearing, and speaking is not bitterness, hurt, and pettiness but rather compassion, gratitude, and praise.'

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL Matthew is a realist. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every community and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. One might complain that it is not very Christian of Matthew to abandon the offending brother or sister to be as a hated tax-collector, even after the failure of attempts at reconciliation. But note that just afterwards, this process of attempted reconciliation is supplemented by Jesus' teaching that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit – even if the attempts at reconciliation have failed. We also get the reminder that Christ is present always in his community. The same promise is given at beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). Therefore the strength of the community both to reconcile grievances and to make further requests of the Father lies in the presence of Christ within it. It is especially striking that the same promise is here given to the Church as had earlier been given to Peter himself. There is the same assumption as within Judaism, that the Lord is present in the assembled community; in Judaism this is expressed as the presence of the awesome divine presence, the Shekinah; within Christianity it is normally expressed as the presence of the Spirit of Christ.

SAINT OF THE WEEK **St Peter Claver (1581 - 1654)** was born in Catalonia and studied at the University of Barcelona. He became a Jesuit; and while he was studying philosophy in Mallorca, the door-keeper of the college, Alfonso Rodríguez, saw that his true vocation was to evangelize the New World, and encouraged him to fulfil that vocation. He arrived in Cartagena, in what is now Colombia, in 1610, and after his ordination six years later he became 'the slave of the Negroes forever', labouring on their behalf for 43 years, attending to both their spiritual and material needs. The slave trade was repeatedly condemned by the Popes; but it was too profitable to be stopped and on the whole the local church hierarchy kept quiet about it, much as they did in North America in the 19th century. He brought fresh food to the slave-ships as they arrived, instructed the slaves and baptized them in the faith, followed their progress and kept track of them even when they were sent to the mines and plantations, defending them as well as he could from oppressive slave-owners. He organized teams of catechists who spoke the many languages spoken by the slaves. He worked in hospitals also, looking after lepers among others, and in prisons. Naturally he made himself unpopular by his work: as his superior said, 'unfortunately for himself he is a Catalan, pig-headed and difficult'. Opposition came from both within

the Church and outside it, but there were always exceptions. For instance, while many fashionable ladies refused to enter his city churches because they had been profaned by the presence of the blacks, a few, such as Doña Isabel de Urbina, became his strong and lifelong supporters. At the end of his life he fell ill with a degenerative disease and for four years he was treated neglectfully and brutally by the servant whose task it was to look after him. He did not complain but accepted his sufferings as a penance for his sins.

THE 2026 PETER'S PENCE is acknowledged by the Apostolic Nuncio, thanking our Diocese for the contributions to collection, which amounted to £5,936.26. The Holy Father very much appreciates the generosity of parishioners throughout the Diocese of Nottingham, whose donations will help to fund and support the charitable activities of the Holy See.

EDUCATION SUNDAY is observed on Sunday 13th September.

THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP will next meet on Monday 14th September at 7.30 in the Oratory at Saint Charles everyone is very welcome. Deacon Owen has asked us to read part of the first letter of Saint John daily. For anyone unable to attend on the evening who wishes to join in by reading at home either using your own bible or downloading a free copy of the Catholic Study app.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY will be celebrated on Sunday 20th September, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate our faith in these lands, and our shared commitment to communicate the beauty and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Celebrating the Holy Father's first encyclical, the theme for this year is "Magnifica Humanitas" as the heart of mission. We can celebrate together the call the Holy Father has placed before us to live out our authentic humanity which finds its fullness in Christ. The Second Collection supports the work carried out by the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate, supporting our Church in a wide field of service and mission here in England and Wales. Please hold this important work in your prayers and give as generously as you can. Thank you.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY is being held on Friday 2nd October. CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, the official overseas aid charity of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and part of Caritas International.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) J Ashton; 2nd (£20) K Litchfield;

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.

OPEN DOORS It is good that at BB on Friday evening 5-6pm kindly folk staff the church to welcome passers-by to call in for a moment's stillness & prayer. It is equally good that on Saturday mornings at St Charles the extraordinary Eucharistic ministers facilitate Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.15 to 11.15.

FROM SUE HOOLAHAN: HOLIDAY QUIZ We plan to have a quiz night with a twist on Thursday 17 September from 7-9pm in St Charles church. Tea/coffee and cakes provided. £3 entrance to be collected on the night. Come and join us with stories about your favourite holidays (and the ones that went wrong).

HARVEST SUNDAY is on the 27th of September and parishioners are invited to bring donations of fruit, vegetables, packets and tinned food on that day to place on the Sanctuary before Holy Mass. All donations will be given to the Foodbank.

BEST THANKS to Lola King who has overseen the repository stall these many years. She has handed over to Sue & Sue!

NOTE WELL I plan to be on hols from Mon 7th to Fri 25th Sept. I'm delighted that Fr Kevin Prince has agreed to say Sunday Masses on 13th & 20th Sept.

THIS NEWSLETTER has three weeks currency. The next edition is planned for Sunday 4th Oct.

AND FINALLY "Doe, a deer, a female deer" came to crop the little grass on the back lawn outside my kitchen. Beautiful sleek sight gilded in evening sunshine as I hunted for my Friday fish fingers.