



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY III in ordinary time (a)
Jan 22nd 2023**



**A PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Eternal Father,
we praise you for sending your Son
to be one of us and to save us.
Look upon your people with mercy,
for we are divided in so many ways,
and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make
us one in love.

We ask this gift, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***And they left their nets
and followed him***

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DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 22nd	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Sunday of the Word of God) 9.15 (BB) K Laidlaw RIP 11am (HAD) M&J Cannon RIP (fam)	
Mon 23rd	feria 9.30 (HAD) Donald Wakefield RIP	
Tues 24th	St Francis de Sales 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Weds 25th	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Thurs 26th	Ss Timothy & Titus 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Fri 27th	St Angela 9.30 (BB) Mildred Marsden RIP (fam)	
Sat 28th	St Thomas Aquinas 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Sun 29th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15 (BB) K Laidlaw RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	

THIRD SUNDAY (A) Psalter Week 3	
Introduction: The Light of Christ comes to illumine the dark path to eternity.	
First Reading : Is 8 : The deported Jewish people are promised a new and Great Light.	
Resp.Ps.	THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY HELP.
Second Reading : 1 Cor 1 : The love of the crucified Lord urges unity not division.	
Gospel : Mt 4 : Jesus the light appears first in Galilee, a light to the world.	

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, Joe Singleton, Joan Killeen, Una Wilkinson, Dennis Brady, Christine Wild, David Healey, Jacob Ibbotson, Alice Canning.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Revv Austin Williamson, Philip O'Dowd, Bishop Roskell, Margaret Chatterton, Monica O'Hare, Julian Churchman, John Wells, Edith Cullen-Lawlor, Jean Rowell, Jacqueline Mason: ***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them: may they rest in peace. Amen***

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY we celebrate the third Sunday in ordinary time. In the gospel we hear Jesus call the first Apostles. He chooses them with an unequivocal call, 'Follow Me'. Faced with God's sudden interruption in their lives He invited them to abandon the nets and trust themselves totally to the Lord for a new 'catch'. At the Last Supper, the end of His earthly life, Jesus reminds His disciples 'you did not choose me, no, I chose you' We recall that our personal vocation is founded on God's original and absolutely free choice. His invitation towards us, therefore, is an invitation to make a final decision to let Him conquer or re-conquer us to mark a turning point in our lives.

Pope Francis, in 2019 directed that the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time should be observed as the **Sunday of the Word of God**. In a motu proprio entitled *Aperuit Illis*, the Holy Father said that the annual date should be "devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God."

SAINTS OF THE WEEK : ST FRANCIS DE SALES was born near Annecy, in Savoy, studied the law, and was ordained to the priesthood despite the opposition of his father. His first mission was to re-evangelize the people of his home district who had gone over to Calvinism. Always in danger of his life from hostile Calvinists, he preached with such effectiveness that after four years most of the people had returned to the Church. He was then appointed bishop of Geneva, and spent the rest of his life reforming and reorganising the diocese, and in caring for the souls of his people by preaching and spiritual guidance. St Francis taught that we can all attain a devout and spiritual life, whatever our position in society: holiness is not reserved for monks and hermits alone. He wrote that "religious devotion does not destroy: it perfects," and his spiritual counsel is dedicated to making people more holy by making them more themselves. In his preaching against Calvinism he was driven by love rather than a desire to win: so much so, that it was a Calvinist minister who said "if we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no-one since the days of the Apostles more worthy of it than this man." St Francis is the patron saint of writers and journalists, who would do well to imitate his love and his moderation: as he said, "whoever wants to preach effectively must preach with love."

ST THOMAS AQUINAS (1225 - 1274) was born of a noble family in southern Italy, and was educated by the Benedictines. In the normal course of events he would have joined that order and taken up a position suitable to his rank; but he decided to become a Dominican instead. His family were so scandalised by this disreputable plan that they kidnapped him and kept him prisoner for over a year; but he was more obstinate than they were, and he had his way at last. He studied in Paris and in Cologne under the great philosopher St Albert the Great. It was a time of great philosophical ferment. Out of his depth of learning came the dazzling poetry of the liturgy for Corpus Christi. And out of his sanctity came the day when, celebrating Mass, he had a vision that, he said, made all his writings seem like so much straw; and he wrote no more.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY We are midway through this time of reflection and prayer on the subdivisions that separate Christian denominations one from the other. We remember with gladness the many occasions in our recent past in which our local churches have been able to come together in fellowship, this area, notably with the valley churches. We continue to pray even until the feast of the conversion of Saint Paul on the 25th Jan. The Lord's prayer that all maybe may be one day fulfilled.

FR JIM O'HANLON was unable to come for supply last weekend by reason of a winter ailment. I spoke to him, and he is recovering well, and hopes to renew acquaintance at a future date.

My best thanks to Monsignor Jonathan Moore who kindly agreed to come at the last minute to celebrate the 11am Mass at Saint Charles. His visit and celebration were much appreciated. Sadly, it was not possible to find a priest to celebrate mass at Immaculate Conception that day. And obviously we are sorry for the inconvenience that may have caused. However, it surely gives us time to reflect on the increasing difficulty in arranging supply cover these days.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COUNCIL met during the week. Notes and minutes of that meeting will be available on the parish website.

ST CHARLES PARISH FINANCE & FABRIC committee meets after Mass this Sunday (22nd).

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP meets on 1st February. There is a speaker from 11am. She is Janis Birchall.

Janis is the retired chair of The Padfield Residents Society her talk is the History of Padfield Village.

Everyone is welcome.

THE SYCAMORE COURSE continues on Thursday next the 26th Jan at 7pm in the oratory. All are welcome.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles : £40 S Williamson & J Ashton; £20 : L Hockey & B Hodson.

Renewed thanks to those who administer our parish totes, and to those who support the parishes by their memberships.

CHRISTIAN UNITY OCTAVE this time of prayer for Christian unity runs from the 18th to the 25th of January each year. I hope that you'll give it your support in prayer.

STANDING ORDERS: Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection" 00510567 ; St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "Charles church/collection" 00269177.

'**MAGNIFICATS**' for February can be found at the back of church.

Sheila Laidlaw and family would like to thank those of the parish community for their love, care and support during the time of Kevin's illness, and especially over the last few weeks. The family is deeply grateful for the touching way in which the funeral was celebrated and supported. The family have been overwhelmed with the kindness, the Mass cards, the messages of prayer and sympathy that they have received. Mass will be offered for the benefit of all who have been so kind.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT: Missing mass? Or missing Mass?. Those who last weekend were looking forward to going to the 9.15 at Immaculate Conception were inconvenienced, and more than a few had to miss Mass. This paused me to ponder this curious phrase. We can miss somebody or something in two ways. The beloved goes away on business: miss them. That of course is the very human ache of missing companionship, of a tender hug perhaps. I visit the sick, the elderly, the hospitalised, the housebound. Many of them tell how much they miss 'church', by which they mean fulfilling their duty to attended Mass on Sunday & days of obligation. One or two say that they 'stream' Mass from a variety of places, "but its not the same as being in church, Father" – and being church, and with friends from church, the companionship of communion, and receiving Holy Communion.

Then there are other Catholics who 'miss Mass' but don't seem actually to miss going to Mass, that Sunday duty, that time to pray with holy ones (and not so holy!) in the holy place. That 'missing' is not at all like those who long to be there but can't. I sometimes meet such 'resting' Catholics, and cheerfully tell them they are missed, and we keep our church warm and clean – and Holy - for their prodigal return.

We pray that the latter may become like the former, and return to enhance our congregation with their prayerful presence.