



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY IV (a)
Jan 29th 2023**



*May you always experience
the joy
that comes
from putting Christ
at the centre of your lives!*

Pope Benedict XVI

Blessed the pure in heart!

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SK13 8DR
Head : Mrs L Morris
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DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 29th	FOURTH SUNDAY 9.15 (BB) K Laidlaw RIP (SL) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 30th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Robert Neilan (fam)	
Tues 31st	St John Bosco 9.30 (HAD) B Bowler RIP (AM & fam) <i>10.30 (HAD) funeral service for Robert Owen RIP</i>	
Weds 1st Feb	feria (Weds Group meets after Mass) 9.30 (HAD) Michael Deegan RIP (CW)	
Thurs 2nd	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 9.30 (HAD) (school Mass in church) J Smyth RIP	
Fri 3rd	St Blaise / St Oskar (<i>First Friday visits today DV</i>) 9.30 (HAD) in thanksgiving (SL)	
Sat 4th	St Gilbert of Sempringham 9.30 (HAD) J Smyth RIP	
Sun 5th	FIFTH SUNDAY 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) K Tobin	

FOURTH ORDINARY SUNDAY (A)

Psalter Week 4

Introduction: The Lord calls his people to be humble & lowly: a blessing on the world.

First Reading : Zeph 2 & 3: God brings down the proud and raises the lowly.

Resp.Ps. BLESSED THE POOR IN SPIRIT : THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

Second Reading : 1 Cor 1 : No one can boast : everything is God`s gift.

Gospel : Mt 5 : The Beatitudes lay out the template for the perfect disciple.

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 Louis Drury, Roger Birks; Mary Howarth, Gerald Allison, Patricia Walsh, Stephen Hirst, Frank Gerrard, Jade Bennett, Vera Derbyshire, Gertrude Ashton, Tess Fish: ***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 fourth Sunday in Ordinary time. The **Gospel** reading is taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew 5. At the end of the Beatitudes, the poor appear as the privileged ones in the discourse. The first recipients of the Beatitudes are, in fact, the 'poor in spirit', an expression that indicates those who have their hearts and consciences directed intimately to Our Lord. They are the expression of the just who are tried by moments of suffering and difficulties. However, they are called 'blessed' because God's merciful and compassionate gaze rests on them. These are the poor that the Bible text really refers to. The poor in the Bible are the humbled, the 'anawim', who bear a burden on their shoulders. They are given God's favour and because of this the Word identifies them as just, meek and humble, the ones who don't confide mainly in themselves but in God. The poor are those who detach themselves from the possession of persons and things and above all of themselves. The poor don't find security in the gods of this world like success, power or pride but the true Lord God in Heaven.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE We have noted the recent deaths of

* **Robert Edward Owen** (84)(Marple), whose funeral rites are celebrated at St Charles on Tuesday of this week; and

* **Vincent O'Brien** (70)(Denton), whose funeral is arranged for St Charles at 1pm on Tuesday 7th Feb.

May they rest in peace, and their sorrowing relatives and friends be comforted.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK : **St John Bosco (1815 - 1888)** was born in Piedmont of a peasant family, and he was brought up by his widowed mother. He became a priest, and his particular concern was for the young. He settled in Turin, where, as in so many cities in the 19th century, the industrial revolution was bringing enormous movements of population and consequent social problems, especially for the young men who came there to work. John Bosco devoted himself to the care of the young, first of all by means of evening classes, to which hundreds came, and then by setting up a boarding-house for apprentices, and then workshops for their training and education. Despite many difficulties, by 1868 over 800 boys and young men were under his care. To ensure the continuation of his work, he founded a congregation, which he named after St Francis de Sales (a saint for whom he had great admiration), and today the Salesians continue his work all over the world. **St Ansgar or Oscar (- 865)** was born in Amiens at the start of the ninth century and educated at a monastery in Picardy. He went as a missionary to Denmark in 826 but had little success; but in Sweden he did better. He was elected Bishop of Hamburg (this was at that time a missionary see dedicated to evangelizing the North) He is known as "the apostle of the North." **St Blaise** was bishop of Sebaste and was martyred, probably early in the fourth century. Devotion to him spread throughout the Church during the Middle Ages. He is particularly invoked for disorders of the throat. **St Gilbert of**

Sempringham (1083 – 1189) near Bourne in Lincolnshire, the son of an Anglo-Norman lord of the manor, who sent him to the University of Paris to study theology. When he returned home in 1120 he became a clerk in the household of the Bishop of Lincoln, & started a school for boys and girls. When his father died in 1130 and he became lord of the manor of Sempringham, he used his inherited wealth to found an order of monks and nuns, known as the Gilbertines. When he was 90, some of his lay brothers revolted and spread serious calumnies against him, but he received the support of King Henry II, and Pope Alexander III freed him from suspicion and confirmed the privileges granted to the order. Gilbert resigned his office late in life because of blindness and ill health, and died at Sempringham in about 1190, at the age of 106.

CANDLEMAS, or the feast of the Purification of Our Blessed Lady is celebrated on Thursday. It brings to an end the extended season of Christmastide, and for many churches, the occasion to dismantle the crib. It is called Candlemas after the canticle “Nunc Dimittis” proclaimed Christ as the light of the world by the ancient Simeon in the Temple when he received the infant into his arms.

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP meets on 1st February. The speaker from is Janis Birchall, the retired chair of The Padfield Residents Society her talk is the History of Padfield Village. Everyone is welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH is being redecorated, starting this week. There will be no Mass on Friday next, and we plan temporarily to rearrange things for Mass next Sunday.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS are planned next Friday. If you or someone you know would welcome such a visit, please let me know.

ST CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL meets next Sunday (5th) after Mass.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS: Warm Places in Hadfield. Rob Cranston messages “May I first thank those who have volunteered their time to help out at Hadfield Methodist Church and St Charles School and to those who have donated items to supplement the food parcels being made up at Carmel Church.

St Charles school opened up the hall to visitors on Wednesday 11th January but so far there has been a poor response. This is open to everybody in the Community, to come along to a place of warmth with a hot drink, a bite to eat and a chat, (and watch TV on a big screen) every Wednesday between 1:30 and 3:15pm. You might even know someone who would benefit from this. Also, despite the kind donations of items we have received so far for Carmel Church, may I please appeal for even more of your help. Apart from tins and packets of food items what they're really short of is cleaning materials and sanitary products; these are regularly requested but are difficult to obtain from their regular sources. Thank you.

THE SYCAMORE COURSE pauses this week, and continues on Thursday 9th Feb.

“BAROQUE IN THE NORTH” parishioner Claire Babington invites one and all to an afternoon concert from 2.30 on Sunday afternoon 12th Feb—admission £10 with concessions.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles : £40 D Want; £20 : D Shepley. Renewed thanks to those who administer our parish totes, and to those who support the parishes by their memberships.

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’ and ‘My Day by Day’ for February can be found at the back of church.

VICARS GENERAL Our Bishop has two Vicars General, who assist him in the administration of the diocese. For the last five years Canon Joe Wheat has been one of the them. Canon Wheat has decided to step back from this ministry in the near future. We give thanks for his valiant service in this role of these years, and we wish the best of blessings on his appointed successor in that role, Canon John Kyne.

AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR A couple of months ago a well-spoken young man came to the rectory door, asking to be allowed a visit to the church. I was happy to help; he came, he prayed, he lit a candle, lingered a while, and left, with gratitude expressed. More recently an elderly gent came by. He was a visitor from S Wales, and was kitted out for ‘a wander around a few reservoirs’. I found him at the back of church, and we chatted briefly. He thanked me profusely for facilitating the visit of the polite young man, whom he revealed as his son. He spoke of his fatherly joy, and of the spiritual uplifting of his troubled son, occasioned by his visit to church. Deo Gratias!