

Reconciliation: the joy of forgiveness

When we are conscious of doing something wrong, we can feel burdened by our own mistakes or troubled by our own selfishness. God knows this, and wants to take it away. Today we begin to explore the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), in which God gives us the joy of being forgiven and experiencing His merciful love for us. In this sacrament we are reconciled to God and His Church, so that we can start afresh, trying to live a life of greater love for God and others.

FOCUS ON... **St Anthony's Bread**

Many people may be a bit puzzled by the donation slot in the narthex marked 'St Anthony'. He doesn't need our money, of course! But most churches have a donation box like this. What's it for?

Many people ask St Anthony's help in times of need, especially if they have lost something. He is a great help! But it's good to say 'thank you', so the tradition grew of making an offering to the poor in thanksgiving when a prayer had been answered. St Anthony himself was a Franciscan (like St Clare), and lived a life of poverty in and amongst those who had little material wealth. So, when he intercedes for us and our prayers are answered, it's fitting that we give an offering to the poor, and so continue his work.



All the money donated in the St Anthony wallbox in the narthex will be sent to people in need, and we will nominate a charity each month (printed on the newsletter) so that you know where it is going. **This month's charity is CAFOD.**

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 154

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: of Lent

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 3 rd	6pm (vigil)	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	May Gilbert RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 4 th	9:30am		Keith Foster RIP	
	6pm		Rita Burns (birthday)	
Monday	9:15am			For a successful operation, Henry Cole RIP and sick friend
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	11am	Requiem Mass	Keith Foster RIP	
	7pm		Sheila Gahan RIP	
Wednesday	9:15am		Jack Burton RIP	
Thursday	9:15am		Margaret Panasciewicz RIP	
Friday	12noon		Sophia Morris RIP	
Saturday 10 th March	10am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Eileen McCroary RIP	
	6pm (vigil)		Frank and Molly Sinnott RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 11 th	9:30am		For mothers	
	6pm		People of the Parish	

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Keith Foster**, whose Requiem will take place on Tuesday at 11am, and all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for priestly vocations)

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Monday-Friday 7:45am during Lent.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon, and on request.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sundays 3pm during Lent.

ROSARY: Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass, and before 12noon Mass on Fridays. These prayers are offered for the protection of life at all stages.

ANGELUS: said at 12noon on Fridays, at the start of Mass.

ANNIVERSARIES: Winifred Taylor, Jack Farnworth, Elizabeth Duffy, Ted Boulton, Mary Hickson, Joseph Moss, Violet Donnelly, Anne Fisher, Marie Anderson, Ella Grall.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION: Canon Paul Swarbrick will be ordained bishop and installed as seventh Bishop of Lancaster on Monday 9th April, 11:30am in the Cathedral. Admission is strictly by ticket only. If you would like to go, give your name and contact number to Fr Andrew or email enquiries@saintclares.co.uk. We only have two tickets for the parish, so will draw names out of a hat.

LENTEN LUNCHEs: Fridays after Mass, resuming this week. In aid of ACN.

LENT TALKS ON THE SACRAMENTS: Do the sacraments come from the Bible? Two talks at St Clare's during Lent explore the scriptural roots of the sacraments. Tuesday 13th March and Tuesday 20th March at 7:30pm. All welcome.

ACN STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Friday 16th March at 7pm, we will pray the Stations for persecuted Christians. Prepared by ACN, these Stations will also help us to better understand the plight of those who are suffering for their faith today.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Meeting in the narthex after 6pm Mass next Sunday (11th). The booklet for this month is called 'Living fruitfully: Generosity'. www.ctsbooks.org

SPIRITUAL READING BOOK EXCHANGE: Have a look at the books left in the narthex by parishioners. They are all free to a good home!

HOLY WEEK MUSIC PRACTICES: Come and learn some new music for the Sacred Triduum. Practice in the church this Wednesday at 6:30pm. All welcome!

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE with confession. Friday 23rd March at 7pm.

CENACOLO COLLECTION: next weekend (10th/11th). Please leave items in the porchway of the presbytery. **FOOD BANK:** collection 17th/18th March.

AFTER-MASS TEA/COFFEE: In the narthex after Mass on Wednesday mornings, as well as in the parish hall after 9:30am Sunday Mass. All are very welcome.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD: At St Walburge's, 9am Friday 9th March until 9am the following day. 24-hour adoration and confessions available. See poster.

CALLING NURSES: Please respond to the RCN consultation on abortion, online at www.rcn.org.uk. There is a move to remove all legal restrictions on abortion. Please help protect life by responding to the survey. Closing date is 11th March.

GLIMPING GOD: Sessions at Soul Space (92 St Thomas' Road), 7-8:30pm, each Tuesday until 20th March. Email: soulpace92@outlook.com or call 07722 572753.

LOURDES BURSARY: Going to Lourdes as a volunteer? If you are under 25 and in Year 10 or above, the Catenian Association will give £75 towards your costs, no strings attached. To apply just go to www.thecatenians.com and click on 'Bursary'.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Next meeting this Thursday; a musical evening with Matt and Yvonne Pinder. OLSE parish centre at 8pm. All welcome.

LAST SUNDAY: Attended: 518; Collection: £1,047.91; Thank you.

Events this week (one off/occasional events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Spiritual reading book exchange	Narthex
Sunday 4 th	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	7:45am	Morning Prayer of the Church	Church
	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:50pm	Baptism Preparation (2)	Chapel
	7:30pm	Journey in Faith	Chapel
Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer Group	Chapel
	7:30pm	Social Committee	Presbytery
	7:30pm	Marriage Preparation (8)	Parish Hall
Wednesday	9:45am	After-Mass tea and coffee	Narthex
	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	6:30pm	Holy Week Music Practice	Church
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
	7:30pm	Fabric and Finance Committee	Presbytery
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	12:30pm	Lenten Lunch	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	House Porch
Saturday	9am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Confirmation Preparation (3)	School
Sunday 11 th	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	Holy Communion Preparation (4)	Parish Hall
	11am	Holy Communion Parents' Session	Chapel
	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	CTS Book Club	Narthex

Further ahead and further afield...

PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE (Holy Island): for young adults (20s and 30s), 4th - 8th April 2018. Two days of walking in the beautiful Northumberland Countryside along St Cuthbert's Way, followed by a day on Holy Island and a visit to Durham Cathedral. For more information, contact Sr Lynne FCJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com