



Equal before the Lord

In today's second reading St James teaches us that God does not distinguish between rich and poor, those with status and those who are 'nobodies' in the eyes of the world. Instead, we are all equal before Him, because He loves us without measure. How could He favour one of His children over another? There is a great reassurance here: nobody need ever feel less valued than the next person, regardless of age, ability, worldly 'usefulness' or anything else. God loves you as much as He loves His own Son. But there is also a warning for us: if God loves us equally, we should seek to love one another without showing favour to those we prefer. St James calls those who show preferences 'corrupt judges' – something we must avoid. God chooses the poor, he writes, to show us that His ways are not ours, and those we neglect will surely be exalted by Him.

FOCUS ON... the Exaltation of the Cross

The chances are, you don't immediately recognise the cross pictured here. It stands on the pinnacle of the spire of our cathedral in Lancaster. The cross, which is nearly 10ft high, was installed on 14th September 1859, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. 'Exaltation' implies 'lifting up' – so it was fitting that the cross should be lifted into place on that day. The word reminds us of Jesus' promise, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself." Like the crucifix at the front of our church, this cross stands as a reminder of the victory of Christ over sin and death. This Friday we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Mass at 12noon) and on Saturday, its companion feast, Our Lady of Sorrows (Mass at 10am).



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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 129

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Week 23, Year 2

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 8 th Sept	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	William Potts RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 9 th Sept	9:30am		Sophia Morris RIP	
	6pm		People of the Parish	
Monday	9:15am			Deceased Members of the Sweeney Family
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Dennis Bentley RIP	
Wednesday	9:15am		Special Intentions	
Thursday	9:15am	St John Chrysostom	Thanksgiving (MW)	
Friday	12noon	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Sophia Morris RIP	
Saturday 15 th Sept	10am	Our Lady of Sorrows	Lilian Lakeland RIP	
	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	May & Bill Hargreaves RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 16 th Sept	9:30am		John Dean RIP	
	6pm	Jack Burton RIP		

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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

ROSARY: Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass.

ST ANTHONY: money donated in the wall box during September will go to our Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) appeal.

ANNIVERSARIES: Lauren May, John Patten, John Dean, Teresa Lingard, Jane Martin, Anne Shaw, Rosemary Over, Sheila Rowlands.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION: On the streets of Liverpool, this Sunday, as part of the Eucharistic congress. A few places on the coaches are still available. If you are travelling to Liverpool with us, there is some practical info on the back page.

KERALA COLLECTION: Last weekend we collected £1301.89 – a fantastic total! We will split the money evenly between three Catholic charities providing emergency relief: CAFOD, the SVP and Mary's Meals. Thank you for your generosity.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Meeting this Sunday at 7pm in the side chapel.

SCHOOL START OF TERM MASS: This Wednesday at 9:15am. All welcome.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2018-9: Introductory letter and enrolment forms now available in the narthex for First Confession/Communion (school year 3 and above) and confirmation (school year 6 and above). Any queries, see Fr Andrew.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? The next Journey in Faith group will begin in a few weeks' time. If interested, or for details, speak to Fr Andrew.

CENACOLO COLLECTION: Food etc. for Cenacolo collected this weekend (8th/9th). Please leave items in house porchway. **FOOD BANK** next weekend (15th/16th).

XAVERIAN OPEN DAY: at the Xaverian Spirituality Centre (formerly 'Tabor') across the road. Come and see what's on offer. Sunday 23rd September, 12noon-4pm.

ST CLARE STATUE: Thanks for your generous donations and to all those who have sponsored Rita for her walk this month. We are still collecting, so please sign up to sponsor Rita or make a donation if you can. Sponsor forms in the narthex.

SPUC CAMPAIGN: against 'buffer zones' around abortion clinics. Please take a card (available in narthex), sign and send it to the Home Secretary.

WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER: 9th-14th September, run by Xaverian Missionaries (Tabor). A retreat in daily life, prayer each day and meeting with a prayer guide.

CARMELITE PRAYER EVENINGS: 7-8.30pm on Wednesdays, 19th September, 17th October and 21st November at the Carmelite Monastery, St Vincent's Road.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Next meeting this Thursday, a social with beef or cheese hotpot. Cost £4. Our Lady and St Edward's Parish Centre at 8pm.

VATICAN ASTRONOMER Br Guy Consolmagno SJ will speak at the Xaverian Centre (formerly Tabor), Monday 8th October, 7-9pm. See poster for more details.

NORTHERN SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL: at Salford Cathedral, 10am-5pm on Saturday 6th October. Speakers, workshops, resources. www.scripturefestival.org / see poster.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: This week: Catholic Education; next week Home Missions.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 491; Collection: £1,078.71; Thank you for your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	House porch
Sunday	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	Coaches leave at 10:45am	Adoremus Eucharistic Congress: Blessed Sacrament Procession on the streets of Liverpool	Sign up for this event: see details inside.
	7pm	CTS Book Club	Chapel
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Youth Groups	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:15pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7pm	Baptism Preparation (2)	Chapel
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Social Committee	Presbytery
Tuesday	7:30pm	Parish Pastoral Council	Presbytery
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House porch
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

Advance Diary Dates

Friday 5th October: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Tuesday 9th October: Launch of ACN Iraq appeal, 7pm Mass and presentation

Friday 12th October: School Harvest Festival, 2pm

Friday 12th October: Diocesan Education Mass, Cathedral 7pm

Saturday 13th October: Day of Renewal with Barbara Mason

Sunday 14th October: CTS Book Club, 7pm

Tuesday 16th October: Talk on the English Martyrs by Chris Robson

Friday 26th October: Blackpool lights coach trip

Information for those travelling to Liverpool today

Coaches leave the car park at 10:45am. You may leave a car here all day. Please bring: comfortable footwear, suitable outdoor clothes, packed lunch, donation for coach (suggested: Adults £5 / children £2.50). Back here approximately 5pm.