

Franciscan of the Week: Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta

Born in Italy in 1878, Maria was baptised the day after her birth and also confirmed at a very young age. As a child she always carried a Rosary, and her joy at receiving Holy Communion for the first time (at the age of 12) was noted by those around her. In her late teens she joined the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and was a true model of humility in her community. She was sent to China to work as a missionary, but conditions were harsh and she, like many she served, contracted typhus. Realising she was dying, she asked for the last sacraments and renewed her vows on her death bed. When she died on 7th April 1905, at the age of 26, those gathered around noticed a strong smell of violets by her bed. This remained for three days, until her burial. Maria was beatified by Pope Pius XII in 1954; her memorial is celebrated on 7th April.



Christian Living: Mercy

Today's Gospel has much to say about mercy: God's mercy towards us, and our duty of mercy towards one another. Mercy is at the very heart of the Gospel: it was because of His mercy that Jesus chose to come to earth as our Saviour; because of His mercy He helped those in need: outcasts, sinners; because of His mercy, He died for us on the cross, praying for our forgiveness as He gave His life for us. At the heart of the Lord's prayer, He teaches us to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us". If we are to receive God's mercy, we cannot deny this gift to others. This can be a great challenge, but with God's grace, with the Spirit of Christ, we can forgive even the greatest sins. During this Lent let's make time to receive God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and let's ask the Lord to help us to be truly merciful to each other.

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 176

Office: Psalter Week 5; Sundays: Year C; Weekdays: Year 1, Week 5 of Lent

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 30 th March	6pm (vigil)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	John Cubbin RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 31 st March	9:30am		Teresa Madden RIP
	6pm		Dr Yve Dias RIP
Monday	9:15am		Jack Burton RIP
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Winifred Speight RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Holy Souls
Thursday	9:15am	Elizabeth Connor RIP	
Friday	12noon	Martin Bennett RIP	
Saturday 6 th April	10am	PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	Anne Topping RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Peter Sissons RIP
Sunday 7 th April	9:30am		Michael Hampson RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Winifred Wakeham**, whose Requiem took place here last week, **Dorothy Cavanagh**, whose funeral will take place on Wednesday at 1:30pm, 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.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Weekdays 7:45am during Lent.

EVENING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Sundays 3:30pm (sung), with Benediction.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sundays 3pm during Lent.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass.

ST ANTHONY: April wall box donations will go to local people in need of help.

ANNIVERSARIES: Krystyna Bartle, Rita Lyons, Hilda Webb, Vera Pearson, Graeme Flett, Annie Green, Doreen Lees, Mary Scanlan, Jean Dobson Agnes Lancaster, Elizabeth Sumner, Susan Tankard, Michael Hampson, Mary Ann Burke, John Dorning, Irene Wilson, Lavinia Brennan, Ann Counsell.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: We will hold a joint parish Reconciliation Service, with individual confession and absolution, this Friday (12th), 7pm at Our Lady and St Edward's. Don't forget to make time for confession this Lent!

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION: Starting at 9am on Tower Lane (close to the playing fields). We will process through the streets, arriving at church in time for 9:30am Mass. Come and celebrate the Lord's entry into Jerusalem!

LIGHT FROM THE CLOISTER: Tuesday, 7:30pm in the narthex. This week, 'Mingling with the lights of heaven' – Clare's prayer and her entry into eternal life.

RE WEEK IN SCHOOL: If anyone would like to help out with this (15th-17th April) please contact Mr Parkinson via the school office (tel: 787037). Parishioners are also welcome prayer times in school: Tuesday 16th 2-4pm and Wednesday 17th 1:15pm.

CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL: Last week's appeal raised £1439.87. Thank you for your outstanding generosity. The money will be sent to CAFOD's disaster appeal.

NCW MASS: Please note, there will be no 7pm Mass next Saturday evening.

EASTER RAFFLE: Return your envelope with a donation for a chance to win. Donations of prizes are very welcome. Money raised will go towards the Lourdes youth fund. Additional envelopes available in the narthex. Thank you.

HOLY WEEK MUSIC PRACTICE: This Wednesday at 6:30pm in the church. New singers are always welcome. Come and share your gifts!

LENTEN LUNCHESES: After midday Mass each remaining Friday of Lent, soup and a bread roll. Donations will go to our ACN Iraq appeal. All welcome.

ALTERNATIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The original Stations of the Cross from our church are being displayed in the narthex window during Lent. Take some time to look at them and pray. Reflections and prayers are available each week.

CTS BOOK CLUB: meeting this Sunday after evening Mass. The booklet for this month is "Living Fruitfully: Patience". All welcome.

GIFT AID: If you are a UK taxpayer and haven't signed up for Gift Aid, please consider it. It costs you nothing but helps the parish a great deal. Some Gift Aid forms are available near the envelopes.

METANOIA PROJECT: Thursdays during Lent, 7:30pm at St Wilfrid's parish centre, a chance to explore the book, "Rediscovering Jesus". All welcome.

ECUMENICAL LENT TALKS: Monday evenings at Central Methodist Church on Lune Street, 7:30-9pm. Refreshments are served. All welcome.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: AGM this Thursday, 8pm at Our Lady and St Edward's parish centre, followed by hot pot supper. Cost £4.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 481; Collection: £1047.46; Thank you for your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 7 th	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Holy Communion Preparation (5)	Parish Hall
	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	3:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	4:30pm	Confirmation Preparation (7)	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	CTS Book Club	Chapel
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:15pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7pm	Baptism Preparation (3)	Chapel
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Fabric and Finance Committee	Presbytery
Tuesday	6pm	Journey in Faith group	Chapel
	7:30pm	St Clare: Light from the Cloister 4: Mingling with the lights of heaven	Narthex
Wednesday	9:45am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Narthex
	6pm	Seekers (years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	6:30pm	Holy Week Music Practice	Church
	8pm	NCW Easter Announcement	Parish Hall
Friday	12:30pm	Lenten Lunch	Parish Hall
	7pm	Joint Parish Reconciliation Service	OLSE Church
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	House porch
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates	Parish Hall
Sunday 14 th	9am	Palm Sunday Procession	Meet on Tower Lane
	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	3:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

Further ahead and further afield:

LANCASTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 26th July-2nd August by air from Manchester. Information and booking forms in the narthex.