

## The Year of St Joseph

The Holy Father has asked us to observe this year as a time of special devotion to St Joseph. It's 150 years since Pope Pius IX declared Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, and it's widely known that Pope Francis has a special devotion to this wonderful saint.

Joseph doesn't appear much in the New Testament: we hear of him, especially in Matthew's Gospel, in the account of Jesus' conception, birth and subsequent exile into Egypt. St Luke tells us that Joseph was present when Jesus, aged 12, went missing and was found in the Temple after three days. After that, he is not mentioned again, and it's widely presumed that he died at some point between this incident and the start of Jesus' public ministry. As such, he is also the saint invoked to pray for a happy death, given that it's very likely that Jesus and Mary were with him when he died.

Despite the relatively brief mentions of him in the Bible, we can learn a lot about St Joseph. He was "a man of honour" (Mt. 1:19) who shows mercy to Mary when he thinks she has wronged him. He is open and obedient to God's plan, putting aside his own decisions when he discovers God's will. He took on the care of Jesus with a father's love, and worried about Him (Luke 2:48). He was a carpenter, and is a special patron for workers and for those who seek work. It's not surprising that this outstanding saint, chosen by God to care for His Son, should have such a special place in the hearts of Jesus' followers. Saint Joseph's feast day is celebrated this Friday, with Mass at 9:30am.

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### Today's Readings

The people's lack of faithfulness and the mercy of God are on clear display in the first reading. St Paul teaches that "God was generous with His mercy", a teaching reinforced by our Lord in the Gospel: "God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through Him the world might be saved."

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 4; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: of Lent

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)*	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	Tom McAuley Sr
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am*		Stella Shore RIP
	11:30am*		People of the Parish
	6pm*		Peter Dewhurst RIP
Monday	9:30am		Paul Fingleton RIP
Tuesday	9:30am		Ints Gerald Topping
Wednesday	9:30am	<b>St Patrick</b>	Trevor Hughes RIP
Thursday	9:30am		Bernie Darwen RIP
Friday	9:30am	<b>ST JOSEPH</b>	Jeremy Grout-Smith RIP
Saturday	9:30am	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	Robin Day RIP
	6pm (vigil)*		Ronnie Whittle RIP
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am*		People of the Parish
	11:30am*		Patrick Russell RIP
	6pm*	Mariyamma Skaria RIP	

\* These Masses can only be attended by those who have booked in advance.

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for all who have died recently.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Thursday 5-6pm this week, Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Sundays in Lent 3pm in church and live on YouTube.

**ROSARY:** Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Friday.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** May Wilkinson, Theresa Howarth, Frank Dickox, Rita Morris, Baby Greenwood, Angela Holt, Emily Chibulu, Anne Noblet, Robin Day, Douglas Middlemiss, Alice Barker.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH:** That we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

**HOLY WEEK:** Booking opens this weekend for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, and for the Easter Vigil. We may not be able to accommodate every request for space. Please fill out the form or email us and tell us (1) which Mass(es) you would like to attend; (2) how many adults and how many children are in your group. The full Holy Week timetable is on the back page.

**HELP DURING HOLY WEEK:** Sincere thanks for the many offers of help for Holy Week services. All those who volunteered should have received an email now.

**ACN VIRTUAL SUNDAY LUNCH:** Next Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> March) at 1pm, live on the ACN YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/user/AidtotheChurchinNeed](http://www.youtube.com/user/AidtotheChurchinNeed)). Prepare your own starter, main and dessert and set up your device where you can watch. There will be prayer, testimonies, interviews, cookery demonstrations, music and more! The event is free but donations are invited to support the work of St John the Merciful Table, which provides food for Christian families in Lebanon.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Sunday afternoons, 3pm in church and live on YouTube. A chance to journey with our Lord on His walk to calvary.

**HOLY WEEK TALK:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 7:30pm on our YouTube channel. A chance to explore the meaning of the liturgy of Holy Week, in which we are immersed in the mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection.

**ACN STATIONS:** Meditations on the Stations of the Cross highlighting the suffering of those persecuted for their faith. Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

**CONFESSIONS** will be available this Thursday, 5-6pm, as well as on Saturday.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** Donations are welcome, in marked envelopes. Please include the name(s) of anyone you wish to be remember. A list of names will be displayed.

**JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM!** During Coronavirus our Youth group, The Metanoia Project, have really been struggling with funds and finances. I have been with the Group for almost 10 years, and they have helped me to develop in my faith and relationship with God, they also actively contribute to our community by helping the homeless. We are taking part in a Lent fundraiser in which people will be cycling, running, and walking the equivalent distance of Preston to Jerusalem – 5,255km – so that we can (virtually) arrive in time for the events of the Easter Triduum. I, Jeny John, am one of the team leaders and I am determined to do my best and hopefully cover at least 150 miles (241km), if not more in the given time; I am not the sportiest person so this may be a challenge but with your support it will really motivate me to reach that goal! Please give generously!

<http://www.metanoiaproject.co.uk/virtual-trip-to-jerusalem>

**CAFOD LENT APPEAL:** CAFOD have set up a JustGiving page for our parish. You can find it here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-clares-lent-walkforwater>

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	Church and YouTube
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Tuesday	7:30pm	<b>Fabric and Finance Committee</b>	Zoom
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	3pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	Church and YouTube

## Holy Week timetable (subject to change in the event of bad weather)

### Palm Sunday:

Vigil Mass 6pm; Morning Mass (outdoors) 10:30am\*; Evening Mass 6pm

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>:** Mass at 9:30am\*; private prayer 5-6pm.

**Maundy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm\* – booking is essential.  
Private prayer 8pm-midnight. Compline (night prayer) 11:50pm.

### Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross 10am\*

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (outdoors) 3pm\*

### Holy Saturday:

Easter Vigil and first Mass of the Resurrection 8:30pm\* – booking is essential

### Easter Sunday:

Morning Mass (outdoors) 10:30am\* NB: no evening Mass on Easter Day.

\*these liturgies/devotions will also be streamed live on YouTube

## Novena to St Joseph

The **Novena Prayer** is taken from Pope Francis' letter *Patris Corde*:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

**Intentions:** Mon: for workers; Tue: for the poor; Wed: for those afflicted by the pandemic; Thurs: for a happy death