

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
 Holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922
26th March 2023
5th SUNDAY OF LENT



Online Donations

Pope Francis's prayer intention for March:
 The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph.

Sunday Vigil 4pm 9am 4pm	26 th March Ints :T.Coop /T&F Ellison P Mount/Parishioners Bible Service St Thomas's Mellor NO Stns of the Cross	Thursday 10am	30 th March DAILY MASS Intentions: Ann Crossley
Monday	27 th March NO MASS	Friday 11am	31 st March FUNERAL SERVICE Georgina Smith
Tuesday	28 th March NO MASS	Saturday 12 noon Vigil 6pm	1 st April HEALING MASS. (All Welcome to attend) David Devine
Wednesday 10am	29 th March DAILY MASS Intentions: Mary Abbott	Palm Sunday 9am 4pm	2 nd April Parishioners Stations of the Cross

Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As above

THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Nina Noworyta, Kathleen Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley, Isaac Iqba, David Froggatt, Pat Owen, Jonathan Davison, Mary Abbott.

A warm welcome to everyone. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible

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A/C DETAILS: Name "Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No. 58710368 Sort Code 30 15 52

Fr Bill Writes:

Easter Lilies have been a big part of our parish over past Easter's, we invite Parishioners again this Easter to support Easter Lilies, simply put your £2:50p in an envelope & hand it in, so that the list can be drawn up for Easter.

Last weekend was a great celebration of "Mothering Day", lovely to see so many families at Sunday Morning Mass, when we welcomed the "Telford Duo" of Dianne / Bill who led the music so beautifully. The First Sacraments are going extremely well, the Candidates are responding so well, it is great to work with them, as Fr. Bill can testify, Anna, Mary, and Chris are sharing in this year's preparation, and we are so lucky to have them on board, thank you to them for the time given.

The "Week of Accompanied Prayer" has been a great success, thanks to those who took part, also to the "Guiders" for their leadership, and Tony & Judith O'Neill who did the organisation, which was a big task, and to Mary who looked after the House — Keeping Duties, which were many and varied for the week.

The "Closing Service" will take place this Sunday from 1:30pm to 3:30pm here at Holy Spirit. We remind everyone that "Clocks" goes forward one hour, at 2am this Sunday Morning 26 March.

The following weekend "Saturday April 1 the Vigil Mass will revert to 6:00pm in keeping with Summer Time, so please let people know.

On Friday next March 31 the Funeral Service for Georgina Smith will be held here at Holy Spirit at 11:00am followed by Committal at 12:15pm at the Rowan Chapel, Stockport Crematorium. The Requiem Mass for Annie Shufflebotham will be held on Friday April 14 at Our Lady & St. Christopher's Romiley at 12 noon. May they rest in peace. The funeral arrangements for Peter Mount have not as yet been received.

Fr. Bill celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the Key Stage 2 children at St. Mary's Marple Bridge during this past week.

The end of the 2022 / 23 Financial Year is upon us again, anyone using "Offertory Envelopes" will now be able to pick up their new set of "Offertory Envelopes" from the table in the Church Foyer, the new set will come into use on "April 9th" — Easter Sunday 2023. It is good to see that more and more of our Parishioners and Friends of the Parish are beginning to use the Contactless Plate. If you are a "Tax Payer" you can Gift Aid via the Contactless Plate. Fr. Bill would like to advise anyone who is Gift Aiding and who has stopped paying Tax to please let him or Michael Blundell know, so that we can discontinue claiming Gift Aid on their behalf. If on the other hand you do pay Tax, and are not Gift Aiding, do please consider being a part of the Gift Aiding Scheme, your donations attract an extra 25p for every pound you donate. Fr. Bill would like to thank everyone who are able to make a donation to both the Weekly Offertory and the Development Fund, it is appreciated in these very challenging Financial Times.

On Saturday next April 1st our Parish SVP Conference has arranged a "Healing Mass" here at Holy Spirit. Those who are housebound in our Parish will be in attendance, and any one else who would like the anointing of the sick will be most welcome. The Healing Mass will begin at 12 noon with refreshments and social time afterwards in the Meeting Room. If you know of anyone needing transport then please let Fr. Bill know as soon as is possible.

Churches Together : Bible Service today (Sun 26th) at St Thomas's Mellor at 4pm. Please try to come.

SCRIPTURE READINGS — 5th SUNDAY OF LENT 2023

Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45

The first reading today is from the prophet Ezekiel, where the people who have been in Exile are promised a return to their homeland. Exile for God's People felt like they were dead, God is now promising to put a "New Spirit" in them, to get them ready for a fresh beginning. Lent for us, these past 40 days have been an opportunity for new beginnings.

Today's second reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, he reminds them that on account of God's presence living within them, they are no longer prisoners of their sinful past, because now the "Spirit of God" has made his home in them, and so now they belong to God, and a "New Spirit" has been given to them, which helps them to remain faithful to God.

Today's Gospel, is again from St. John, and we have another of Jesus' Miracles put in the spotlight. Jesus is in Jerusalem for the "Feast of Dedication" and to the annoyance of the "Jewish Authorities" the crowds are pressing him to declare that he is the Christ. Jesus, says to them the works that I do testify to the works that my Father sent me to do. Some are clearly on his side, while others do not believe him. Into the midst of this confusion, comes a message from Martha & Mary that Jesus' good friend Lazarus is seriously ill, and could he come and do something ??