

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
 Holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922
19th March 2023
4th 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 -	19 th March Ints: Jn. Bergin. (A) / Jean Chadwick(Dec) A. Webb (All Mothers) NO Stns of the Cross	Thursday 10am 7:30pm	23 rd March DAILY MASS Intentions: Peter Mount. (Dec'd) Choir Practice for The Easter Ceremonies.
Monday	20 th March NO MASS	Friday	24 th March NO MASS
Tuesday 10am	21 st March DAILY MASS Ints: Georgina Smith. (Dec'd)	Saturday Vigil 4pm	25 th March Intentions: T. Coop. / T&F Ellison.
Wednesday	22 nd March NO MASS	Sunday 9am 4pm -	26 th March Parishioners Mellor - Churches Together / Bible Service. NO Stns 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:

The final amount raised on the Quiz Night was the magnificent sum of £1862.00, it will now be forwarded to Cafod, to be used in providing aid to the victims of the Turkey - Syrian Earthquake. Thank you for your outstanding generosity.

The Candidates for 1st Sacraments had their second session on Thursday Evening, and are enjoying their time of preparation for First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion. These young people are the future of our Parishes. If they are set an example by their families, they are ready and willing to respond generously, and so become active members of their Parish.

This weekend we celebrate "Mothering Sunday" giving thanks for that precious gift that has been bestowed upon Women by God. Today we ask God's blessing on all who have been blessed with a share in that gift of Motherhood. We will be inviting the Children to give their Mums a flower to celebrate the day.

The week of "Accompanied Prayer" began in our Parish yesterday, and will continue through until next Sunday March 26. We pray that it will be time enriched with blessings for all who are taking part, including those who will be acting as "Guiders".

Fr. Bill, on Wednesday last celebrated the Requiem Mass for Christine Cavanagh, at Our Lady & The Apostles, Stockport.

We still await the arrangements for Annie Shufflebotham's funeral, with the Funeral Service for Georgina Smith, fixed for 11:00am on Friday 31st March here at Holy Spirit. We are not aware as yet of the funeral arrangements for Peter Mount. May they all rest in Peace.

The "Red Missio Boxes" have now been emptied, and are available to be picked up from the table in the Church Foyer. If any parishioner would like to begin using a Red Missio Box, who has not previously done so, speak with Fr. Bill, who will give you one. The sum donated via the "Red Missio Boxes" on this occasion was £560+ thank you for such great support. Thanks, To Mary Bergin, for Counting & Banking the monies.

We are in the last weeks of the current "Financial Year" and those who use "Weekly Offertory Envelopes" will soon have a new series to pick up. If you are "Gift Aider" and no longer pay tax, you need to let us know, on the other hand if you are a Tax Payer and have not yet signed up for "Gift Aid" Fr. Bill would kindly invite you to do so, as the Parish can get an extra 25p from each £1 you donate. Gift Aid amounts to a substantial amount of cash each going towards the Parish A/C thank you to all who support "Gift Aid" it is very much appreciated. The "Contactless Plate" is also being well used, and you can also do "Gift Aid" via this system, it initially takes a little time on the first occasion to put in your details, once you have registered your details once, they stay active until you advise us to take them off the system.

Having Banked the "February Development Fund" monies the fund is now over £50k that leaves us about 4k short of what we will need to spend on the "New Boiler" and Church Entrance. Fr. Bill is currently awaiting an answer about when we are likely to begin both these projects. Again, a big thank you to all who are able to make a regular donation to the "Development Fund" in difficult Financial Times your donations are very much valued and appreciated.

Choir Practice, this Thursday @ 7:30pm, here in Church, please come along and support the "Parish Preparations" for the "Easter Ceremonies".

SCRIPTURE READINGS — 4th SUNDAY OF LENT 2023

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

Our first reading this week is from the first book of Samuel, the Lord chooses whom he will, it is the heart that matters, not the physical attributes. Some people are born to be great, like David in today's story, others have greatness thrust upon them. If God is to make me his choice, can I then refuse? not likely, without consequences.

The second reading this Sunday is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, where he says to them because your sins have been forgiven, you are now "Children of Light" so do your best to live like people who have been invited to live in the light. Works that are good and noble are in contrast to things that are done under the cover of darkness.

Today's Gospel is again from St. John, and the issue is once again light and darkness as it pertains to the "Man Born Blind." The washing of the Man in the Pool of Siloam is a symbol of Baptism, this encounter with Jesus restores his sight, this cure is in fact conversion to discipleship. Gradually he comes to see the meaning of discipleship, while those who should have seen it, the Pharisees, remain blind.