

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE

Holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922
12th March 2023
3rd 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	12 th March Ints: Michael & Joan Blundell Parishioners / Renata Broda Stations of the Cross	Thursday	16 th March NO MASS
Monday	13 th March NO MASS	Friday 10am	17 th March DAILY MASS (St. Patrick's Day) Andrew / Ptk. Ml. McGowan
Tuesday 10am	14 th March DAILY MASS Intentions: C. Nield. / M. Abbott.	Saturday Vigil 4pm	18 th March Intentions: Jn. Bergin. (A) / Jean Chadwick (Dec)
Wednesday	15 th March NO MASS	Sunday 9am	19 th March Amelia Webb. / Parishioners

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, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley, Isaac Iqba, 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 Holy Season of Lent is slipping by rather quickly, with so many events taking place to mark this "Sacred Time."

Firstly, as a Parish community we would like to offer sincere sympathies to the family of Christine Cavanagh, who died recently, and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on March 15 at Our Lady & The Apostles, Stockport / 12:15pm.

Sympathies also to the family of Georgina Smith, whose funeral service will be held at Holy Spirit on March 31st. Details of the time of Service later.

We also record the death of Annie Shufflebotham, offering our sympathies to her family, funeral details still to be arranged. May they Rest In Peace.

Next weekend will also see the start of the Special Week of Accompanied Prayer, all those who have signed up, will be contacted with the details for the week.

Next weekend 18 / 19 March will also be Mothering Sunday, and we look forward to celebrating with all Mothers who have been blessed with the gift of having become a Mother.

Our "Cafod Lenten Campaign" continues throughout the Season of Lent, there are still "Cafod Envelopes" available from the table in the Church Foyer, if you wish to make a donation. All donations will be counted after Easter.

Last Friday's Night Quiz was a most enjoyable Social Fundraising Event, the final amount raised will be published in next week's newsletter. Thank you to all who turned up for the Quiz, and all the helpers, and Robert, for his excellent organisation.

As we prepare for "Holy Week and Easter" there is much to be done, Regular Members of the Choir as well as anyone else, are invited to come together on Thursday evenings March. 16th / 23rd / 30th at 7:30pm for a series of practices, led by Tony our Organist.

Our 1st Sacrament Preparations have got underway, the Candidates came together on last Thursday for their first session, these preparatory sessions will continue now up until Holy Week, when there will be a break for the Easter Holidays, and they will then resume again in Mid-April after the Easter Holidays. Parents / Guardians ensure that Candidates arrive promptly at 6pm and are picked up promptly at 7pm when the session ends. Fr. Bill has also agreed a date with our neighbouring parish, St. Peter's, Hazel Grove, of June 22 for the celebration of Confirmation. Eligible Candidates are those pupils in Yrs. 8 / 9 or any of the above years, at any of our local Secondary Schools, who wish to receive Confirmation. Fr. Bill will make "Registration Forms" available in late April, and will also arrange a number of "Preparatory Sessions" in the lead up to June 22nd.

It is very encouraging to see our young people taking the "Sunday Morning Readings" and reading so confidently, it is a great blessing for our Parish.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Peter Mount, unexpectedly on Sunday last, we extend sympathies to his family and friends.

SCRIPTURE READINGS — 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT 2023

Exodus 17:3-7 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4: 5-42

This Sunday's first reading is from Exodus, and again Moses, the leader of God's Chosen People finds his leadership questioned, so much so, he has to ask God to intervene, in order to avoid the people rioting. The people have lost their patience with God, as they are left waiting to receive food etc, this is one of many grumbling recounted for us in the Book of Exodus, but Moses receives God's favour and his leadership is saved for now, at least.

Today's second reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Christian Community at Rome, he comes straight to the point in his letter, you are in the fortunate situation that you are in because Jesus redeemed you while you were still sinners. He then reflects on Jesus' act of generosity, by saying that to die for a good person would be difficult enough, but imagine dying for a sinful man, and that is what Jesus has done for us.

In today's Gospel passage from St. John, we have the most theological Gospel found in all of the Scriptures. Only Jesus, Son of God, could have found himself in this unlikely situation, as Jews and Samaritans did not associate, and devout Jews did not speak with women in public. There are so many "Theological Aspects" to today's Gospel, that it is impossible to consider them all at once, clearly the woman is an outcast in her own Samaritan Community, because of her several husbands, otherwise she would not be coming to the well at midday. Jesus' reaction of compassion and understanding for the woman, will be seen on so many numerous occasions during his Public Ministry.