



FROM THE SPIRE



News & updates from our Shrine Churches for our community in Preston, Lancashire, England.



SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

Dear Friends,

In the hallowed embrace of our sacred traditions, the Forty Hours Devotion emerges as a profound and contemplative journey, paving the way for the penitential season of Lent.

As we stand at the threshold of this period of introspection, it is imperative to delve into the significance of dedicating forty continuous hours to adoration, a spiritual preparation that transcends the temporal bounds of our existence. The essence of the Forty Hours Devotion lies in the unyielding devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. It is a deliberate act of reverence, a deliberate pause amidst the ceaseless cadence of life's demands. This sacred interlude allows the faithful to immerse themselves in the sublime presence of the Holy Eucharist, seeking solace and divine guidance.

As we approach the penitential season of Lent, the Forty Hours Devotion serves as a spiritual anchor, grounding us in prayerful contemplation and fostering a profound connection with the mysteries of our faith. The extended period of adoration becomes a meditative prelude, an opportunity to cleanse our souls and fortify our spirits for the rigours of self-reflection that Lent entails. Central to this devotion is the adoration of the Holy Eucharist, the cornerstone of our Catholic belief. In the stillness of these forty hours, we are beckoned to reflect upon the immense love and sacrifice encapsulated in the consecrated Host. It is a time to open our hearts, allowing the transformative power of the Eucharist to illuminate our paths and inspire acts of charity and compassion. The commitment to the Forty Hours Devotion is an affirmation of our unwavering faith and an acknowledgment of the divine presence that transcends our mortal comprehension. Let us embrace this sacred period with humility and gratitude, recognising the profound significance it holds in our spiritual journey.

In conclusion, as we embark on the devotional odyssey of Forty Hours, let it be a resounding echo of our faith, resonating through the corridors of our hearts and radiating outward to infuse our communities with the light of divine grace. May this contemplative interlude prepare us for the solemnity of Lent, guiding us towards a season of introspection, repentance, and ultimately, spiritual renewal.

God bless you,
Your Rector

Presbytery Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday and Saturday
9:30-12 and 2-5

Saint Benedict's Cultural Centre

saintbenedicts@icksp.org.uk
www.saintbenedictspreston.com

Donations:

Institute of Christ the King/St Walburge

Charity number: 1144783

Donations via Bank Transfer:

Name: ICKSP; Sort Code: 40-10-22;

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Gift Aid forms and offertory envelopes
can be obtained at the Presbytery.

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TRANSLATION OF THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL

Sexagesima Sunday

Lesson from the second letter of St. Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians
2 Cor. 11:19-33; 12:1-9

Brethren: You gladly put up with fools, because you are wise yourselves! For you suffer it if a man enslaves you, if a man devours you, if a man takes from you, if a man is arrogant, if a man slaps your face! I speak to my own shame, as though we had been weak. But wherein any man is bold - I am speaking foolishly - I also am bold. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I! Are they ministers of Christ? I - to speak as a fool - I am more: in many more labors, in prisons more frequently, in lashes above measure, often exposed to death. From the Jews five times I received forty lashes less one. Thrice I was scourged, once I was stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I was adrift on the sea; in journeyings often, in perils from floods, in perils from robbers, in perils from my own nation, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils from false brethren; in labor and hardships, in many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those outer things, there is my daily pressing anxiety, the care of all the churches! Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not inflamed? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, Who is blessed forevermore, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

If I must boast - it is not indeed expedient to do so - but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows that he was caught up into paradise and heard secret words that man may not repeat. Of such a man I will boast; but of myself I will glory in nothing save in my infirmities. For if I do wish to boast, I shall not be foolish; for I shall be speaking the truth. But I forbear, lest any man should reckon me beyond what he sees in me or hears from me. And lest the greatness of the revelations should puff me up, there was given me a thorn for the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to buffet me. Concerning this I thrice besought the Lord that it might leave me. And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness. Gladly therefore I will glory in my infirmities, that the strength of Christ may dwell in me.

Continuation ✠ of the Holy Gospel according to Luke
Saint Luke 8:4-15

At that time, when a very great crowd was gathering together and men from every town were resorting to Jesus. He said in a parable: The sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air ate it up. And other seed fell upon the rock, and as soon as it had sprung up it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. And other seed fell upon good ground, and sprang up and yielded fruit a hundredfold. As He said these things He cried out, He who has ears to hear, let him hear! But His disciples then began to ask Him what this parable meant, He said to them, To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to the rest in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. And those by the wayside are they who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved. Now those upon the rock are they who, when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, but believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among the thorns, these are they who have heard, and as they go their way are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not ripen. But that upon good ground, these are they who, with a right and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bear fruit in patience.

Ordo	Mass and Confession Times	Offices and Devotions	Mass Intentions
Sunday 4/II Sexagesima Sunday	9:00 Low Mass EM 10:00am Confessions 10:30 High Mass SW 6:30pm Low Mass SW	8:00am Lauds 5:30pm Solemn Vespers & Benediction	Canon Cristofoli: Novena GZ Canon Post: Gerry Lyons, RIP Canon Ducret: Private intention
Monday 5/II Saint Agatha	8:30 Mass SW 12:00 Mass EM 6:00 Confessions SW	5:30pm Vespers 6-7pm Adoration 7pm Compline	Canon Cristofoli: Novena GZ Canon Post: Tes Moroncey RIP Canon Ducret: Fr. Joe O'Connor
Tuesday 6/II Saint Titus	8:30 Mass SW 12:00 Mass EM 6:00 Confessions SW	5:30pm Vespers 6-7pm Adoration 7pm Compline	Canon Cristofoli: Novena GZ Canon Post: Fr. Val Cashman RIP Canon Ducret: Fr. Joe O'Connor
Wednesday 7/II Saint Romuald	8:30 Mass SW *12:00 Mass SW*	*No evening services*	Canon Cristofoli: Novena GZ Canon Post: Brid Minough Canon Ducret: Fr. Joe O'Connor
Thursday 8/II Saint John of Matha	8:30 Mass SW 12:00 Mass EM 6:00pm Confessions	*9:15am-6:45pm* *Adoration* 5:30pm Vespers 6:45 Benediction 7pm Compline	Canon Cristofoli: Novena GZ Canon Post: Cornelius James Mary Canon Ducret: Private intention
Friday 9/II Saint Cyril of Alexandria	8:30 Low Mass SW 12:00 Low Mass EM 6:00pm Confessions	5:30pm Vespers 6-7pm Adoration 7pm Compline	Canon Cristofoli: Novena GZ Canon Post: Kevin Parnell Canon Ducret: Madam Thompson intentions
Saturday 10/II Saint Scholastica	8:30 Mass SW 9:15 Confessions SW 1:00pm Solemn Nuptial Mass of Mark & Clarence	5:30pm Vespers 6-7pm Adoration 7pm Compline	Canon Cristofoli: Marriage Mark and Clarence O Kane Canon Post: Mark and Clarence Canon Ducret: Madam Tobin intentions
Sunday 11/II Our Lady of Lourdes (Quinquagesima)	9:00 Low Mass EM 10:00am Confessions 10:30 High Mass SW 6:30pm Low Mass SW	8:00am Lauds 5:30pm Solemn Vespers & Benediction	Canon Cristofoli: Elaine and Damian Canon Post: Bishop Paul Swarbrick Canon Ducret: Catherine Sibert

Liturgy Corner: The Last Gospel. In the traditional Latin Mass, the “Last Gospel” (St John 1:1-14) is read after the final blessing. It originated historically as a private devotion of the priest and act of faith in the Incarnation, by which the Sacrament of Our Lord’s Body and Blood was rendered possible. When two feasts coincide with two proper Gospels, the Gospel which was not read in the Mass replaces the last Gospel. Hence, next Sunday the regular Gospel will be that of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the last Gospel will be that of Quinquagesima Sunday.





Announcements

Saint Walburge's Guilds/Catechism Sundays: Upcoming family Sundays 28th January (catechism at noon), 11th and 25th February, 3rd and 17th March (the March dates are advanced by a week to avoid Mother's Day and Palm Sunday). *****First communion preparation:** children of approximately 7 years old and up should attend catechism on Guild Sundays to prepare for their first Holy Communion. Our next first Communions are planned for Easter Sunday.

Banns of Marriage: The Holy Sacrament of Matrimony is scheduled to be celebrated between Mr Mark Andrew O'Kane & Miss Clarrence Rhea Orag in Saint Walburge's Church on **Saturday, 10th February, 2024 at 1pm.** *If anyone is aware of a canonical impediment to this marriage, he is bound to inform the Rector, Canon G. Cristofoli, within the shortest possible delay.*

Sunday, 11th February (6pm)--Tuesday, 13th February (10am)--Forty Hours Devotion! Prepare a good and holy season of Lent by spending time before our Eucharistic Lord. Please sign up in the back of the church for a time of adoration!

Ash Wednesday, 14th February: All Masses will be at Saint Walburge's. 8:30am and 12:00 Low Mass. 5:30pm Vespers. 6:30pm Solemn High Mass. Ashes will be distributed during all three Masses.

16 February--19 March: 33-day consecration to Saint Joseph. Follow in the footsteps of our great patriarch and champion. Suggested guidebook "Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father" by Fr. Calloway MIC. We encourage men, women, children and entire families to participate in this devotion! Spiritual conferences, however, will be given to the Spire Men's Club: Friday, 16th February following the Stations of the Cross and Monday, 18th March, following the evening prayers.

*****33 Masses for Saint Joseph!** From 16/2 to 19/3, 33 Masses will be offered to entrust our collective intentions to Saint Joseph. Bring your prayer intentions to Canon Post. All Mass offerings will be donated to Saint Benedict's Cultural Centre.

Our Safeguarding Representative: Mr. Peter Dilworth--peter.dilworth@icksp.org.uk.

Last week's collections: SW: £577.35 Bank transfers £1720.50 Donations: £80 EM: £95.22

**Thank you to all who attended the festive lunch last Sunday. Although primarily a community celebration, the event also raised £261.22.

**The recent Winter Spire events raised over £2700.00

Saint Benedict's Cultural Centre: Do you have a child between 5-16 years old? Would you like him or her to attend classes in a thoroughly Catholic environment, following the spirit of Salesian education? Arrange a visit today! saintbenedicts@icksp.org.uk



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