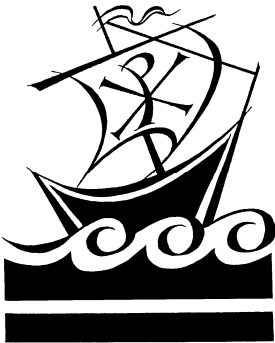


# PASTORAL AREA BULLETIN



## NOW IS THE FAVOURABLE TIME!

With these words of Saint Paul from the Second Reading on Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent. If we enter honestly into this wilderness-time of forty days and nights we cannot help but face the demons which fight with us to tempt us and which sometimes seem to possess us; but in the stillness and starkness of that wilderness we will arrive at a face-to-face encounter with the God who invites us to deeper faith, to renewed hope, to increased growth in the life of the Risen Christ. I do not think that it is mere co-incidence that this favourable time of Lent is the moment when we are being asked to embrace with renewed energy the beginnings of a fresh vision of how we, the members of the parish communities which make up our Pastoral Area, can better become the Living Body of the Risen One that He calls us to be in this place.

At the meeting of the Pastoral Area Council which took place on the 20th of January, those who have been called to represent you as a parish community were asked to face some honest issues: Is our Pastoral Area of thirteen parishes too large (the diocesan average is 9 parishes)? Would some parish communities be better served, and be of better service to the wider community, if they were to become a part of other neighbouring Pastoral Areas? Are we in danger of getting so bogged down in structures that we lose sight of the central aim of the "Leaving Safe Harbours" process - a renewed vision and identity of who we are as Church? At a recent meeting with Pastoral Area Leaders Archbishop Patrick made a very pertinent comment: "Leaving Safe Harbours is not just a crisis response to a shortage of priests; even if we had priests to spare the Lord would still be calling us to embrace this journey of a re-discovery of our identity as Church".

Those who represent you on the Pastoral Area Council have been asked to invite you to meet with them before they next meet together on Sunday the 6th of April. They will ask you to consider in your parishes the issues which I have mentioned above. This is not an empty exercise; your voice needs to be heard and will be heard. Whatever change we must embrace will not be imposed from "the top down" but must be our own response to honest and prayerful reflection and dialogue.

Please do accept the invitation of your parish representatives to be involved in this conversation between the parishes. And please be generous, not just in the words you speak but in the Word you hear. During the course of this year, following on from what is spoken and heard, we hope to form a Pastoral Area plan which we can grow towards and move forward into the second phase of the Leaving Safe Harbours process of becoming a "Pastoral Area in Transition". It is a process we will not rush for we must give time and attention to one another - and always to Word of the Lord.

**"For unless a grain falls onto the ground and dies, it remains but a single grain; but in dying it brings forth a rich harvest" (Jn. 12:21)**

*Fr. Tony Mangnall*

Pastoral Area Leader

## NOW IS THE FAVOURABLE TIME!

### A Word from Pope Benedict:

“From the outset, Lent was intended to be the season of immediate preparation for Baptism, to be solemnly administered during the Easter Vigil. The whole of Lent was a journey towards this important encounter with Christ, this immersion in Christ, this renewal of life. We have already been baptized but Baptism is often not very effective in our daily life. Therefore, Lent is a renewed "catechumenate" for us too, in which once again we approach our Baptism to rediscover and relive it in depth, to return to being truly Christian.

Lent is thus an opportunity to "become" Christian "anew", through a constant process of inner change and progress in the knowledge and love of Christ. Conversion is never once and for all but is a process, an interior journey through the whole of life. This process of conversion cannot, of course, be restricted to a specific period of the year: it is a daily journey that must embrace the entire span of existence, every day of our life. In this perspective, for each Christian and for all Christian Communities, Lent is the favourable spiritual season for training ourselves to seek God with greater tenacity, opening our heart to Christ.

May the Lenten journey, which in the ancient Church was a journey towards Christian initiation, towards Baptism and the Eucharist, be a "Eucharistic" Season for us in which we participate with greater fervour in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. “

*Benedictus PP XVI*

### A Word from Cardinal Cormac:

“If people ask me what they should do for Lent, I am inclined to say, you should not try to do without something, but to get something done as if your eternal salvation depended on it.

If Lent is to mean anything in our lives, it has to be a season of renewal. The word ‘Lent’ itself means ‘Spring-time’. The idea is that we die with Christ like the seed in the ground and rise with Him to more abundant life. We die to sin and rise to integrity. We die to selfishness and rise to generosity, especially towards the poor.

Whatever penance we do, whatever we choose to give up or do without, should help us to put on these new clothes, and to grow into stronger, healthier

Christians. Each one of us should spend more time in prayer during these forty days; some time in reading a Lenten book about how better to follow Jesus Christ, and some exercise which involves care for others, perhaps a visit to someone less fortunate than we are. What we should give up is whatever stops us from doing that extra thing.

You and I have the greater part of February and March to flourish and to grow and to live as Christ wants us to live. That is the invitation I make to you. Like St. Paul, I say to you: ‘I beg you, not to neglect the grace of God that you have received. Now is the favourable time. This is the day of salvation’.”

*+ James Murphy - O'Connor*

## SUNDAY MASS TIMES IN THE PASTORAL AREA

### Saturday Evening Mass (Nine Masses)

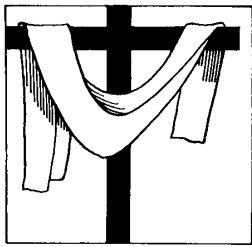
5.00pm	Golborne: All Saints Stubshaw Cross: St. Wilfrid
5.30pm	Hindley Green: Sacred Heart
6.00pm	Haydock: English Martyrs
6.30pm	Lowton: St. Catherine of Siena Newton-le-Willows: St. David Platt Bridge: Holy Family
7.00pm	Bryn: Our Lady Immaculate Hindley: St. Benedict

### Sunday Morning Mass (Fifteen Masses)

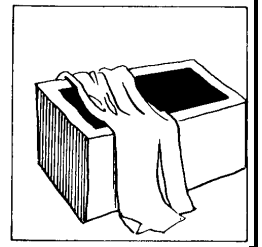
8.30am	Ashton: St. Oswald Croft: St. Lewis
9.30am	Hindley Green: Sacred Heart Newton-le-Willows: Ss. Mary&John
10.00am	Bryn: Our Lady Immaculate Lowton: St. Catherine of Siena Stubshaw Cross: St. Wilfrid
10.30am	Ashton: St. Oswald Golborne: All Saints Haydock: English Martyrs
11.00am	Croft: St. Lewis Hindley: St. Benedict Newton-le-Willows: St. David Newton-le-Willows: St. Patrick
11.30am	Platt Bridge: Holy Family

### Sunday Evening Mass (One Mass)

4.30pm	Newton-le-Willows: Ss. Mary&John
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# CELEBRATING LENT AND EASTER IN THE PASTORAL AREA



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### SUNDAY

3.00pm Holy Family, Platt Bridge  
5.00pm St. Catherine, Lowton

### TUESDAY

7.30pm Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn

### WEDNESDAY

7.30pm Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn

### FRIDAY

12 noon Ss. M & J or St. David, Newton  
6.00pm St. Patrick, Newton  
6.15pm St. Wilfrid, Stubshaw Cross  
7.00pm St. Oswald, Ashton  
7.00pm St. Benedict, Hindley  
7.00pm Ss. Mary & John, Newton  
7.30pm St. Lewis, Croft  
7.30pm All Saints, Golborne

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

### TUESDAY

7.30pm Saint Lewis, Croft

### WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY

8.30am All Saints, Golborne

### FRIDAY

8.00pm Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn

### SATURDAY

11.00am St. Oswald, Ashton  
11.30am Holy Family, Platt Bridge

## EARLY MORNING MASS

### MONDAY

7.00am Saint Catherine, Lowton

### MONDAY TO FRIDAY

7.15am Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn

## RECONCILIATION LITURGIES

Your priest is available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual Confession) in your local church at fixed times every week or upon request - see your weekly parish newsletter for details. The following Pastoral Area Celebrations of Reconciliation are also offered during Lent:

### MONDAY 17TH MARCH

Sacred Heart, Hindley Green at 7.30pm  
St. Catherine, Lowton at 7.30pm  
St. Patrick, Newton at 7.30pm

### TUESDAY 18TH MARCH

St. Oswald, Ashton at 7.00pm  
St. David, Newton at 7.00pm  
All Saints, Golborne at 7.30pm

### WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH

St. Benedict, Hindley at 7.00pm  
SS. Mary & John, Newton at 7.00pm

## THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Did you know that the Easter Liturgy isn't a one-day celebration but is actually a three-day feast? It's called the Easter Triduum and begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, through the Afternoon Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday, reaching its climax with the Vigil Ceremonies and First Mass of Easter on Holy Saturday night. It's an impressive three-day liturgy and the highlight of the whole year. Why not celebrate the full Easter Liturgy this year instead of just a part of it? See your parish newsletter for details of the Easter Triduum liturgy in your church.



**MONDAY  
11th FEBRUARY  
2008**

**The Feast of  
Our Lady of Lourdes**

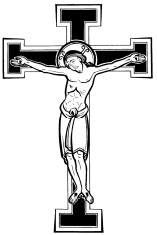
*To commemorate  
the 150th Anniversary  
of the Apparitions*

**Pastoral Area Act of Devotion to Our Lady  
at Saint Patrick's, Newton-le-Willows  
Rosary, Procession and Benediction  
beginning at 7.30pm**

### **MASS OF CHRISM**

The priests of the Archdiocese renew their commitment to ministry at this Mass and the Holy Oils are blessed by the Archbishop to be used in the celebration of the sacraments in our parishes during the coming year. A coach may be going from your parish or from a neighbouring parish so, if you've never been before, why not come along to the Mass of Chrism this year?

**WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH  
AT 7.30PM IN THE  
METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL**



### **"CROSS WORDS"**

**A SERIES OF  
FIVE REFLECTIONS  
ON THE CRUCIFIXION**

**Wednesdays at 8.15pm  
at St. Catherine's, Lowton  
beginning on February 13th  
Mass beforehand at 7.30pm**

### **JOURNEY OF FAITH**

**Five Sunday Evenings in Lent at 7pm**  
*Celebrating the Presence of Christ  
among us in the Sacraments*  
**Six Sunday Evenings in Easter at 7pm**  
*Being Christ's Easter People and  
Witnesses to Resurrection Life today*

**Holy Family Parish Hall, Platt Bridge**

**WALSINGHAM  
12TH – 16TH MAY**

Just a few places are left available for the above pilgrimage but bookings must be received before the 6th of March. Contact Fr. Eager on 01942 206030.

### **EASTER SUNDAY ON BBC 1**

At 10.00am on Easter Sunday Morning BBC TV will broadcast Easter Day Mass live from the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool followed by the "Urbi et Orbi" (To the City and to the World) Blessing of Pope Benedict XVI live from Rome. Don't forget to watch!

### **Saint Patrick's Night Celebrations**



**Friday 14th March**  
St. Patrick's Parish Centre  
Newton-le-Willows  
*with the Whiskey Wooders*

**Saturday 15th March**  
Holy Family CMS Club  
Tram Street, Platt Bridge  
*with Paul O'Sullivan*

**Caed Mile Failte**

### **WELCOME!**

For some people in our parishes this Lent will be a time of final preparation before joining the family of the Catholic Church through Baptism or Reception at Easter. We offer them our prayers and we look forward to welcoming them among us into the Catholic Community.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER  
IN GOLBORNE**

**TAIZE BASED  
EVENINGS OF PRAYER**

**THURSDAYS IN LENT AT 7PM  
HEATH STREET METHODIST CHURCH**

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