



## ***Parish of St Anne and St Joseph***

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St Anne and St Joseph, Accrington



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**26th March 2023**

### **MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**



#### **Monday 27th March**

9:00am Holy Mass - St Anne's  
9:30am Holy Mass - St Joseph's

#### **Tuesday 28th March**

9:00am Holy Mass - St Anne's  
9:30am Holy Mass - St Joseph's

#### **Wednesday 29th March**

**NO MASS AT ST Anne's**

9:30am Holy Mass - St Joseph's

#### **Thursday 30th March**

**NO MASS AT ST Joseph's**

5:00pm Reception of Body - St Anne's  
6:30pm Holy Mass - St Anne's

#### **Friday 31st March**

11:00am Requiem Mass - St Anne's  
9:30am Holy Mass - St Joseph's

#### **Saturday 1st April**

**NO MASS OR CONFESSIONS AT**

#### **SAINT ANNE'S TODAY**

5:30pm Vigil Mass - St Anne's

#### **Sunday 2nd April**

9:00am Holy Mass - St Joseph's  
11:00am Holy Mass - St Anne's

### **READERS' ROTA**

#### **In St Anne's**

**Saturday, 1st April, 5:30pm**

Anne Anderson

**Sunday, 2nd April, 11:00am**

Tony Yates & Andrew Szlaz

#### **In St Joseph's**

**Sunday, 2nd April, 9:00am**

Carmel Fenning

### **Confessions in St Anne's**

Saturdays: 11:00am - 11:45am

4:45pm - 5:15pm



### **Confessions in St Joseph's**

Saturdays: 10:30am - 11:30am

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Sick:** Helen Hyndman, Fred & Jenny Greer, Sr Pauline Nolan, Laura De Angelis, Joan Gallagher.

**Lately Dead:** Rita Clarkson.

**Anniversaries:** Annie Anderson, Robert Kenyon, Michele Galizia, Fr John McNamara, Fr Patrick Bourke.

## NO CASH? NO PROBLEM!



You can now make donations to the parish by scanning this QR Code on your mobile phone and it will direct you to a website where you can donate money to the parish. There is also an option to Gift Aid your donation.

## REQUIEM MASS

We offer our condolences to the family of



**Rita Bernadette Clarkson**

who has died. Rita's Requiem Mass will take place in St Anne's Church on Friday, 31st March, at 11:00am. Rita's mortal remains will be received into St Anne's Church on Thursday evening at 5:00pm. Please pray for Rita and her family at this sad time.

## IN IT TO WIN IT!!! WEEK 8

Saturday Night's winning number was:

**58 - Rollover**

Wednesday Night's winning number was:

**10 - Marilyn Threlfall**

Many thanks to all those who support our weekly lottery.



## POLISH MASS

Fr Robert Pytel, the Chaplain to our Polish community, will be celebrating Mass on **Sunday, 2nd April, at 1:00 pm**.

Please pass on the message to anyone you know who might be interested.

Dziękuję bardzo i Bóg zapłać



## CHURCH CLEAN



There will be a thorough clean of St Anne's Church after 9:00am Mass on Monday, 3rd April. If you can spare the time, please do come along to help get the church ready for Easter.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at St Peter's Church, Richmond Street, Accrington, this **Friday, 31st March at 6:30pm**.



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Bishop John will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish on 15th June. Anyone in Year 8 or older who wishes to receive this Sacrament should see Fr Francis ASAP and by the 31st March at the latest.

## FACEBOOK PAGE



If you go on the hairnet then take a moment to 'like' our parish Facebook Page. If you 'liked' the old one you will need to 'like' the new one as well to keep up with Parish Activities and News. The Page has the same name as the old one:

**St Anne and St Joseph, Accrington**

The page is now run by parishioners and is much better and more informative than when it was run by me!

**At the time of writing we had 33 likes and 59 followers. Let's see if we can increase this massively in the coming week.**

### CHRISM MASS

Our parish has been allocated 6 tickets to attend the Mass of Sacred Chrism at the Cathedral on Wednesday 5th April at 11:00am. At this Mass the Bishop will bless the Oils to be used in the celebration of the Sacraments and the priests will renew their commitment to priestly service. If you would like a ticket (they are free!) please see Fr Francis by 31st March.

### SICK OF THE PARISH

If anyone knows of any sick parishioners who would like to be named in the newsletter, please email Siobhan with their name. Please ensure that you have their permission to do so.

### PARISH QUIZ



On Sunday, **2nd April**, in St Joseph's Church Hall, we will be running another parish quiz! 7:30pm start, £1 per person entry fee, spot prizes, snowball questions and a cash prize to the winning team. Please bring refreshments to share with other teams in a Jacob's Join. Come along, test your knowledge and have a bit of fun too.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

Our next meeting for the Sacramental Programme will be on **Monday, 3rd April, at 6:30pm** in St Anne's Church. I look forward to walking with you on this journey of faith


### EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

This weekend, on the 25th and 26th of April, there will be a collection after Mass for Easter flowers. If you miss the collection and would like to donate, please place your donation in an envelope, marked Easter flowers, and post through the presbytery door. Please do give generously so that the church looks wonderful for Easter.



Thank you.

### SVP

 Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, 4th April, at 7:00pm**, at St Anne's Church.

Parishioners are very welcome to come along to find out how we support the people in our community

### INTERNENOMINATIONAL SERVICE

Stations of the Cross on the Coppice on Good Friday, April 7th 2023 at 11.30 am. Meet at the top of Avenue Parade in time for a 11:30am start.



### GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Could all parishioners who use Gift Aid envelopes please check if the number on their envelopes is 63. If 63 is your number, could you please contact Siobhan either by email or ring the presbytery as there appears to be a discrepancy.

## *Father's Ramblings*

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.



On Monday this week I had a meeting with Waheed Masters of the Diocesan Property office together with a contractor who will be giving us a quotation for removing the replastering and re-decorating of the sanctuary at St Anne's. There are other jobs that need attending to as well and quotations will be hopefully be forthcoming in due course.

On Monday evening we had a good session with the children preparing for First Holy Communion. It was good to see nearly all the children gathered and interested in the lesson. The parents had their own meeting and catechesis with Fr Francis. First Holy Communion will take place on 25th June and 2nd July at the 11:00am Mass.

On Tuesday I was in our primary school to visit the children and give what support I could to the staff. I always enjoy my visits to the school to be with the children and to witness, first hand all the excellent things that are happening there. I can honestly say that the school is a completely different place to the one I first encountered on my arrival in the parish. Staff moral is high under its new leadership and we are ready to put out shoulders back to march confidently into the future.



My usual meanderings hither and yon on a Wednesday didn't amount to very much this week. It was one of those days where I felt my get up and go had got up and gone. However sometimes just sitting down with a good book and a pot of Barry's Tea is all that's needed to revive the drooping spirit. In other news I made a few mince pies with the mince meat I made last year!



# SCHOOL NEWS



Our Parish Primary School underwent an OFSTED Inspection on 25th and 26th January. The judgement of that inspection together with the full report was made public via the school website on Tuesday 21st March. As a school and parish community we are understandably disappointed with the judgment. Alongside Mrs Colbeck and the Staff of the school I would like to reassure you that every step has been taken to ensure there is a comprehensive plan in response to the concerns raised within the report and there has already been significant progress in many areas.

Whilst the inspectors recognised the rapid progress we have made in school since September, they were concerned with the turbulence within the school prior to that time and the lack of sustained improvement in the 8 years since the school were graded as 'Requires Improvement' in the first instance. That, combined with the interim nature of the role of Mrs Colbeck as Executive Head, meant they were concerned about the capacity for sustained improvement in the future.



Mrs Colbeck has assured me that she, together with her staff, are committed to working with the school for the foreseeable future as part of the agreement with Romero Catholic Academy Trust. In the short time that I have been here as Parish Priest I have seen first hand the potential our school has to be the school of choice for our community and I am confident we can achieve great things with the support of staff, governors, parishioners and our families.

I would urge you to read the report with words the Lead Inspector shared at our feedback meeting in your mind: **“there are green shoots of growth in this school which must be allowed to grow more”**.

As always, thank you for your continued support and understanding.



# Something to Look Forward to A BIT OF A DO!

After a long break due to Covid we feel it is now the right time to think about relaunching the Summer Fair. This will take place at St Anne's on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July following the 11:00am Mass.** **PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!!** For it to be a success we need all hands to the deck to help organise everything – stalls, food, drinks, games, bouncy castles, raffles etc, etc. Help from both our churches will be required to make this a fun day for the whole parish.



**AND THERE'S MORE...** If the Lord spares me on 13<sup>th</sup> June I will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of my ordination to the Priesthood. It seems appropriate to mark it with a Mass of Thanksgiving for the gift of the Priesthood to the Church. We might even have a little bunfight after it too.



If you are able and would like to help with the organisation of one or both of these social gatherings then please come along to a planning meeting on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm** in the Marian Room at St Anne's. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible to make the Summer Fair a great success and a day of celebration for our whole parish community.

## WHY ARE THE STATUES COVERED UP?

*"The practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed. The crosses are to be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images are to remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."*



The Season of Lent grows and develops: a significant shift happens on Monday of the Fourth Week, when we suddenly find ourselves reading through passages from Saint John's Gospel. This semi-continuous reading continues until Good Friday (with the exception of a Gospel from Saint Matthew on the Wednesday of Holy Week), when we gather to hear and celebrate the Passion as related by Saint John. These last two and a half weeks of Lent invite us to focus more vividly and devotedly on the cross of Jesus: the passages selected from Saint John all talk of the growing opposition between Jesus and the Jewish leaders, and their desire to see him silenced. They lead us more and more energetically towards the cross.

This is a development of the ancient part of this Lenten Season known as "Passiontide", which used similar Johannine readings describing the hostility towards Jesus. What we now call the Fifth Sunday of Lent used to be known as "*Dominica De Passione*", not because the Passion was read on that day (that happened, as now, on Palm Sunday), but because it marked the beginning of a different focus in Lent. Having begun in ashes, and concentrating on the path of repentance with the aid of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the Church now adds to that journey an emphasis on the Passion and Death of the Lord.

This emphasis, or concentration, was marked by an increase in the austerity and atmosphere of Lent, as familiar statues and images were hidden from sight by means of violet veils. Even the crosses in church were veiled, leaving only the Stations of the Cross for devotion ... or distraction. This gave a special importance to a part of the Solemn Good Friday, when the cross that was to be venerated was solemnly unveiled.





This practice may still be observed in our Diocese, and there is much to recommend it. Lent is our annual wilderness, our forty day journey with the Lord through the desert. Fasting and Abstinence, as well as other acts of prayer or penance, are to create that wilderness in our lives - a freedom from distraction, from the busyness of material things and the preoccupations of this world - so that we may discover God's closeness more vividly, more strongly, more perfectly. As statues and images are veiled in Church in these last days of Lent, we feel a sense of emptiness. We have already been without flowers for more than four weeks - now even our statues of Saint Patrick and Saint Teresa and Saint Anthony of Padua are veiled, and we walk into Church and feel a desolation. As the old Saint Andrew Daily Missal said: *"Thus the interior of the Church, where so many graces are bestowed on the faithful, and worship is celebrated with a certain pomp, takes on an aspect of unaccustomed mourning."*

But this is an emptiness and desolation that Christ waits to fill: even if our images and crosses are veiled, we do not veil his presence in our midst. Indeed, we are invited to focus more and more on that heavenly gift which is the presence of Christ in our world. We empty ourselves of distractions, so that we can focus all on Christ, who gives all for us. It is fashionable nowadays to talk about the "Liturgical Environment" - we use our senses of sight and touch and smell when we come into Church, to be lifted up in prayer. The veiling of images and crosses may seem to be a relic of the past, but if done well is still an effective jolt to the liturgical senses: it makes us stop and ask - Why this emptiness? Why all this sombre purple? What are we celebrating?

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## **HOLY WEEK TRIDUUM SERVICES**

### **Holy Thursday 6th April 7:30pm**

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watch at the Altar of Repose till 10:00pm

**AT SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

### **Good Friday 3:00pm**

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

**AT SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH**

### **Stations of the Cross 6:30pm**

**AT SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

### **Holy Saturday 8:30pm**

Solemn Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

**AT SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH**

**Please note there will be NO VIGIL MASS AT 5:30pm**