

THIS WEEKEND		5th Sunday of the Year		Year B	
Sat 3rd February	10.00am	St T	<i>Confessions + Exposition ends 10.30am</i>		
	10.30am	St T	<i>Blessing Throats for St Blaise Day</i>		
	5.00pm	St O	John Harrison Jnr, Special Intention		
	6.30pm	St T	Elizabeth Turner, Jim Nolan		
Sun 4th February	8:30am	St MM	<i>Latin Extraordinary Form Mass</i>		
	8:30am	St O	William Jump, Dewhurst Family		
	9.30am	St T	Christopher + Mary Atherton Teresa Nicklin		
	11.00am	St MM	Pam Hatch		
WEEKDAY MASSES		Divine Office Week 1			
Mon 5th February St Agatha	9.15am	St T	Special Intention		
	9.30am	St O	Elizabeth + Richard Grimshaw		
Tues 6th February	9.15am	St T	Mary + Terry Breen		
	9.30am	St O	Richard Bibby		
	2.15pm	St MM	For all the living and deceased of the Parish		
Wed 7th February					
Thu 8th February St Josephine Bakhita	9.30am	St O	Eileen McGee		
	7.00pm	St T	Mrs Walker + Archbishop Derek		
Fri 9th February	9.30am	St O	Pat Carrol		
	7.00pm	St T	Bernard Hothersall		
NEXT WEEKEND		6th Sunday of the Year		Year B	
St Scholastica	10.00am	St O	<i>Confessions + Exposition ends 10.30am</i>		
Sat 10th Feb	5.00pm	St O	Mrs S Robinson		
	6.30pm	St T	Malcolm Beale		
Sun 11th February	8:30am	St MM	<i>Latin Extraordinary Form Mass</i>		
	8:30am	St O	Norah Spencer		
	9.30am	St T	Kathleen Hatsell		
	11.00am	St MM	John Connolly, Paddy Killeen		

Confessions: 1st (St T) and 2nd (St O) Sat at 10.00am.

Web Site: www.catholic-penwortham-longton.btck.co.uk

Web Cam: <http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-teresas-penwortham>

The CATHOLIC CHURCH in PENWORTHAM + LONGTON

St Mary Magdalen, St Oswald, St Teresa.

Fr Philip Inch: 34 Queensway, Penwortham. PR1 0DS

Tel: 01772 743337 email: philipinch@rcaolp.co.uk

Fr Michael Barrett: 76 Chapel Lane. Longton. 612136



5th Sunday of the Year 4th Feb 2018

The writer C.S. Lewis, in 1961 wrote a book, *A Grief Observed*, the reflections of a man whose beloved wife has died, slowly and painfully, from cancer. The book vividly describes his own reactions, as a man of faith, to his wife's death. His rational faith fell to pieces when confronted with suffering of a devastatingly personal kind. He writes at one point, 'Where is God? Go to him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence.'

The name of the wife was Joy. Lewis had earlier written a book called *Surprised by Joy*, about the impact that meeting her had on his life. *A Grief Observed* was widely admired for its authentic account of the impact of bereavement. Even though his rational faith took a battering because of Joy's death, he did not lose his faith. Through the darkness of this experience he even claims to have come to love his wife more truly. God had helped him realise that because the love he and his wife had for each other had reached its earthly limit, it was ready for its heavenly fulfilment.

Faith has to come to terms with the cross where faith is purified and deepened. Jesus entered fully into the darkness of human suffering. In the 2nd reading, Paul says of himself, 'For the weak, I made myself weak.' That is certainly true of Jesus. He entered the weakness of the human condition. On the cross Jesus was at his weakest; it was then that Jesus turned to God and found a door slammed in his face, as he cried out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Yet God did not forsake Jesus, but brought him through death into the fullness of life. Jesus who was crucified in weakness is the same risen Lord who is with us in our own suffering, just as he was with the suffering and the broken in the gospel. He is with us as one who knows our experience. He is the good shepherd who, even as we walk through the valley of darkness, is there with his crook and his staff, leading us to springs of living water.

Please Note: Daily Mass times this week.

Week of Guided Prayer: Ten people have signed up. This will be a wonderful opportunity for them, please pray for them.

Parish Evangelisation Team: met last week at St T. We reviewed Christmas and decided that an extra Mass at 7.00pm at St T will be necessary in the future to alleviate over-crowding. We looked at Lent provision and especially at how we could celebrate reconciliation. It was good to welcome Joseph Bagot as a new member of the group.

With you Always: Our 1st communion programme continues with the next sessions for Year 4 children and their parents on Monday 5th February (St O), Tue 6th Feb (St T) and Sun 11th Feb (St T and St MM).

St. Teresa's Ladies Association: A meeting will be held on Tue 13 Feb at 7.30pm to which all are welcome.

St Mary Magdalen School are looking for a lunchtime assistant to join our staff team on Mon, Tues and Wed, from 11.45am-1.00pm. Full induction and training will be given. Please contact school for more information.

St MM Tea and Coffee after Mass: We need an extra volunteer to provide tea and coffee on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Can you help? This is such an important part of parish life, please think about it. It only means 12 times a year!

St T Meeting Room: We have had 5 volunteers to help form the refurbishment committee. Thank you. That is enough I think. The PET looked at the tenders and with the advice of the Diocesan Surveyor, who is over seeing the project, a company has been appointed. We hope the work will start on Monday 19th February. This means that the meeting room will be out of action for 12 weeks from that date. There will be no toilet facilities in the church during this time. There will also be no tea and coffee after Sunday Mass at St T from the 2nd Sunday of Lent. At the weekends we will make sure that the parish centre is open for toilet use.

Pilgrimage to Malta: A letter has been prepared for all pilgrims to collect this weekend. See Fr Philip.

Lent 2018: Begins on Wednesday Feb 14th. (No St Valentine's day in

2018!) Ashes will be given at Mass at 9.15am at St T, 9.30am at St O and 12 noon at St MM. There will also be a Mass with ashes at St T at 7.00pm.

RCIA: We continue our preparation for those adults who wish to be baptised, be welcomed into the Church and make their 1st Communion or be Confirmed, on Tuesday 13th February at 7.00pm in St Teresa's Meeting Room. Please keep our 5 candidates in your prayer.

St Oswald's Ladies: First meeting of the new year will be a 'Natter Night' on Monday 5 February at 7.30 pm, in the Parish Hall. We can discuss forthcoming events, have a game of Bingo and tea/cakes and raffle.

CAFOD Fast, Pray and Give Fast Day: Friday 23rd Feb. Your donations this year will make double the difference. For every £1 you give to CAFOD between 13th Feb and 12th May, the Govt will give £1—up to £5 million.

Gift Aid: St O: We signed up 14 new gift aiders last weekend. If you are a new gift aider and were at 5.00pm Mass last week please sign your form in the sacristy today. Envelopes for the rest of this tax year are now available for you. Thank you.

Knit-a-Bit: St T Church meeting Room Monday from 10.00am until 12 noon. The SVP will provide a lift if needed. Phone Catherine on 740569.

SOC Lunch Club. Due St. Oswald's Hall being used for the half-term Holiday Club on Fri 16th Feb we will not be able to have our Lunch Club as planned. We will, instead, be having it the following Friday - 23rd. Feb - and look forward to seeing you there. We do apologise for this but it is unavoidable. See you on Fri 23rd Feb.

Training for leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sat, 17 Feb 10am for 10:15am-12:30pm £10 per person. To book a place please contact Maureen Knight 0151 522 1046 or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk.

Become a marriage preparation course facilitator: Are you passionate about healthy marriages? We're looking for enthusiastic individuals or couples to present our marriage preparation courses for those getting married in the Catholic Church. Please contact Maureen O'Brien 0151 522 1044 m.obrien@rcaol.co.uk or Frank Reppion f.reppion@rcaol.co.uk