

THIS WEEKEND		Fourth Sunday of Lent		Year A
Sat 21st March	9.30am	St O	Elizabeth Dunderdale	
	9.30am	St T	Ursula Nora Frances Bryan, her deceased husband + living family	
Sun 22nd March	8:30am	St O	Eileen O'Donnell (A)	
	9.30am	St T	Patrick O'Donnell Charles + Helen Lanigan (A) Marion Brooks (LD)	
Divine Office 4				
Mon 23rd March	9.15am	St T	Priest's Intention	
	9.30am	St O	Mary Lonsdale	
Tues 24th March	9.15am	St T	Mary Shelton (nee Whittle)	
	9.30am	St O	Pete Saunders	
Wed 25th March <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.15am	St T	Simon Osborne	
	9.30am	St O	Priest's Intention	
Thu 26th March	9.30am	St O	Michael Kelly	
	7.00pm	St T	Priest's Intention	
Fri 27th March	9.15am	St T	Margaret + Thomas Conway	
	9.30am	St O	Frances Winifred Walmsley	
NEXT WEEKEND		Fifth Sunday of Lent		Year A
Sat 28th March	9.30am	St O	Priest's Intention	
	9.30am	St T	Peter Gavin (A)	
Sun 29th March	8:30am	St O	Bert & Barbara Sheepwash	
	9.30am	St T	Parishioners Mary Gardner (A) Bridie Clancy	

Masses will continue to be said in the parish without the faithful, i.e. no public attendance.

The Catholic Church in Penwortham + Longton



St Mary Magdalen, St Oswald + St Teresa

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Fourth Sunday of Lent 22nd March 2020

**Wake up from your sleep and
Christ will shine on you!**

Each year *Laetare* ('Rejoice') Sunday gives encouragement to all those travelling the Lenten road to Holy Week and Easter.

Today's readings affirm that I do not make this journey alone. I am offered a helping hand by the Lord who is my shepherd and guide (**Psalms**). By leading me on the right path in goodness, he is being true to his name. I want for nothing. Though I may have been walking in darkness, even sometimes feeling as if I am trapped in the valley of the shadow of death, I am now exposed to the light of the Lord.

And the Lord, looking with love at my heart rather than at external appearances (**First Reading**), illuminates me, turning me into light (**Second Reading**).

Jesus curing the man born blind is a well-known piece of scripture (**Gospel**). Perhaps I am like the one without sight who can suddenly see. And finding myself looking at the Son of Man, I can come to believe and to trust in him even more deeply.

Reason, indeed, to rejoice today!

Knit a Bit has been suspended until further notice.

SVP meetings have been suspended until further notice.

Tea and Chat has been suspended until further notice.

St Teresa Food Bank: During March, the food bank would like donations of ready to serve custard (tinned or cartons), tinned fruit (peaches, pears, mandarins, fruit cocktail) and Weetabix please. ***In these unprecedented times food banks are becoming increasingly stretched. If you can donate any extra items your support would be greatly appreciated.***

St Teresa + St Mary Magdalen Gift Aid: Please could you let the parish office know, by email, if you are no longer a tax payer so we can update our records. Thank you.

St Oswald's Caritas Events: Due to the current situation the bingo planned for Friday 3rd April and the coach trip to North Wales planned for the 30th April has had to be postponed.

St Oswald's Gift Aid Envelopes: The new boxes of gift aid envelopes are ready and available in the Sacred Heart Room. Please pick the as soon as possible. Many thanks for all your support.

Gift Aid Organisers: I am looking for a couple of volunteers to take over organising gift aid for the parish. There will be plenty of support to get to know and understand the system! Fr. M

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, Presidents of CTE are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer & Action on Sunday 22nd March. At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour.

Pray As You Go app: provides a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Search for "Pray as you go" in the Google Play or Apple store to download for free.

To receive the weekly newsletter by email, please email your details to the parish office: penwortham@rcaolp.co.uk

Summary of Liturgical Advice from the Bishops of England and Wales in the light of the COVID-19 Pandemic

This advice will be reviewed and developed as necessary.

Celebrations of Holy Mass

Fr. Roy / Fr. Michael will continue to celebrate Mass in a church within our parishes without the faithful on a daily basis. The continuing celebration of Mass ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with the priests of the Church.

Our churches at St Teresa's and St Oswald's:

Will be open, on Sundays, between 1.00pm and 3.00pm for **individual private prayer**, without any organised services. Also, at St Teresa's church the intention is to open the outer door for parishioners to come in for private prayer and to pick-up newsletters etc, during the usual daytime hours. ***This is subject to change.***

Baptisms:

Baptisms will be deferred until such time that the public health advice is that congregations can gather safely.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

1 to 1 Confession should continue to be available as usual, i.e. 10.00am 1st Saturday of the month at St T & the 2nd Saturday of the month at St O.

Anointing of the Sick:

No pastoral visits are to be made to people who are self-isolating until the isolation period ends. Phone support is available.

Funerals:

The funeral service is to take place at the graveside or at a crematorium. Arrangements can be made later, for a Mass to be celebrated in memoriam when congregations are allowed to gather.

Communion to the sick.

Communion should only be given to the sick in danger of death, by Priest.

A Prayer in the time of danger and illness:

God Our Father, each person is precious to You. You are the Giver of life. Have mercy on us and protect us at this time, as the Coronavirus threatens health and life. You are an ever-present, helper in time of trouble. Watch over those who are suffering, give strength to those who are aiding the Sick and give courage to all in this time of anxiety. We ask this of you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. AMEN

Mass at St Teresa can be viewed live through the webcam:
<http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-teresas-penwortham>