

THIS WEEKEND		Fourth Sunday of Easter		Year A
Sat 2nd May <i>St Athanasius</i>	9.30am	St O	First Holy Communion Children & Families	
	9.30am	St T	Francis Michael (Mick) Ferns	
Sun 3rd May	9:30am	St O	Priest's Intention	
	9.30am	St T	Parishioners, Robert Crompton (A) Lynne Margaret Edwards	
Divine Office 4				
Mon 4th May <i>English Martyrs</i>	9.30am 9.30am	St T St O	David Laing Priest's Intention	
Tues 5th May	9.30am 9.30am	St T St O	Teresa Fairclough Priest's Intention	
Wed 6th May	9.30am 9.30am	St T St O	Frank Farrer, Denis Taylor Priest's Intention	
Thu 7th May	9.30am 9.30am	St T St O	McManaman Family Priest's Intention	
Fri 8th May	9.30am 9.30am	St T St O	Peter Rainford (LD) Priest's Intention	
NEXT WEEKEND		Fifth Sunday of Easter		Year A
Sat 9th May	9.30am	St O	Priest's Intention	
	9.30am	St T	Bill Power (A) First Holy Communion Children & Families	
Sun 10th May	9:30am	St O	Priest's Intention	
	9.30am	St T	John Connolly (A) Parishioners	

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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4th Sunday of Easter 3rd May 2020

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, for the Gospel is always taken from St John, where Jesus speaks of himself as the 'Good Shepherd'. A shepherd leads his flock and Jesus is the shepherd who leads his followers. The sheep know his voice, trust him, and will follow only him. In the same way, we also keep today as Vocations Sunday, when the Church prays for new 'good shepherds' to lead our Christian communities, especially at this difficult time.

In the **First Reading**, Peter proclaims to the crowd that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. They are invited to have faith in Christ, and by repenting and being baptised, they will be forgiven. Peter reminds them that God's promise is for everyone.

This familiar **Psalms** demonstrates the hope and trust of the psalmist in the Lord who is *my* shepherd, and who cares for me providing guidance, comfort and rest.

In the **Second Reading**, Peter continues encouraging the people to follow Christ's example and to put their trust in God, particularly when times are difficult or unjust. By dying on the cross he has healed us and brought us back to God.

Jesus tells his disciples – and us – that he is the gate of the sheepfold; it is in following him that we can have the fullness of life. (**Gospel**)

In my prayer this week, I may want to take time to speak to Jesus as my shepherd and reflect on what that means for me. On this Vocations Sunday, perhaps I can also consider how I am responding to the way Jesus is calling me, and pray that others also hear his invitation.

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.

Recent Deaths: Just to make you aware, at this time of difficult communication, that from St. Mary Magdalen's & St Teresa's, Teresa Fairclough, Peter Rainford and Margaret Nicholson have recently died, Please remember them and their families in your prayers. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

(Peter Rainford has been a member of St Mary Magdalene's since birth in 1931, and latterly of St Teresa's with his wife Patricia since the 60s. All their children and grandchildren attended St Teresa's, and their great granddaughter is now a pupil at St Mary Magdalene's).

Church Offerings / Gift Aid / Online Giving:

Thank you to all who have already handed in some of their Gift Aid envelopes and we have also received offering's (cash/cheques) in envelopes, to the presbytery. If you have any envelopes dated 5th April or before and you could hand them into the presbytery, then this would be most helpful and much appreciated. This will assist us with completing our gift aid return and will allow us to complete your year end donation letter.

Standing order forms for are now available, please email the office if you would like one, or if you have any other enquiries regarding envelopes/gift aid please contact the parish office.

The Liverpool Archdiocese are also looking at Offerings & Gift Aid donations, and in particular, they are looking at the development of a digital giving function. The systems are being developed and are undergoing tests.

Sunday 3rd May is Vocations Sunday when the universal church joins together to give thanks for our own vocation in life but also to bring more labourers to help with the harvest of the Lord. Please pray for all who currently serve the church and those who feel they have a call to priesthood and the religious life.

Prayer for Vocations

Loving Father, you call us by name.

As we journey through life help us to be confident in our own unique identity and to find opportunities to develop our own gifts and passions.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will pour on us wisdom and guidance to help us realise and follow our dreams, discerning your plan for our lives.

Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous people from our families and friends who will serve as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers.

May we support one another in response to God's call.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

To receive the weekly newsletter and other updates by email, please send your details to the parish office: Penwortham@rcaolp.co.uk

First Holy Communion Sacramental Programme 2020

Please remember in your prayers the children from our three primary schools of St Oswald's, St Mary Magdalen's and St Teresa's who were due to make their First Holy Communion over the next few weeks. This important day in their lives has been delayed. Please continue to pray for them as we look towards a day when we can all celebrate together.

"Risen Jesus, the disciples on the road to Emmaus recognized you in the breaking of the bread. Help us to see you in the people we meet, in the Scriptures we hear, and in the Eucharist that we will receive." **Amen**

Coronavirus Support in Lancashire: This website can be used for anyone who may be in any sort of social need; i.e. food or medicine, during this pandemic.

<https://lancsvp.org.uk/>

For the 'Lancashire Volunteer Telephone Befriending' use this web address,

<https://lancsvp.org.uk/opportunities/community-support-befriender-south-ribble/>

This is to help anyone who isolated or vulnerable and in need of any support.

In Penwortham during the Coronavirus lockdown there is a variety of local support available from our parishioners:

1. If you need someone to do your shopping for you, collect a prescription, post mail, make a friendly phone call or drop off urgent supplies please get in touch with, John Topping **07557 945624** or Alice Pennington **07756 940097**. They have a team of volunteers who are more than happy to help. As example, if you were unable to get to the shops or feel safer to stay at home if you're vulnerable, you can contact them and they would collect your shopping list and return with the goods to your house.

2. **IMPORTANT** - We have become aware of some people without Internet access or smart phones, who are now unable to attend mass (via webcam) or read the newsletter. If you are aware of anyone who is in this position or even if you think they may be, please **contact Alice or John** and they can arrange getting a newsletter delivered each week and ensure this person is aware of the support available. Even if you think someone may be on our records it is definitely still worth getting in touch as they may not be.

3. **All Hallows Catholic High School Food Bank** are organising and delivering food parcels for those families in need as a result of the coronavirus lock down. It is very likely that some families are not aware that help and assistance is available. Again, please spread the word that help is available. They can be contacted on:

lco@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk or acn@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk

Mass at St Teresa can be viewed live through the webcam:

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

Or by scanning the QR code left.



If the picture 'freezes' then please refresh the screen to resume watching.