



JESUITS
IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

22nd February 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston



CHRIST IN THE DESERT

Today we hear Matthew's account of Jesus being tempted in the desert. They are temptations to put material things first, to put God to the test, to worship a creature rather than God. In the first reading we hear the story of Adam and Eve succumbing to the temptation of the serpent, whereas Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful to his Father. We are beginning this season of Lent to prepare ourselves to celebrate the way in which Jesus has overcome sin and death by his

obedience, shown in his cross and resurrection.

Pope Benedict XVI said, "Entering Lent means we enter a season of special commitment in the spiritual battle to oppose the evil present in the world, in each of us and around us. It means not off-loading the problem of evil on to others, on to society or on to God but rather recognising one's own responsibility and assuming it with awareness." It means following the way of Jesus and taking up our cross. To do this we are called to recognise our own sinfulness and seek to change. Especially in this season it is recommended that we should make use of the sacrament of reconciliation. It also means making special efforts during this time in the traditional ways of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There are various opportunities for prayer such as

- ◆ Stations of the Cross on Fridays, immediately after 12.15pm Mass, in Church.
- ◆ Taking part in the retreat on Monday evenings 7 to 8pm in the Parish Centre.
- ◆ Resources on line such as www.jesuit.org.uk/spirituality/pray-as-you-go or londonjesuitcentre.churchsuite.com
- ◆ In terms of alms giving there will be various appeals, especially for CAFOD, but we also may want to look for ways of giving our time to help others.
- ◆ Finally we may want to give up something to help us let go of things which may loom too large in our lives and remind us of the call to take up the cross of Christ as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection.

Chris Pedley, S.J

Prayer

by Caroline Stanton, CAFOD

God of growth, in the beginning you planted a garden and walked with us, your beloved creation. Teach us to tread lightly as we care for all you made.

God the Sower, you plant seeds of your Kingdom in the soil of our hearts. Water them with your Word and weed out fear and selfishness. Cultivate in us your compassion so we may truly love our neighbours...

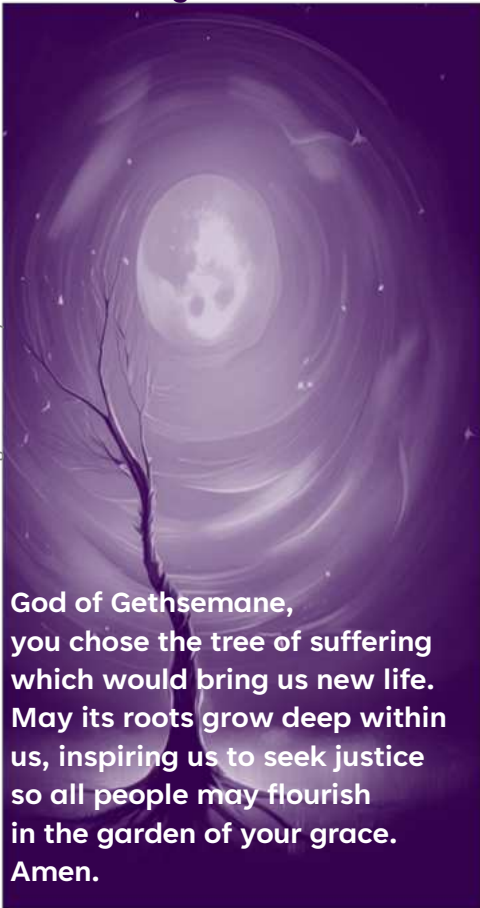


Image from Pixabay

God of Gethsemane, you chose the tree of suffering which would bring us new life. May its roots grow deep within us, inspiring us to seek justice so all people may flourish in the garden of your grace. Amen.



The Big Lent Walk
To sign up go to
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Step into the year with hope, reconnect with your faith and raise vital funds for life-saving water with The Big Lent Walk.

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP BARBARA MACLAREN

has signed up for

The Big Lent Walk



Here's the link to view Barbara's page where you can make a donation:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/barbaras-fundraising-for-water-page>

Please support her!



Friday 27th February
CAFOD Lent Appeal
Family Fast Day
Collection

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought.

WAYS TO DONATE:

- *COLLECT A CAFOD ENVELOPE TO BLESS OTHERS WITH YOUR SUPPORT
- *DONATE ONLINE AT CAFOD.ORG.UK/ENVELOPE
- *CALL 0303 303 3030
- *TEXT CAFODLENT TO 70085 TO DONATE £10.

FRIDAYS DURING LENT FROM 20TH FEB

after 12.15 Mass there will be

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

followed by **Soup Lunch** . If you would like to read on any of the Fridays, or assist in any way, please contact Jen

07957566741 jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk



UNVEILED PRAISE!
27th February 7.30-9pm
in St Wilfrid's Church



PRAY as you Go LISTEN TO GUIDED PRAYER, EVERY DAY, FOR FREE

<https://prayasyougo.org>

Founded by the British Province of Jesuits. It is a daily prayer session, designed for use on portable devices.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ernest Ezeani, Andrew Dawson,
Jen Murphy, Margaret Nelson,
Lee Unsworth, Maria Hall,
Ruth White, Anjana Linus,
Fr Chris Pedley SJ &
Fr Hugh Duffy SJ.
The Council meets monthly.

**THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR
FEBRUARY 2026**

For children with incurable diseases.

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Online Donations to St Wilfrid's can be made via the

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stwilfridspreston.org.uk

Click on the **DONATE** button & follow the instructions. It's easy!

THE CHURCH COURTYARD IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL PARKING YOU ARE KINDLY ASKED NOT TO PARK YOUR VEHICLE IN THE COURTYARD.

STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS
The Parish of St. Wilfrid welcomes University of Lancashire students. There will be food and prayer in St Wilfrid's Parish Centre after the 4:30pm Sunday Mass weekly.



Sign up here for info on all events for Students & Young Adults



JOE WHITE,

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

jo@metanoiaproject.co.uk

Tel. 07481 188102



Gift & Card Shop Cash/cards taken

OPEN After 10.15am Sunday Mass
Monday and Friday 11.30am to 1pm

DAY OF RENEWAL

Saturday 28th February 10am to 4pm
at St Clare's Parish Hall, Fulwood, PR2 9HH
*Unpacking the Paschal Mystery—to get
the best celebration of Easter*

with Fr Eamonn Mulcahy

For more info 07745 009694
or 07954 429333.

Take a packed lunch. Tea/coffee provided.

**Diocese of Lancaster
Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026**

Led by Bishop Swarbrick
23-30 July



Contact Pilgrimage Director
Linda Wisdom
07738 022054

operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

More details on the Narthex noticeboard



DONATE TO JRS
www.jrsuk.net/donate/

The Hurtado Jesuit Centre,
2 Chandler Street, London
E1W 2QT

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS UNATTENDED IN CHURCH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. CHRIS PEDLEY SJ **01772 555244** cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk
 Parish Administrator: **01772 554396** stwilfridspa@gmail.com
 Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara Maclaren **07986940883** barbara@hornworks.co.uk
 Superior of the Jesuit Community: Fr. Hugh Duffy SJ **01772 554387**
 Newsletter Items to stwilfridspa@gmail.com

CHURCH OPEN 8AM-6PM



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE stwilfridspreston.org.uk

Sunday 22 February First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7 (Ps 51) Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Mass 7am **Mass 10.15am** with Choir **LITTLE CHURCH DURING MASS**
 Parish Centre 11.15-12.30 Tea/coffee Gift & Card Shop open

Mass 4.30pm with Music Group After Mass in the Parish Centre: **Student Group Meeting**

Mon 23 Feb **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **11.30am-12noon** **11.30-1pm** Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee
LENTEN FERIA **Mass 12.15** Exposition **7-8pm** Lent Retreat

Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18 (Ps 19) Matthew 25:31-46

Tue 24 Feb **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **6-7.30pm** Metanoia Hot Meal Drop In
LENTEN FERIA **Mass 12.15**

Isaiah 55:10-11 (Ps 34) Matthew 6:7-15

Wed 25 Feb **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **5.15-5.45** Adoration of Blessed Sacrament **6.30pm** Metanoia Clothes Drop In (Narthex)
LENTEN FERIA **Mass 12.15 & Ashes**

Jonah 3:1-10 (Ps 51) Luke 11:29-32

Thu 26 Feb **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **11am** Life Ascending (Coffee 10.30am)
LENTEN FERIA **Mass 12.15**

Esther:12,14-16,23-25 (Ps 138) Matthew 7:7-12

Fri 27 Feb **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **After 12.15 Mass** **11.30-1pm** Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee ...Soup Lunch
LENTEN FERIA **Mass 12.15** Stations of the Cross followed by ... **7.30-9pm** Unveiled Praise!
FAMILY FAST DAY

Ezekiel 18:21-28 (Ps 130) Matthew 5:20-26

Sat 28 Feb **Confessions 11-12.10** **Mass 12.15** **10-11am** First Holy Communion Class
LENTEN FERIA **Confessions 5-5.30** **VIGIL MASS 5.35pm**

Deuteronomy 26:16-19 (Ps 119) Matthew 5:43-48

WE PRAY FOR **Those who died recently:**
Anniversaries: Edward McGinley, Patrick O'Donnell, Fr Bernard Walker SJ, Sheila Clarkson
Those who are sick: Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn, Agnes Partington, Janet Hadfield.