



JESUITS
IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

18th January 2026

SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE AND CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

This week is Christian Unity Week and today is the World Day of Prayer for Peace. The material for this year's week of prayer has been provided by the Armenian Apostolic Church taking the theme from Ephesians 4:1-13, "There is one body and one Spirit just as you were called to the one hope of your calling". The particular emphasis on peace this year comes out of the Armenian experience of many years of war, oppression and genocide.

Division and conflict between Christians remain an obstacle for people. Very often we do not reflect that one hope, we do not show the kind of respect and understanding as people who share faith in Christ. As someone whose family members came from a number of Christian denominations, the movement towards Christian unity, especially following the Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism, was something I very much welcomed. Working with other Christians has been something which has been important to me, especially at University and in various roles I have had as a priest. In Preston it has been a bit limited, but I do work closely with Methodists, United Reform Church and with other Catholics in Lancashire Citizens and we have our ecumenical Walk of Witness in the city every Good Friday. An emphasis on working together as something natural is a move forward. However, I do feel that there is still a danger that we can put division ahead of unity. Perhaps this is a feature of our more polarised age.

This week gives us an opportunity to pray for the unity of Christians and to reflect on our own attitudes towards those who share our faith in the saving power of Christ.

For more details of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity see the Vatican website <https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita/semaine-de-priere-pour-l-unite-des-chretiens-20241/anglais.html>

Chris Pedley, S.J

Sunday 18th January is the

Day of Prayer for Peace

Where there is a history of pain, we ask for You to bring forgiveness.

Where there is injustice, we ask for You to bring fairness and a just solution.

Where there are differences, we ask for You to bring reconciliation.

Where there is not enough (land, resources, opportunity), we ask for You to bring provision.

and the start of the

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 to 25 January 2026, marks this annual occasion for prayer, reflection and dialogue on the journey towards that unity which Christ himself prayed (John 17:21-23).

Next Sunday, 25th January, is SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD. We will have a READERS' COMMISSIONING CEREMONY.

We will also have a **BLESSING OF BIBLES** so bring your bibles to be blessed.

Thank you for all your contributions to **GIFT SUNDAY** over the last two weekends. Your gifts will help ex-offenders through ACE (Assisted Community Engagement) and those who receive a hot meal at the Metanoia Project Tuesday Food Drop In.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ernest Ezeani, Andrew Dawson, Jen Murphy, Margaret Nelson, Lee Unsworth, Maria Hall, Ruth White, Fr Chris Pedley SJ & Fr Hugh Duffy SJ. Meetings approximately once a month.

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 very easy!

Peace be with you all:



towards an
'unarmed and disarming' peace.
(Pope Leo)



UNVEILED PRAISE!
23 January 7.30-9pm
in St Wilfrid's Church

Sacramental Preparation for Adults

Are you interested in understanding the Catholic faith more fully, being received into the Church, or receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation?

If so, you are invited to join the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme which begins this month.

Adults are usually received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Please contact Joe White

07481188102 joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk
or speak to Fr. Chris.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Classes for those wishing to make their First Holy Communion this year will begin on Saturday 7th February.



If you have a child who wishes to join the classes please **COMPLETE THE FORM AVAILABLE FROM MONICA HOLDSWORTH** (including anyone who has already been in touch directly with Fr Pedley.)



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



JOE WHITE,

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

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Tel. 07481 188102



CAFOD

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

After 1,000 days of conflict, Sudan has reached breaking point and is now the world's worst

humanitarian and displacement crisis. The world's governments have failed to respond with the urgency and determination needed. CAFOD is working closely with partners to provide food, cash vouchers to buy essentials, water supply planning, repairs to latrines and support for people who have had to flee their homes. Alongside 12 other UK aid charities, we're asking the Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper, to take urgent action to end suffering in Sudan. PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION AT cafod.org.uk

Gift & Card Shop Cash/cards taken

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



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

<https://prayasyougo.org>

Founded by the British Province of Jesuits, Pray As You Go has existed as a podcast for 18 years. It is a daily prayer session, designed for use on portable devices.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2026

For prayer with the Word of God.

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



DONATE TO JESUIT MISSIONS

jesuitmissions.org.uk/donate/

11 Edge Hill
London SW19 4LR



DONATE TO JRS

www.jrsuk.net/donate/

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

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

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 18 January

SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 49:3,5-6 (Ps 40) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34

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 19 Jan

FERIA **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **11.30am-12noon** **11.30-1pm** Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee

Mass 12.15

Exposition

1 Samuel 15:16-23 (Ps 50) Mark 2:18-22

Tue 20 Jan

FERIA **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **6-7.30pm** Metanoia Hot Meal Drop In

Mass 12.15

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Ps 89) Mark 2:23-28

Wed 21 Jan

ST AGNES **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **5.15-5.45** Adoration of Blessed Sacrament **6.30pm** Metanoia Clothes Drop In (Narthex)

Mass 12.15

1 Samuel 17:32-33,37,40-51 (Ps 144) Mark 3:1-6

Thu 22 Jan

FERIA **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **11am** Life Ascending (Coffee 10.30am)

Mass 12.15

1 Samuel 18:6-9,19:1-7 (Ps 57) Mark 3:7-12

Fri 23 Jan

FERIA **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **After 12.15 Mass** **11.30-1pm** Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee

Mass 12.15

Lectio Divina

2pm Funeral Service

Followed by...

...Soup Lunch

1 Samuel 24:3-21 (Ps 57) Mark 3:13-19 **7.30** Unveiled Praise!

Sat 24 Jan

St Francis de Sales **Confessions 11-12.10** **Mass 12.15** **VIGIL MASS 5.35pm**

Confessions 5-5.30

2 Samuel 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27 (Ps 80) Mark 3:20-21

WE PRAY FOR

Those who died recently: Stephen Gabor Molnar RIP Funeral Service 23 Jan 2pm

Anniversaries: John, Robert & Joan Rawsthorn. Elizabeth Kirby.

Those who are sick: Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn, Agnes Partington, Janet Hadfield.