



JESUITS
IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

8th March 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston



Carl Bloch 1834-1890

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

In his pastoral letter for the first Sunday of Lent, Bishop Paul focused particularly on the Gospel we hear today, the story of the woman at the well.

The woman comes to the well, to fetch water, where she encounters Jesus. It is doubly unexpected that Jesus would engage with her. Not only is she a woman on her own but she is also a Samaritan. In their conversation they talk about the conflict of belief between Samaritans and Jews. For the woman, coming to the well for water is a daily task but Jesus offers here the “Living Water”, the water that leads to eternal life. At the end of the encounter the woman goes off and tells her neighbours

about Jesus and what this encounter has meant for her.

We have this Gospel because water is an important symbol in our celebration of Easter. In the Easter Vigil readings we remember the Spirit hovering over the waters in the creation story and we remember God leading the people through the Red Sea as they escape from Egypt. This leads up to the celebration of baptism. This Sunday the Gospel is linked to the celebration of the first of the “Scrutinies” where we pray over those preparing for baptism during the Easter Vigil. Like the woman at the well, they have encountered Jesus and learned from him. They are about to enter into the water of life when they receive baptism. They too will be sent out to tell others of the Good News of new life in Jesus, strengthened by receiving the Spirit in confirmation.

As we hear today's Gospel let us pray for those being baptised, let us be open to encountering Jesus, let us renew our own baptismal commitment and let us share the Good News of Jesus with those around us.

Praying with St. Francis Xavier The Novena of Grace 4-12 March

O most kind and loving saint,
in union with you I adore the most divine
majesty.

The memory of the favours with which God
blessed you during life, and of your glory
after death fills me with joy.

And I unite with you in offering to him my
humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise.

I implore of you to secure for me, through
your powerful intercession, the all-important
blessing of living and dying in a state of
grace.

I also ask you to obtain the favour I ask in
this novena.

(Here pause to ask the favour you seek.)

But if what I ask is not for the greater glory
of God, or the good of my soul, obtain for me
what is most conducive to both. Amen.

O God, who was pleased to gather to your
Church the peoples of the East by the
preaching and miracles of St. Francis Xavier,
mercifully grant that we, who honour his
glorious merits, may also imitate the
example of his virtues, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now pray Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father



On Sunday, 15th March, after the
10.15am Mass, we, the African
community, would like to host a
short Mother's Day celebration in
the parish hall to honour our
mothers and all women in our
parish family, hosted by the
St Wilfrid African Choir.
Everyone is warmly invited
to join us.



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

<https://prayasyougo.org>

Daily prayer session for portable devices.

**1st March 2026 was the 20th anniversary
of PRAYING TOGETHER**

Using the scaffolding in the Jesuit
community car park for access, work has
been taking place to install steel work in
the space above the sanctuary of the
church. This is to stabilise the rear wall.
There is still some work to do to repair
other parts of the wall.

Thank you for your patience.

What is happening above the sanctuary?



Adult Lectors

Lent meeting on Saturday 7th March
10:30-12noon Meet in Church

Young Lectors

Meeting on Sunday 8th March
after the 10:15 Mass to 12noon.

**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS
UNATTENDED IN CHURCH**

There are opportunist thieves around



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.

Scan me



JOE WHITE,
UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC
CHAPLAIN

joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk
Tel. 07481 188102



TWO LENT RETREATS

ST WILFRID'S LENT RETREAT

Mondays 7– 8pm (except 16th March) in
the Parish Centre. Reflection on the theme
& ways of praying, time for personal
prayer & sharing.

TEACH US TO PRAY

**An Online Week of Retreat &
a School of Prayer.**

9th–13th March(7–8.30pm) plus day retreat
(10am–3pm) on Saturday 14th March. No
need to register. To receive the zoom link,
and a reminder nearer the time, email
Ursula, the Diocesan Spirituality Rep.

uwalker@uwclub.net

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT

For the Jude Christian Orphanage,
Zambia.

FRI 20th MARCH, 7^{PM} in Parish Centre

Tickets from Maria Hall or
St Wilfrid's Gift & Card Shop

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP



**BARBARA
MACLAREN**
has signed up for



Big Lent Walk

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

[walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/
fundraising/barbaras-fundraising-
for-water-page](http://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/barbaras-fundraising-for-water-page)

FRIDAYS DURING LENT after 12.15 Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

followed by **Soup Lunch**

Wish to help? Contact Jen

07957566741 jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk

Gift & Card Shop OPENING TIMES

After 10.15am Sunday Mass

Monday 11.30am to 1pm

Friday 11.30am to 12.10pm *

12.40pm to 1.00pm

***Closed for 12.15 Mass during Lent**

CASH & CARDS TAKEN

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!

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.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS WALK FROM
ST WILFRID'S TO LADYEWELL SHRINE**

On 26 March we will walk through the city
carrying a 6ft cross and stop along the way to
pray each station. **9am leave St Wilfrid's.**

12.30 Mass Ladyewell. Then social time, eat
packed lunches, visit the well & explore the
shrine. If you can't manage the 4 mile walk,
join us at the Shrine. Transport back to
St. Wilfrid's for walkers. Vital you

sign up so there is enough transport.

See fliers at back of Church.

Sign up by scanning this QR code:



VOLUNTEER NEEDED! To refill

**dispensers in the Parish Centre, check
all is tidy, note any repairs needed,**

restock. Contact Parish Administrator
01772 554396



UNVEILED

13th March 7.30-9pm
in St Wilfrid's 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 8 March

Third Sunday of Lent

Novena of Grace

Exodus 17:3-7 (Ps 95) Romans 5:1-2,5-8 John 4:5-42

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 9 March

LENTEN FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11.30am-12noon
 Exposition

11.30-1pm Gift & Card
 Shop Open Tea/coffee

Novena of Grace

7-8pm Lent Retreat

2 Kings 5:1-15 (Ps 42) Luke 4:24-30

Tue 10 March

ST JOHN OGILVIE SJ

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

6-7.30pm Metanoia
 Hot Meal Drop In

Novena of Grace

Daniel 3:25,34-43 (Ps 25) Matthew 18:21-35

Wed 11 March

LENTEN FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

5.15-5.45 Adoration
 of Blessed Sacrament

6.30pm Metanoia
 Clothes Drop In
 (Narthex)

Novena of Grace

Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9 (Ps 147) Matthew 5:17-19

Thu 12 March

LENTEN FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11-12noon
 Life Ascending
 (Coffee 10.30am)

Novena of Grace

Jeremiah 7:23-28 (Ps 95) Luke 11:14-23

Fri 13 March

LENTEN FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

After 12.15 Mass
 Stations of the Cross
 followed by ...

11.30am-12.10 & 12.40-1pm
 Gift & Card Shop Open
 Tea/coffee
 ...Soup Lunch

7.30-9pm Unveiled

Hosea 14:2-10 (Ps 81) Mark 12:28-34

Sat 14 March

LENTEN FERIA

Confessions 11-12.10
Confessions 5-5.30

Mass 12.15
VIGIL MASS 5.35pm

10-11am First Holy
 Communion Class

Hosea 5:15-6:6 (Ps 51) Luke 18:9-14

WE PRAY FOR

Those who died recently:

Anniversaries: Fr Gerry O'Mahoney SJ, Denise Varey, Ossie Kellet

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

St. Wilfrid's Presbytery, 1 Winckley Square, Preston, PR1 3JJ

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