



JESUITS
IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

1st February 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Today we begin Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes. Jesus spells out the people who are really blessed. They are not the ones of which our world immediately think.

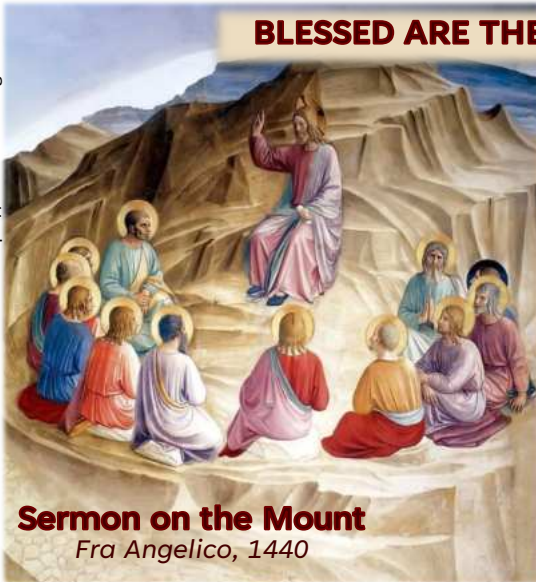
St Luke's version, which we heard last year, focused particularly on physical poverty. It is the poor who are really blessed. St Matthew talks about the poor in spirit. This is slightly less clear, but it suggests more an attitude. It has to do with recognising our place before God.

However, such humility also has implications for our attitude to other people. The poor in spirit are not people who dominate others. This is in stark contrast to the way many people think today. There is an idea that those with wealth and power should dominate the rest, whether we are thinking about individuals or nations. Humility is not a value in such a world.

Blessed are those who mourn is perhaps closer to Luke. God will bless those who are suffering in this world. However, in the other Beatitudes, the blessing is a response to the actions and attitude of those involved: the meek, those who seek righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, those who are persecuted in the cause of right. It gives us a pattern for our lives.

Overall the Beatitudes are a challenge to many of the values we see in the world, a challenge both to our own conduct and to the values with which we acquiesce.

Chris Pedley, S.J



Sermon on the Mount
Fra Angelico, 1440

Sunday 1st February is

World Day of Prayer for **Racial Justice**

This is an annual ecumenical observance, to encourage churches to reflect on anti-racism, celebrate diversity, and commit to ending discrimination, stemming from the 1993 murder of Stephen Lawrence.

It's a time for prayer, reflection and action, with themes often focusing on unity, hope and collective journeys toward justice, encouraging practical steps alongside spiritual commitment.

PRAYER BY YASHODA SUTCLIFFE

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

Lord Jesus Christ, in your ministry you were approached by people of many different nations & cultures. You listened to their cry for help, treated them with love & compassion, & brought them healing & wholeness.

In our own time may we provide to all those who are suffering the help that they need & the care that they require.

May we respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit to dream of a world made new where the poor are not forgotten but are given the opportunity to flourish with good health & equal prospects. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

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.

The Council meets 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.

Benozzo Gozzoli

1460–1461



Monday 2nd February **PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

My saving Lord, Your loving parents offered You to Your Father in the Temple in accordance with the Law You revealed to Moses. In that offering, our souls are purified and we are offered to Your Father with You. I thank You for the gift of salvation and pray that my soul will always radiate Your light as You dwell within me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Tuesday 3rd February

FEAST OF ST BLAISE

There will be the
BLESSING OF THROATS
after 12.15 Mass.

If you wish to receive this blessing Fr Hugh will be at the front of church after Mass has finished.



UNVEILED
13th February 7.30-9pm
in St Wilfrid's Church

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Classes for those wishing to make their First Holy Communion this year will begin on Saturday 7th February 10-11am in the Parish Centre.



If you have a child who wishes to join the classes please COMPLETE THE FORM AVAILABLE FROM MONICA HOLDSWORTH



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



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 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



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

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.



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.

Dr. Fenwick Lawson, the sculptor who produced the *St Wilfrid* and *Hidden Life* sculptures in the Narthex has died aged 93. Please pray for him and his family. **RIP**



In 2024 a blue plaque was unveiled at his former home in Durham to this world-renowned sculptor who lived there 1977–2015 and was the place where he created his many esteemed sculptures.

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 1 February

FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13 (Ps146) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Matthew 5:1-12a

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 2 Feb
PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11.30am-12noon
 Exposition

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

Malachi 3:1-4 (Ps 24) Luke 2:22-40

Tue 3 Feb
ST BLAISE

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15 REQUIEM

After 12.15 Mass
 Blessing of Throats

6-7.30pm Metanoia
 Hot Meal Drop In

2 Samuel 18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3 (Ps 86) Mark 5:21-43

Wed 4 Feb
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

5.15-5.45 Adoration
 of Blessed Sacrament

6.30pm Metanoia
 Clothes Drop In
 (Narthex)

2 Samuel 24:2,9-17 (Ps 32) Mark 6:1-6

Thu 5 Feb
ST AGATHA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11am Life Ascending
 (Coffee 10.30am)

1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12 1 Chronicles 29:10-12 Mark 6:7-13

Fri 6 Feb
SOCIETY OF
JESUS MARTYRS

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

After 12.15 Mass
 Lectio Divina
 Followed by...

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

Ecclesiasticus 47:2-11 (Ps 18) Mark 6:14-29

Sat 7 Feb
FERIA

Confessions 11-12.10 **Mass 12.15**
Confessions 5-5.30 **VIGIL MASS 5.35pm**

10-11am First Holy
 Communion Class

1 Kings 3:4-13 (Ps 119) Mark 6:30-34

WE PRAY FOR

Those who died recently: Esther Starkie RIP Requiem 3rd February @ 12.15pm

Anniversaries: Marie Murray, Dave Hatch, Godfrey O'Donnell

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