



**JESUITS**  
IN BRITAIN

# Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
LAETARE SUNDAY**



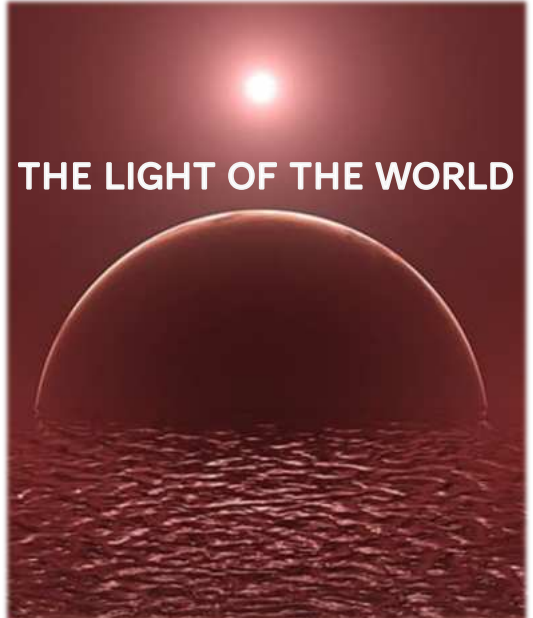
**St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston**

Last Sunday we had the story of the Woman at the Well where Jesus offers her “living water”. Today we have the story of the Man Born Blind and Jesus declares himself to be the “light of the world”.

The two symbols, water and light, play key roles in our celebration of Easter. At the Easter Vigil we begin with the service of light. We start with a lighted fire from which we light the Easter Candle and bring that light into church. We proclaim the Easter hymn of praise, the Exultet. After listening to the history of our salvation in scripture, we celebrate the liturgy of baptism. We bless the water, baptise those candidates who have been preparing over the months, we renew our own baptismal promises and we are sprinkled with the water.

There is something of the feel of that Easter joy in today's Mass. The entrance antiphon tells us to rejoice. We wear rose coloured vestments rather than the purple of the other days of Lent. However, there is also a pointer to the Passion in today's Gospel. The man born blind is excluded from the synagogue because he has been healed by Jesus on the sabbath and will not deny that he has been healed by Christ. This foreshadows what will shortly happen to Jesus himself when he is rejected by those same authorities and crucified.

Again, this Sunday, we pray over those who are being received into the Church in The Scrutinies. They have seen the light of Christ and, like the man born blind, they believe and they worship Jesus. St Paul tells us that we are called to be that light of Christ in our world, the mission we receive through our baptism.



**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**Mothering Sunday  
A Prayer for Mothers Worldwide**

Loving God,  
We thank you for the gift of mothers and all who nurture us. Today, we especially lift up mothers who face the trials of poverty, conflict, and injustice. Grant them courage and strength to overcome, and provide for their children's needs. We pray for a world where every mother has the resources to thrive, and where every child is safe and loved. May our hearts be moved to action, sharing your love with those far from our shores. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Happy  
Mothering  
Sunday*



Image by Jenny from Pixabay

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.



**Diocese of Lancaster  
Lourdes Pilgrimage  
2026**

Led by Bishop Swarbrick  
23-30 July

Contact Pilgrimage Director

Linda Wisdom **07738 022054**

[operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk](mailto:operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk)

More details on the Narthex noticeboard

**The Choral Pilgrimage 2026  
by The Sixteen**

25 April 2026 3.00 – 4.45 pm

at Blackburn Cathedral

£10 - £35 Tickets available at

[thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-blackburn/](https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-blackburn/)

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

There are opportunist thieves around

**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.

Scan me



**JOE WHITE,**  
**UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC**  
**CHAPLAIN**

[joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk](mailto:joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk)  
Tel. 07481 188102



## ST WILFRID'S LENT RETREAT

**NO MEETING MONDAY 16 MARCH.**

Resumes Monday 23 March 7– 8pm in the  
Parish Centre. Reflection on the theme &  
ways of praying, time for personal prayer  
& sharing.

### THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

Let us pray that nations move toward  
effective disarmament, particularly nuclear  
disarmament, and that world leaders choose  
the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead  
of violence.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.stwilfridspreston.org.uk)

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



### 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 PRAISE!**

27<sup>th</sup> March 7.30-9pm

in St Wilfrid's Church

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

**CHURCH OPEN 8AM-6PM**



**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE [stwilfridspreston.org.uk](http://stwilfridspreston.org.uk)**

**Sunday 15 March** Fourth of Lent Laetare Sunday

*1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a (Ps 23) Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41*

**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 16 March** **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **11.30am-12noon** **11.30-1pm** Gift & Card  
*LENTE FERIA* **Mass 12.15** Exposition Shop Open Tea/coffee

*Isaiah 65:17-21 (Ps 30) John 4:43-54*

**Tue 17 March** **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **6-7.30pm** Metanoia  
*ST PATRICK* **Mass 12.15** Hot Meal Drop In

*Jeremiah 1:4-9 (Ps 117) Luke 10:1-12,17-20*

**Wed 18 March** **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **5.15-5.45** Adoration of Blessed Sacrament **6.30pm** Metanoia  
*LENTE FERIA* **Mass 12.15** Clothes Drop In (Narthex)

*Isaiah 49:8-15 (Ps 145) John 5:17-30*

**Thu 19 March** **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **11-12noon**  
*ST JOSEPH PATRON OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS* **Mass 12.15** Life Ascending (Coffee 10.30am)

*2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16 (Ps 89) Romans 4:13-16,18-22 Matthew 1:16-18,21-24a*

**Fri 20 March** **Confessions 11.50-12.10** **After 12.15 Mass** **11.30am-12.10 & 12.40-1pm**  
*LENTE FERIA* **Mass 12.15** Stations of the Cross followed by ... Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee ...Soup Lunch

*Wisdom 2:1,12-22 (Ps 34) John 7:1-2,10,25-30*

**Sat 21 March** **Confessions 11-12.10** **Mass 12.15** **10-11am** First Holy  
*LENTE FERIA* **Confessions 5-5.30** **VIGIL MASS 5.35pm** Communion Class

*Jeremiah 11:18-20 (Ps 7) John 7:40-52*

**WE PRAY FOR**

**Those who died recently:**

**Anniversaries:** Gary Woods, Hilary Maddiss, Eileen Pawelko, Marie Hall

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