



JESUITS  
IN BRITAIN

# Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston



The Raising of Lazarus

## I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Today we hear the story of the raising of Lazarus. It is unusual in the way it shows Jesus interacting, not just with his disciples, but also his close friends. Jesus is a real human being with real relationships and real emotions.

In the Gospel, this scene of Jesus, united with his friends in their grief, becomes one in which Jesus reveals himself. Two weeks ago we saw Jesus as offering the water of life to the woman at the well, last week he revealed himself to the man born blind as the light of the world. Here, in his conversation with Martha, he reveals himself as the resurrection and the life. He says to her,

“If anyone believes in me, even though he

dies he will live and whoever believes in me will never die.” She expresses her faith in him as the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.” However, it is in his reaction to Mary’s distress that he demonstrates the truth of what has been said by raising Lazarus.

On the one hand, many come to believe in him because of what they have seen. However, for Jesus’ enemies this is one more reason to do away with him and John tells us they even plot against Lazarus. As we move on into the story of the Passion next Sunday we are called to the faith expressed by Martha. This is the faith being professed by those who have come forward to be received into the Church and for whom we pray again this week. As we celebrate Easter so we too affirm that we believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Through his cross and resurrection he overcomes death so that we might have life. Let us ask for that faith to be deepened as we celebrate the next two weeks.

Chris Pedley, S.J.

freeimages.com/photo/the-annunciation-painting-1992426?

# Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March The Annunciation of The Lord



When listening to the story of the Annunciation, we celebrate Mary's courage and generosity in saying 'yes' to God's invitation. Let's pray to have the same openness and follow Mary's example as Pilgrims of Hope.

### Prayer:

**Lord, help us to have the courage and strength to work for your kingdom of justice and to share your love with all. Amen.**

*Words above adapted from*



### The Angelus

The traditional prayer recalling the Annunciation, often prayed at noon:

**The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

**Hail Mary . . .**

**Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done unto me according to Thy word.**

**Hail Mary . . .**

**And the Word was made Flesh: and dwelt among us.**

**Hail Mary . . .**

**Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that, we to whom the incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**DONATE TO JRS**  
[www.jrsuk.net/donate/](http://www.jrsuk.net/donate/)

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



**MARRIAGE  
SUPPORT  
Need help?**

[www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)  
**07887 296 983 or 07973 380 443**



**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)

## **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/)

No refreshments in the Parish Centre  
after 10.15 Mass on Easter Sunday

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

**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



## PARISH QUIZ NIGHT

For the Jude Christian Orphanage,  
Zambia.

**FRI 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 7PM** 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)

**FRIDAY 27 MARCH** after 12.15 Mass

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

followed by **Soup Lunch**

**Lectio Divina & soup resumes Fri 24 April**

07957 566741 [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**

**CLOSED FROM GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL  
TO SUNDAY 12 APRIL**

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!

## ST WILFRID'S LENT RETREAT

**Mondays in Lent 7- 8pm**

**in the Parish Centre.**

Reflection on the theme, ways of  
praying, 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



## 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:**



## DONATE TO JESUIT MISSIONS

[jesuitmissions.org.uk/donate/](http://jesuitmissions.org.uk/donate/)



11 Edge Hill  
London SW19 4LR



## 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 22 March** Fifth Sunday of Lent

*Ezekiel 37:12-14 (Ps 130) Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45*

**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 March**

*LENTE FERIA*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**  
**Mass 12.15**

**11.30am-12noon**  
 Exposition

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

**7-9pm** Lent Retreat

*Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 (Ps 23) John 8:1-11*

**Tue 24 March**

*LENTE FERIA*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**  
**Mass 12.15**

**6-7.30pm** Metanoia  
 Hot Meal Drop In

*Numbers 21:4-9 (Ps 102) John 8:21-30*

**Wed 25 March**

*ANNUNCIATION*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**  
**Mass 12.15**

**5.15-5.45** Adoration  
 of Blessed Sacrament

**6.30pm** Metanoia  
 Clothes Drop In  
 (Narthex)

*Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10 (Ps 40) Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38*

**Thu 26 March**

*LENTE FERIA*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**  
**Mass 12.15**

**11-12noon**  
**Life Ascending**  
 (Coffee 10.30am)

*Genesis 17:3-9 (Ps 105) John 8:51-59*

**Fri 27 March**

*LENTE 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

*Jeremiah 20:10-13 (Ps 18) John 10:31-42*

**Sat 28 March**

*LENTE FERIA*

**Confessions 11-12.10**  
**Confessions 5-5.30**

**Mass 12.15**  
**VIGIL MASS 5.35pm**

**10-11am** **NO** First Holy  
 Communion Class  
**Resumes 18 April**

*Ezekiel 37:21-28 Jeremiah 31:10-13 John 11:45-56*

**WE PRAY FOR**

**Those who died recently:**

**Anniversaries:** Joe Porter, Eileen Judge, Seamus Ryan

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