
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">2nd Sunday of Easter (B)</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Mass Times and Intentions</h3> <h4 style="text-align: center;">Divine Office – Psalter Week 2</h4> 		
Saturday 11 th April	5.30pm	Teresa and Tom McEllin
Sunday 12 th April	11.00am	People of the Parish
Monday 13th April	<u>11.30am</u>	Requiem Mass – Ellen Taylor
Tuesday 14 th April	9.30am	Intentions of Pat and Tony Winstanley
Wednesday 15 th April	7.00pm	Ken Fidler
Thursday 16 th April	9.30am	Tom and Josie Simms (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
Saturday 18 th April	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 19 th April	11.00am	Intentions of Denise and Michael Liptrot

Sunday Liturgy

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Profession of Faith	Apostles'	p. 12
Preface	Easter I	p. 74
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 25

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for April



For priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

April is the month of the Holy Spirit. To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)



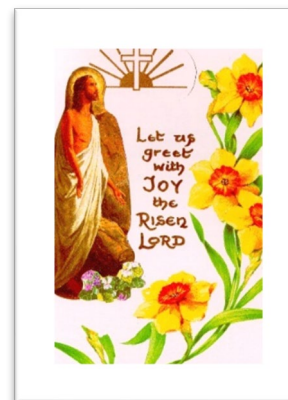
The Roman Catholic Parish of
Our Lady Help of Christians
 Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT

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2nd Sunday of Easter (B)

12th April 2026



The theme of the readings for this, the first Sunday after Easter, continues to reflect the joy of Easter as it should. We too should not let that joy fade from our lives so easily. It is something to be nourished through prayer and meditation. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central theme and event of all Christianity; and the more we understand it, the more meaningful our life here on earth will be to us and to others.

In the First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, we read where all the followers of Jesus, not just the apostles, were so enthusiastic about this "new way" of life that they lived in communities in order to share everything, both material and spiritual. This way, they could help in nourishing and sharing their newly found spiritual life in Christ with each other.

Because of this joy, many others came to believe and "the Lord added to their number."

The Responsorial Psalm is a continuation of the same psalm from Easter Sunday. It is an important liturgical poem sung at the Jewish Seder or Passover Meal. It recalls how the Israelites implored the God of Israel for help during a time of suffering and how God came to their rescue. The Psalmist then goes on to offer praises of thanksgiving acknowledging God's benevolence.

The Second Reading is from the First Letter of St. Peter. This portion of Peter's letter is a brief summary of the Christian life then and now. We should not think of Christ's Resurrection as something that happened 2000 plus years ago, but rather, as something that happens daily in every Mass— not just those we attend, but all Masses. They are the greatest prayers of Thanksgiving that one could offer for this sublime act of love.

The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of St. John. It is the night of the Resurrection, and Jesus appears in all His divine Glory before the apostles. Can you imagine the joy after the shock subsides? Then Thomas, who wasn't there, throws cold water on that event when he learns about it but refuses to believe. It takes another appearance of Christ to convince Thomas who then utters the great phrase of humility: "My Lord and my God!" Do you have doubts like that? It is natural, but we must not harbour them for long. Prayer is the answer.



Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

Parish Meeting

There will be a meeting for all Parishioners at 7.00pm on Wednesday 29th April in the Parish Hall. During this meeting we will give an update on recent developments and how these might affect the parish, and hopefully plan some future initiatives.

Grand Spring Raffle

Thank you so much for a wonderfully generous response to our Spring Raffle, which raised an incredible **£1145.00** for our Parish funds. This is far more than we expected, and at a time when there are so many calls on your generosity. There is a full list of winners in the porch.

Whiston Hospital

If you or a loved one are unfortunate enough to have to be admitted to Whiston Hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit from the Chaplaincy team, please phone the Chaplaincy Office on 0151 430 1979. Data protection rules mean that the Chaplaincy team are not allowed to ask if there are any Catholic patients who would like a visit.

St Helens Choral Society

St Helens Choral Society present their Spring concert '*Requiem - Eternal Rest & Consolation*' on Saturday 25th April, 7.30pm at St Luke's Church, Knowsley Road. Come and enjoy music by Gabriel Fauré and John Rutter. Admission £15 including a programme (under 16s £1) pay on the door.

Notre Dame Reunion

Did you attend a Notre Dame School in the Archdiocese of Liverpool? There will be a reunion on 17th May for all ex-pupils & teachers, consisting of Mass at 11.00am followed by a complimentary light lunch & a social finishing at 3.00pm, at the Irenaeus Centre, Waterloo. A donation for our current charity & a raffle prize would be appreciated. Please try to attend, all are welcome. Reply by 3rd May to Bernie Shaw, 0161 483 0173

Liverpool Bach Collective

The Liverpool Bach Collective aims to put on performances of J S Bach's cantatas in churches in and around Liverpool every month as part of Sunday Evening Prayer. The next event takes place at The Church of At Agnes and St Pancras, Ullet Road, Liverpool, , L17 3BA, at 6.30pm on Sunday 26th April. It Features Cantata No. 104, "O Shepherd of Israel Hear Us", reflecting the Gospel passage in which Christ reveals that he is the Good Shepherd.

Feast Days This Week

Monday

Blessed Miles Gerard – He was born at Wigan in the year 1550. He was tutor to the children of the squire of Morleys Hall, Astley, before training for the priesthood at Douai and Reims, where he continued to teach until 1589. Having sailed to England he was arrested as a traitor, tortured and executed at Rochester. He was beatified with the other English Martyrs by Pope Pius XI in 1929.

St Martin – He was born at Todi in Umbria. He joined the diocese of Rome and was elected pope in the year 649. He had been a reader and deacon before his election, and was crowned without the consent of the Emperor Constans II. The same year he presided over the Council at the Lateran that condemned the heresy of the Monothelites that taught that as a human Christ had no free will. In 653 he was seized by the Emperor Constans and taken to Constantinople where he was treated harshly; then he was moved to Kherson in the Crimea where he starved and died three months later in the year 656. He is the last Pope to have been martyred.

Tuesday

St Peter Gonzales – Born in Astorga, Spain, he entered the Dominicans and became the chaplain and confessor of King St. Ferdinand of Castile. He preached a campaign against the Moors, and then cared for the captured Muslims. After retiring from court, Peter devoted his life to preaching in northwest Spain. He also cared for Spanish and Portuguese sailors, who dubbed him Thelmo, after St. Elmo. He died on April 15th 1246, and is buried at the local cathedral.

Wednesday

St Paternus - The first 5th century saint. He followed his father's path by becoming a hermit in Wales. He founded the monastery at the great church of Paternus, and became a bishop of that region. He was known for his preaching, charity and mortifications.

Thursday

St Bernadette (Marie Bernadette Soubirous) – She was a young French girl known for her Marian visions at Lourdes in 1858. She is celebrated for her simplicity, humility and steadfast faith. The apparitions at Lourdes, which took some time to be officially recognised by the Church, and her unwavering trust in the Blessed Virgin Mary's messages have made her a beloved figure. She spent the latter part of her life as Sister Marie Bernarde at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity in Nevers. Her memorial encourages reflection on faith, suffering, and the miraculous healing associated with Lourdes.

Friday

St Anicetus – A Syrian from Emesa, he became Pope about the year 155. He was the first Roman Bishop to condemn heresy by forbidding Montanism, and he also opposed the Gnostics and Marcionism. His pontificate saw the appearance of the dispute between East and West over the date of Easter. St Polycarp, a disciple of St John the Evangelist, is reported to have visited him in Rome about the dispute, which was to grow more heated over the following centuries.

Saturday

St Apollonius – 2nd Century Martyr whose Apologia, or defence of the faith, is considered one of the most priceless documents of the early Church. Apollonius was a Roman senator who was denounced as a Christian by one of his slaves. The Praetorian Prefect, Sextus Tigidius Perennis, arrested him, also putting the slave to death as an informer. Perennis demanded that Apollonius denounce the faith, and when he refused, the case was remanded to the Roman senate. There a debate took place between Perennis and Apollonius that clearly outlines the beauty and the value of Christianity. Despite his eloquent defence, Apollonius was condemned and beheaded.

