
 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (A)</b> <b>Mass Times and Intentions</b> <b>Divine Office – Psalter Week 1</b> 		
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am	Michael Tiernan
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	Julia Guo
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	Paul Lowrey
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	11.00am	John Roscoe

## Sunday Liturgy

<b>Proper of the Mass</b>		<b>p. 170</b>
Penitential Rite	Form A	p. 8
Profession of Faith	Apostles'	p. 12
Preface	Lazarus	p. 72
Eucharistic Prayer	Reconciliation 2	p. 25

## The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March



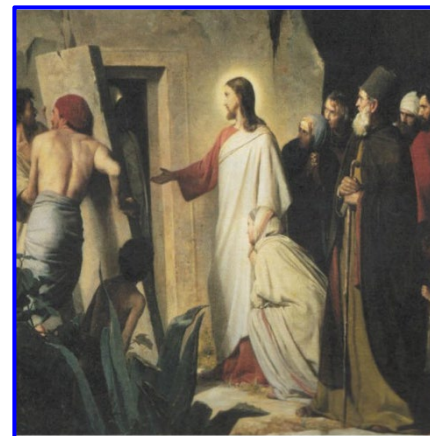
**For disarmament and peace.** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**March** is the month of St Joseph, husband of Mary. He was the foster father of God's only Son, Jesus, "hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, who ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth" (Pope Leo XIII). He is the Patron of the Universal Church, and his Feast is on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

	<b>The Roman Catholic Parish of</b> <b>Our Lady Help of Christians</b> Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT		
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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (A)

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026



**The Raising of Lazarus**

The First Reading is from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. At the time of this story, the people of Israel are captives in Babylon, languishing as if they were "dry bones in the desert." Through this vision of the dry bones, God tells the Prophet to announce that He will in time restore the exiled people of Judah. This will not be a return to their former status and shame under the Monarchy, but to a new life governed not by kings and princes but by the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. So, when you feel "down" or depressed, call on the Holy Spirit. He is within all who are baptized and waiting for our call.

The Responsorial Psalm is one of the seven penitential Psalms used in various liturgies. In it, the psalmist begs for God's mercy and

forgiveness of his sins. At the same time, this is an instruction to all the People of God to wait patiently in hope for the Lord's redemption.

In the Second Reading Paul gives the Romans and all of us an updated teaching similar to that of the Prophet Ezekiel above. "Updated" because this writing comes from a time after Christ's Resurrection and the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all people to guide us back to the Father. If we do not have the Spirit dwelling within us, we will be like those "dry bones in the desert." So "ask and you shall receive!"

In the Gospel Reading from John we have an extensive teaching by Jesus but it is buried in a long story, one that everyone has heard many times. We are all captivated by the spectacular story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and rightly so. However, this is not the essence of this Gospel message. The real message is Jesus' statement, "I am the resurrection and the life," etc. Through this story and His statement, Jesus is telling all people that He is in control of both physical and spiritual life and we only need to have His Holy Spirit dwelling within us, guiding us, to partake of His resurrection. "Do you believe this?" Can you respond with the same answer as Martha did?



## Offertory Collection/Donations

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

## The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is a wonderful season of penance and spiritual renewal that prepares us to celebrate the great feast of the Lord's Death and Resurrection at Easter. To help us in our preparation the Church encourages us to practice faithfully the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There is no better way to sanctify the season than the frequent celebration of Mass for those who are able.



## Easter Services

The main Holy Week Services this year will be:

Passion Sunday	~	5.30pm	Saturday Mass with Blessing of Palms
	~	11.00am	Mass with Blessing of Palms
Maundy Thursday	~	5.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	~	3.00pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	~	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>
Easter Sunday	~	11.00am	Mass of Easter

All Services during Holy Week are listed in a booklet available in the porch – do please take one.

## Exposition and Benediction

There will be a period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 9.30am Mass this Thursday with the theme "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel". The service will end with Benediction.

## Grand Spring Raffle

The Finance & Admin Committee are holding a Spring Raffle to boost Church Funds. 1st prize £100!! Many other prizes as well. Tickets 50p each or a book for £2.50 Tickets on sale after Saturday and Sunday Masses in the side Chapel from this weekend until the 21st March. There will be books to pick up in the porch. You can return them with the monies after Mass in the side Chapel. The draw will take place in the Church Hall after Mass on Sunday 22nd March 2026. **Thank you for your support!**

## Bereavement Group

The next meeting of the Bereavement Group will be at 2.00pm this coming Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, in the Parish Hall.

## CAFOD Lent Fast Day

There are baskets at the back of Church and in the porch for the return of CAFOD Family Fast envelopes and any extra donations to CAFOD. We will keep the collection open during Lent. Thank you for your generosity.

## Service of Reconciliation

As part of our preparation for Easter there will be a Service of Reconciliation, with General Absolution, at 7.00pm on Monday of Holy Week (30<sup>th</sup> March).

## Carrying of the Cross – Liverpool

The annual Carrying of the Cross will be taking place in Liverpool City Centre on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. It will start at Church Street, and finish at the Bombed Out Church (St Luke's) and be followed by a short service. The meeting place is the corner of Church Street and Lord Street at 1.45pm. All are welcome to attend. They are also looking for stewards to assist on the day - please contact Jim Ross on jimmy.ross7@gmail.com

## Feast Days This Week

### Tuesday

**St Aldemar** - Abbot and miracle worker, called "the Wise." Born in Capua, Italy, he became a monk in Monte Cassino and was called to the attention of a Princess Aloara of the region. When she built a new convent in Capua, Aldemar became the director of the religious in the established house. He performed many miracles in this capacity. Aldemar was reassigned by his abbot to Monte Cassino, a move that angered the princess. As a result, Aldemar went to Boiana, Italy, where a companion involved in the dispute tried to kill him. Aldemar fled into the region of Bocchignano, Abruzzi, where he founded several more religious houses.

### Wednesday

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD** – we commemorate the Visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary at Bethlehem, when Mary learnt that she was to become the Mother of God's only Son. Although frightened and confused, Mary put her complete trust in God, and responded to the Angel with the words "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me". In this Feast we see the true beginnings of our salvation, preparing to celebrate the Incarnation of God's only Son.

### Thursday

**St Castulus** - He was a martyr who was put to death for his faith in 286 He was a Chamberlain of Emperor Diocletian who sheltered Christians in his own home and arranged for religious services inside the imperial palace. Because of his activity in bringing converts to Pope St. Caius to be baptized he was tortured and put to death.

### Friday

**St Peter Regulatus** - Peter was born in the year 1390 at Valladolid, Spain, to a noble family, and entered the Franciscan Order in his native city at the age of thirteen. After several years, he transferred to a far more austere monastery at Tribulos, where he became known for his severe asceticism as well as his abilities to levitate and enter into ecstasies. A success as abbot, he gave himself over to bringing needed reforms to the monastery and to promoting reforms in other Franciscan houses. For his zeal in adhering to the rules of the community he was designated Regulatus. He was also noted for his charity to the poor. He died in the year 1456, and his grave became a place of pilgrimage.

### Saturday

**St Benjamin** - was a deacon martyred circa 424 in Persia. Benjamin was executed during a period of persecution of Christians that lasted forty years and through the reign of two Persian kings: Isdegerd I, who died in 421, and his son and successor, Varanes V. King Varanes carried on the persecution with such great fury that Christians were submitted to the most cruel tortures. Benjamin was imprisoned for a year for his Christian faith, and later released with the condition that he abandon preaching or speaking of his religion. Benjamin, however, declared it was his duty to preach Christ and that he could not be silent, and so he was tortured and martyred.