

# TOGETHER

Our Lady of Lourdes & St Joseph  
+ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time +  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2012 + Year B +

Mass Schedule	Our Lady of Lourdes	St Joseph
<b>Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	5.30pm John Whittle	7pm Huguette Calixti
<b>Sunday</b>	11am Joan V Foster b'day rem.	9.30am John Lomax anniv.
Mon <i>St Paul Miki &amp; Companions</i>		10am Elizabeth Dewsnap
Tue	10am Dorothy Plinston	
Wed		10 am Kevin Deegan
Thurs	10am Bernadette Sherridan LD	11 am Anchor Court – Jim Boyle
Fri – <i>St Scholastica</i>	1.30pm School Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes– Leo Howard	10am Derek Perry (sick)
<b>Sat Our Lady of Lourdes Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	9am 5.30pm John Watson	7pm Anthony Clayton
<b>Sunday</b>	11am Ray O'Brian	9.30am The Parishioners

**We pray for the sick** Mary Teresa Millington, Mike Kenny, Fr Alan Devaney, Louise Booth, Patricia Costgrove, Nicholas Saltrese, Renee Sproat, Vera Robinson, Andrew McFayden, Mia King, Mike Cooper, Hilda Stoker, Semeona Flores, Marie Paton, Therese Bibby **Lately Dead** Patricia Mann, Elizabeth (Penny Howard's Mum), Fr Dermot O'Donoghue **Anniversaries** Leo Howard, Joseph Leo Howard, Huguette Calixti, Joan V Foster, John Lomax, Christina Bowman, Sr De Montfort (Anne Goss), Sidney Milne. **Also:** Fr Brendan O'Sullivan who last Monday celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Many thanks for all you do for us.

## The Liturgy this Week

Preface for Sundays 3  
Eucharistic Prayer 2

**Little Church** at both Sunday Masses.

**Rosary** 9.40am Mon, Wed, Fri at St Joseph

**Church Cleaning** Thursday 9am Our Lady of Lourdes - Friday after Mass St Joseph

**Confessions** St Joseph Fridays after 10am Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes Saturdays after 9am Mass.

**Collection** Envelopes £1,458.58 Loose £234.00

**Total £ 1,692.58 – Received with thanks!!!**

**The Ladies Group** meet Mondays at 2pm in Meeting Rooms.

**To hire the Meeting Rooms call Sheila Ball on 567788**

**Choir Practice** Wednesday 7.30pm, all voices - new members welcome.

## Pope's Intentions for February

*General intention* That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.

*Missionary intention* That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.



## Bulletin Fillers!

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the centre of attention.

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"Somebody has well said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay, said his father. "So, son, what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

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Parish Priest Fr Atli Jonsson, 40 York Road,  
Southport PR8 2AY, Tel 01704 568313,  
[ajonsson@btinternet.com](mailto:ajonsson@btinternet.com)  
Parish Deacon Rev Bill Ball, Tel 567788  
<http://birkdalecatholics.com>

## Something to think and pray about

Each of us is a book, telling the story of grace, but we do not know this. It is good to take time to open your book. You turn the pages, identify the main themes and the central characters. You can ponder how to construct the chapters of your life that are still to come.

Yours is a unique story, a first edition. It is as yet incomplete – there are, you hope, plenty of blank pages ahead. But you may consider that your tale is pretty ordinary and dull. Your image of yourself may be of someone who plods along quietly and alone, and that no intelligent publisher would dream that your manuscript could become a best-seller.

But when you catch on to the fact that your text is co-authored, everything changes. You look back on the chapters written so far with a new interest. You begin to see what the ghost-writer – God! – has been up to. You discover that the story-line is incredibly rich. The plot got under way a long time ago, 13.7 billion years ago in fact, when the world was brought into being. This book will be no paperback, then, but a blockbuster.

Maybe you begin to get into the habit of consulting with your ghost-writer on how to construct the next chapter, and then the one after that. As you look further ahead, you come to see that the final chapter will be written posthumously, not by you but by God. Yet it won't be simply a conclusion followed by a full stop. Instead, there will be a comma or semi-colon, which we call 'death' and then the plot will open out into exciting scenarios you could never have dreamed of. The chapters written so laboriously in this world will seem like a short introduction to the endless volumes about the life to come, and your role in it. The scenario will be unimaginably exciting, and the relationships you make will be totally satisfying.

*Mass with and for Healthcare Workers,  
3pm Sunday 12 February at Christ the  
King, Queens Drive. Celebrant Bishop Tom  
Williams.*

*Civic Mass also marking the Golden Jubilee  
of Priestly Ordination of Archbishop Kelly:  
3pm Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at the  
Metropolitan Cathedral.  
All welcome to attend!*

## Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes 11 February

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin."

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters.

