

TOGETHER

Newsletter for Catholics in Birkdale
19th March 2023 + Fourth week in Lent
Sundays Year A + Week Days Year I



Healing of the Blind Man by Duccio di Buoninsegna (1255-1319)

Getting ready for Easter!

Penance Service at St Teresa's on Monday 27th March at 7pm.

Times for the Holy Week Liturgies

Maundy Thursday

Mass of the Last Supper 7pm at St Joseph's.

Watching at the altar of repose until Night Prayer at 10pm

Good Friday

Devotions 10am at St Teresa's

Liturgy of the Passion at Our Lady of Lourdes at 3pm,
with Children's Liturgy

Holy Saturday

The Easter Vigil 8pm at Our Lady of Lourdes

Easter Sunday usual Mass times:

St Joseph's: 8.30am and 9.30am * St Teresa's: 11am

Gift Aid Thanks to all who have taken Offertory Envelopes. By using Gift Aid Tax payers increase their donation by 25%. To join the scheme speak to the gift aid co-ordinators or contact the office (tel. 568313).

QUIZ NIGHT (in aid of Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund) on Friday March 24th at 7.45pm in the MEETING ROOMS next to Our Lady of Lourdes Church £5 Adults £3 Students. All welcome.

Coffee and Cake after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's. All proceeds go to the Ukraine Appeal.

Tea/Coffee at St Teresa's. Volunteers needed on a monthly rota to serve tea and coffee after the 11am Mass.

Family Mass We welcome staff and children from Our Lady of Lourdes School at the 9.30am Mass this Sunday.



Best wishes to all
Mothers

www.birkdalecatholics.com

The new website is now live.

To follow daily Mass from
St Joseph's church go to
www.churchservices.tv/birkdale

Offertory

Offerings **£ 2,335.69**

Food Vouchers £130

Since November 2020 you have raised
£81,386.56

and are helping 96 families
with 176 children.

Ukraine Appeal £ 20 Total **£16,035.50**

CAFOD £3,096.00 plus £1,005 for the
earthquake appeal

Need help from the SVP? Leave a
message or text 07716143603

Saturdays Silent Meditation

10am at St Joseph's.

Thursday Art Class

again in person

Thursdays 1.30-3pm

Contact Judith Hays 07727879600.

Spanish Class Thursdays 10am in the
Meeting Room. Tanya

07834563424



French conversation classes

in the
meeting rooms on Tuesdays 1pm -
2.30pm & Fridays 10.30am to 12 Noon.

Contact sophie.payne@yahoo.com

Church Cleaning

St Teresa Saturday 10am.

Our Lady of Lourdes Thursday 9am

St Joseph, Friday after Mass

Can you help?

Many hands make light work!

The Music Group at St Teresa

rehearses before Mass on Sunday
mornings 10.15am.

Children's Liturgy

Our Lady of Lourdes 6pm

St Joseph 9.30am

St Teresa 11am

Confessions

St Joseph's Friday at 10.30am

OLOL Saturday 5.30pm

Other times upon request

"Thank You"

for parking responsibly at church!

Parish Priest: Fr Atli Jónsson

40 York Road, Southport PR8 2AY, Tel 01704 568313 birkdalecatholics@rcaol.org.uk

Deacon: Rev Bill Ball, Tel 567788. Parish webpage www.birkdalecatholics.com

Facebook: Birkdale Catholics Diocese www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Other parishes in the deanery: St John Stone & Sacred Heart Tel. 577722 * St Marie & St Patrick Tel. 531229 *
Holy Family Tel. 532613 * Formby 873230 * Hightown 0151 929 2149

MASS THIS SUNDAY

Preface *The Man Born Blind* - Eucharistic Prayer II

Collect

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the first book of Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22(23)

**R. The Lord is my shepherd:
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!

Gospel John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts

I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;
the night will soon be here when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world

I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?'

'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:

'It is for judgement
that I have come into this world,
so that those without sight may see
and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were,
you would not be guilty,
but since you say, "We see,"
your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Jesus said:
*I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
*At the words that follow, up to and including
the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer over the Offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

O God, who enlighten everyone
who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty
and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Liverpool Pilgrimage to Lourdes Centenary Year – we need your help!

This summer will mark 100 years since the first
Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

To mark this special occasion we are asking
people to share their memories of the
pilgrimage, photographs or video clips you may
have. These will be collated for use on the
archdiocesan website, social media channels
and the Pictorial.

It could be that generations of your family have
travelled to Lourdes, you could have photos
from decades ago or even that a member of
your family went on the first pilgrimage in 1923.

Any material that you are happy for us to share
publicly, or your own video message, can be
sent by email to:

communications@rcaol.org.uk and

lourdespilgrimage@rcaol.org.uk

Please include your name, your parish and the
year you travelled.

More details on liverpoolcatholic.org.uk



Praying with the Pope in March

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering. www.thepopevideo.org

We Pray for the Sick

Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Baby Max, Tyler, Callan Sankey, Joseph Harnick, Nella, Baby Leighton, Ryan Ward, Tim Nuttall, Karen Manley, Zoe Waters, Pauline McNulty, John Smith, Jonathan Morley, Olive Walshe, Maureen Doran, Elizabeth Loudon, Pam Wheeler, Dave Formby, Pat Little, Valerie Bennett, Jemima Jenkins, Kathryn Harding, Michael Hegarty, Marian Ball, Ciara Lea, Muriel Appleton, Pat Stoneman, Claire Kenyon, Michael Brady, Margaret Chisnall, Mike Barber, Richard Hughes, Mary Stanton, Pat Rogan, Lindsey Rodgers, Kathleen Jenkinson, John Walton, Margherita Grilli, Sue Woolley, Leon Merone, Angela Forshaw, Nel Berry, Margaret Linley, Stephen White, Marion Hope, Margaret Mary Smith, Peter Martin, David Murphy, Jean-Pierre Ribagnac, Evelyn Pinnington

The Lately Dead

George Raymond (Ray) Ormesher, Sylvia Flynn, Margaret Curry, Joseph Heaton

Anniversaries

Ellen Theresa Niblock, Luke Berry, Ann Slattery, Joan Dominicus

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From Irenaeus 32 Great Georges Road L22 1RD
Scripture Mornings Discover the Letters to the Thessalonians. From 10.30am – 12 noon on Thursday 23rd March. No charge but donations appreciated. To book a place: jenny@irenaeus.co.uk / Tel. 0151 9491199.

Talk and Mass on the Feast of St Oscar Romero
7pm Thursday 23rd March 2023, Saint Edmund of Canterbury, Waterloo. Peggy Healy will talk on: "Responding to the Cry of the Poor Today".

Catholic Chaplaincy at Southport Hospital and Queenscourt Hospice Contact Maria Parker: **07467 374830** (during normal office hours). In an emergency ask the ward staff to contact the priest on-call.

LGBTQ Mass

Sunday 16th April 2023, St Agnes & St Aidan, 82 Huyton Hey Road, Liverpool L36 5SQ. Mass at 2pm followed by a social gathering.

Social Events - Dates for your Dairy

Coronation Tea Party Sunday 7th May from 2.30pm in the Garden at St Joseph's.

Summer Barbeque Sunday 13th August.

Further events are being planned and when the dates have been set we will add them.

From the Pastoral Council.



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday Vigil at Our Lady of Lourdes 6pm

Int of Anne Howard
St Joseph 8.30am John Coughlan RIP
St Joseph 9.30am Luke Berry A
St Teresa 11am Francis Golden RIP
St Joseph 3.30pm *Evening Prayer and Benediction*

The Weekday Masses are at St Joseph's

Mon	10am	<i>Solemnity of St Joseph</i> Frank Steel
Tues	10am	John Mullin Sick
Wed	10am	Dermot Williams
Thurs	10am	Ann Slattery A
Fri	9.30am	<i>Stations of the Cross</i> Sylvia Flynn

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Saturday Vigil at Our Lady of Lourdes 6pm

Joan Dominicus A
St Joseph 8.30am Private Intention
St Joseph 9.30am Margaret McGrath RIP
St Teresa 11am Brian Cooper RIP
St Joseph 3.30pm *Evening Prayer and Benediction*

Funerals

Sylvia Flynn Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 20th March at 12 Noon.

Margaret Curry, Requiem Mass at St Teresa's, Wednesday 29th March at 1pm.

Joseph Heaton Funeral Service at St Teresa's, Friday 31st March at 12 Noon.

