

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE

1st March 2026

Second Sunday of Lent International Mass

Parish Clergy

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Parish office hours: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am till 12 Noon

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

Responsorial Psalm – Second Sunday in Lent
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 28/2	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	John Lynch Father David Elder
Sunday 1/3	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Julia Nolan RIP Gary Nathaniel Preston RIP
Tuesday 3/3	St Patrick's	10.00am	NO MASS
Wednesday 4/3	St Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	John Ayre – get well wishes Nim Thwait
Thursday 5/3	St Mary's	12.10pm	Mavis Kingsley – Birthday wishes
Friday 6/3	St Patrick's St Mary's	10.00am 1.30pm	Michael and Linda Ronayne – special intention World Day of Prayer Service
Saturday 7/3	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Roger Byrne RIP Joe and Danny McAlea - RIP
Sunday 8/3	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	James Case Birthday Theresa Spencer RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Jim Murphy, Eamonn Rowan, Irene Benson, Dean Brownlee, Edgardo Hecate, Dee Rowley, Winnie Coupe, Zoe Jarman, Karen Guerrero, Win Cowell, Tony Manley, Jennifer Doherty, Cameron Vincent Seddon, Yvonne McNulty, Neil Smith, Joan Rowlands, Davina Tetteh, Amy Wilkinson, Siobhan Smith, and the sick and housebound in the parish and those in local hospitals and nursing homes.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for Paul Austin and all those whose first anniversaries occur between 1st and 7th March and all those named on the anniversaries list for February which can be found in each church.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday 9.30am until 9.55am, followed by 10.00am Mass; Thursday 11:00am until 12 noon followed by the 12.10pm Mass; Saturday 11.00 until 11.25 am

CONFESSIONS: **Wednesday:** St. Mary's, 7.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
Saturday: St. Mary's, 10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
Saturday: St. Patrick's, 5.15 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: 397 **WEEKLY COLLECTION:** £1346.73

Please return all Lent Fast Day envelopes this weekend, if you don't have it with you drop in through the presbytery letterbox. There is also a retiring collection for CAFOD at the end of each Mass for those who do not use the envelopes.

PARISH NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: If you are new to the area, or are visiting us just for the weekend, you are very welcome! Please introduce yourself to Fr Darren or Deacon John.

THANK YOU: To the choirs for their uplifting music and singing which enhance our Masses every week. You are much appreciated. I often receive positive comments about the music at Mass.

LENTEN SOUPS: Lenten soups will continue after 12.10 p.m. Mass on Thursdays. Donations to the RNLI. SVP lunch will still go ahead on Thursday 5th March.

SVP LUNCH: will take place on Thursday 5th March after 12.10 p.m. Mass. Please sign up on the sign-up sheets at the back of church. All are welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year St Mary's welcomes all local Christians to join with us and Christians around the world in a service prepared by women in Nigeria. The theme this year is: 'I will give you rest, come.' Everyone is very welcome to the service and afterwards share refreshments in the Newman Centre. The World Day of Prayer service takes place Friday 6th March at 1.30 p.m. This will be followed by refreshments in the Newman Centre.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH: We have recently fitted some extra radiators in the main entrance and the corridor behind the kitchen and confessional. The reason we fitted these is due to the build-up of damp and the crumbling of the walls. They have been in for over a month now and they are doing the job in drying out these walls. We have also recently fitted some air vents in the back wooden altar; this is to help with air circulation. The lack of ventilation is causing damage to the walls. We will remove this altar in the next few weeks to have a look at the extent of the damage and to see if any repairs are needed. With regard to the water ingress as you all know we have done a lot of work regarding this over the last year or so. We still have a few small areas with water ingress, which we will address in the coming week. It is my hope to be able to start work on improving the décor of the porch after Easter. We would also hope to begin painting the inside of the church, we will start with the corridor behind the kitchen.

ST MARY'S CHURCH: As you are all aware this week, we had two new boilers fitted. You will have noticed over the last few months that the church had been colder than usual. This was due to the fact that one boiler had completely stopped working and was condemned. The second boiler which we have been running on was on its last legs, hence the reason why we have had two new ones fitted. The cost of the boilers was just under £12,000. Also, recently we have refurbished the disabled toilet and repainted the walls and fitted a heater. A volunteer in the parish made good the walls and painted them, so many thanks for doing this. We continue to monitor the drying out of the walls after the work we had done on the coping stones last year. We would hope to start looking at painting soon. Further work with regard to the coping stones is needed, above the main church doors and the coping stones on the presbytery. This work is due to begin week commencing 18th May 2026.

GIFT AID: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TAXPAYERS:

We are about to place the order for the gift aid envelopes. If you are a taxpayer and have not signed a gift aid declaration please do so as the parish will receive 25p from the government for every £1 you give, this does not cost you any more money. Please let us know if you would like a set of gift aid envelopes for your weekly contributions to the church. Alternatively, you can pay your contribution directly into the parish bank account, all forms are available at the back of each church. Also, if you are no longer a taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, please let the office know. We had a number of boxes left over last year so if you no longer wish to donate this way please let the office know. If you currently already have envelopes you do not need to do anything. These will be reissued to you in due course.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2026: this year's confirmation programme will commence on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 6.00 p.m. in the Newman Centre. Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

CARDS: St. Patrick's and Ordination cards are now available from the piety stalls.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: We are seeking volunteers for the washing of the feet (12 volunteers) on Maundy Thursday. This was stopped during the COVID but we have never been able to get enough volunteers since to reintroduce this important part of the Maundy Thursday liturgy. If you are willing to undertake this key role please give your name to Father Darren or Deacon John.

OTHER NEWS:

MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF HYNING:

An Online week of retreat and a school of prayer: 9th to 13th March (7.00 – 8.30 p.m.) plus a day retreat (10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.) on Saturday 14th March. If you feel you need help with prayer, you are in good company; so, did the first disciples. During this week in mid-Lent, we will introduce a variety of ways of praying each evening and do the same again on Saturday. Come to any or all of the online evening meetings or the Saturday. If you want a double dose, come to both! For access to the zoom link please email Ursula, our Diocesan Spirituality Rep uwalker@uwclub.net

Individually guided retreat in the Ignatian tradition: Friday 24th April to Sunday 3rd May or Saturday 25th April to Saturday 2nd May. For more info visit: hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk or phone: 01524 732684.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026: The Diocese of Lancaster Lourdes Pilgrimage will begin on 23rd July 2026, led by Bishop Paul Swarbrick. A full religious programme has been organised with the Joe Walsh Tours team including visits to the Grotto Baths, Basilicas and the Stations of the Cross. Please see the poster at the back of church. Bookings and further details can be found at:

<https://joewalshstours.co.uk/pilgrimages/group-diocesanpilgrimages/diocese-of-lancaster-lourdes-pilgrimage/>

POPE LEO XIV'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026



Pope Leo XIV has addressed a message to the entire Church regarding Lent 2026. He encourages a return to the centre of Christian life - the mystery of God - so that faith may regain its momentum and hearts may not be scattered among everyday worries and distractions. The Pope proposes three concrete attitudes to make Lent a true journey of conversion:

1. Listening

Leo XIV emphasises the importance of giving space to the Word of God through listening, which is the first sign of willingness to enter into relationship with others. Listening requires interior silence and engagement with Sacred Scripture - this is not just a devotional gesture, but the condition for recognising the Lord's voice amid so many voices. Such listening also educates the heart to perceive the cry of those who suffer, the poor, and victims of injustice, ensuring that faith does not remain theoretical, as the cry of those who suffer constantly challenges our lives.

2. Fasting

The second proposal is fasting, understood not only as abstaining from food, but as an integral exercise involving the body and ordering desires. Fasting helps discover what is truly essential, awakens hunger for justice, and frees us from resignation. The Pope emphasises that this practice must be lived with humility and united to prayer to avoid formalism and pride: "in order that fasting may preserve its evangelical truth and avoid the temptation to make the heart proud, it must always be lived in faith and humility." Fasting teaches us to govern our desires by purifying, freeing, and expanding them toward God and good deeds.

3. Fasting from Hurtful Words

Leo XIV draws particular attention to an under-appreciated form of abstinence - refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. "Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves," the Pope says. He encourages measuring our words and cultivating kindness in families, among friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Communal Dimension

The Pope reminds us that Lent is not an individualistic journey, but a communal one. Parishes, families, and communities are called to walk together, sharing in listening to the Word, fasting, and conversion of life. It is not only about personal changes, but about transforming relationships, dialogue, and the style of living together, so that the Church may become a place where suffering is welcomed and paths of hope are born.

Leo XIV concluded his message with a call to prayer: "Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask for the grace to live a Lent that will make our ears more attentive to God and to those most in need. Let us ask for the strength of a fast that also reaches the tongue, so that the words that hurt may diminish and the space for the voice of others may grow. And let us commit ourselves so that our communities become places where the cry of those who suffer is welcomed and listening generates paths of liberation, making us more willing and diligent to contribute to build the civilisation of love."

The Pope's 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.

THREE PILLARS OF LENT



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING



The **Stations of the Cross**, also known as the **Way of the Cross** or *Via Crucis*, is a popular Catholic devotion that commemorates the Passion and death of Jesus Christ. It consists of 14 specific events (stations) beginning with His condemnation by Pontius Pilate and ending with His burial in the tomb. By meditating on these scenes, the faithful spiritually accompany Christ on His journey to Calvary, entering into the mystery of His redemptive suffering.

The List of the 14 Stations

Historically, the scenes along the *Via Dolorosa* varied, but since the 18th century, the Church has recognised the following 14 stations:

1. **Jesus is Condemned to Death** - Jesus stands before Pontius Pilate. Though innocent, He submits to the unjust sentence to save humanity from sin.
2. **Jesus Carries the Cross** - Jesus accepts the heavy wood of the Cross, embracing the instrument of His death and our salvation.
3. **Jesus Falls the First Time** - Weakened by blood loss and the scourging, Jesus collapses under the weight but struggles up to continue.
4. **Jesus Meets His Mother** - The Blessed Virgin Mary meets her Son on the road. Their eyes meet, sharing a moment of intense, silent sorrow.

5. **Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross** - Simon of Cyrene is forced by soldiers to help carry the load, reminding us to help others carry their burdens.
6. **Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus** - A courageous woman steps out of the crowd to wipe the blood and sweat from Christ's face, leaving an imprint of His Holy Face on her veil.
7. **Jesus Falls a Second Time** - Despite Simon's help, the exhaustion is overwhelming, and Jesus falls again, showing us how to rise after we stumble.
8. **Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem** - Jesus stops to comfort the weeping women, telling them not to weep for Him, but for themselves and their children.
9. **Jesus Falls a Third Time** - Near the summit of Calvary, Jesus collapses a final time, completely spent, yet He summons the will to finish His journey.
10. **Jesus is Stripped of His Garments** - Soldiers tear the tunic from Jesus' scourged back, humiliating Him and casting lots for His clothing.
11. **Jesus is Nailed to the Cross** - Jesus is thrown upon the wood, and large nails are driven through His hands and feet.
12. **Jesus Dies on the Cross** - After three hours of agony, Jesus bows His head and yields His spirit to the Father.
13. **Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross** - The lifeless body of Jesus is removed from the Cross and placed in the arms of His grieving Mother (The Pietà).
14. **Jesus is Laid in the Tomb** - Joseph of Arimathea wraps Jesus in a clean linen shroud and places Him in a new rock-hewn tomb.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: take place at 3.00 p.m. on Fridays during Lent, alternate weeks between St. Mary's (6th and 20th March) and St. Patrick's (13th and 27th March)