



St John Southworth's RC Parish

at Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
and St John Southworth Church, Vaughan St

Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
Nelson, BB9 0JY

Parish Priest: Rev Gerard Kelly

Tel: 01282 614859

3rd Sunday of Lent

7th March 2021



Click the box to make a secure
online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's Facebook Page](#)

Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

There is a growing feeling of optimism as lockdown-measures, compounded with the effectiveness of the vaccine programme, seem to be giving us the upper-hand against the virus. However, we are warned that these signs of hope must not allow us to become complacent—we are not yet over the line! It would seem that when we are struggling, we find a sharper focus and a deeper commitment, but as we sense that the battle is coming to an end, with victory in sight, we can all so easily 'check out' and lose all that we have gained.

It is this complacency, which can creep into all areas of our lives, that we can identify as one of the most subtle enemies of the spiritual life. We can all so easily feel that we are doing quite well, that we have life pretty much under control; and it's under the cover of such thoughts and feelings that our relationship with God can lose its vitality and dynamism. The Catholic faith, which expresses a wisdom tradition which finds its origins in the ancient history of the Old Testament times, is only too aware of every danger that can undermine our spiritual health. Complacency would be described as a compound vice which has two components: pride and sloth—a deadly combination!

However, for every ill there is a remedy, and the period of Lent is a recommended 6-week period of coming into contact with our human weakness (fasting) and stepping up our commitment to loving others (almsgiving) in the context of reflecting on our lives under the light of the Gospel (prayer).


Let's not allow Lent to slip by without our making use of this time to help us to come into a deeper relationship of love with the Lord. As one preacher remarked, "Use it, don't lose it!"

Take care, and may the blessings of the Lenten season be ours.

Fr Gerard.

[Lenten Reflection for Bolton FM](#)

A feature of a more normal time of Lent would be the increased opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession. As this is not advised by the Diocese at this time, I thought I might bring a couple of reflections to you given by priests of the Diocese. This week you can listen to [Fr Gavin Landers](#) who visited the parish at the end of January. When lockdown comes to an end, the provision of the opportunity to celebrate this Sacrament will be a top priority for me!

We have collected £320 through the *Family Fast* and other donations collected in the CAFOD box at the back of church in recent weeks. In previous years, the CAFOD Soup Lunches and after-Mass teas and coffees provided an extra boost to the total collection, so it might be good for us to make an extra effort this week and next before we make out the cheque for our total contribution for this time. 

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 8th March, 2021

| Monday 8th March | Tuesday 9th March | Wednesday 10th March | Thursday 11th March | Friday 12th March | Saturday 13th March | Sunday 14th March |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| SH No Mass | SH Mass online | SH 10.00am (Booking) | SH 6.30pm (Booking) | SH Mass online | SH No Mass | SH (Booking) 9.30am |
| CC 10.00am | CC 10.00am (followed by exposition) | CC 10.00am | CC 10.00am | CC 10.00am | HS (Booking) 6.30pm | CC (Booking) 9.30am |

SH = Sacred Heart

CC = Christ Church

HS= Holy Saviour's

Online booking for **Sunday Masses** (booking available from 11.00am on previous Sunday)

[Saturday Vigil Mass at Holy Saviour's, 13th March at 6.30pm](#) (Good Shepherd Newsletter)

[Sunday Morning Mass at Christ Church, 14th March at 9.30am](#) (click on link)

| Sunday Mass, 9.30am | Reader 1 + Psalm | Reader 2 + Bidding Prayers |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| This weekend: 7th March | Monica McArdle | Maureen Rawlinson |
| Next weekend: 14th March | Margaret Needham | Joan Penny-Heys |

POUND DRAW

Winners this week:

£10 Carmel Dempsey (keep it in the family, or what? ed.)

£10 Charlotte Hancox,

£10 Charlie Eccles.

£81 to Parish funds, thank you all very much.

Two more Grandchildren won this week!!

(ps. Carmel Dempsey is NOT one of the grandchildren! ed.)

Watch this space for **EXCITING** news about the **EASTER DRAW** in a few weeks time!

Church Collection

Last week's collection : £554.36

Standing Orders: approx. £265 p/w

Many thanks!

For those who are shielding, and unable to attend church, you may like to use the prayers and reflections for this weekend's Mass here:

[The Lord's Day at home](#)

The online Faith-sharing meeting

Each Tuesday of Lent at 7.00pm. Everyone is invited! You can obtain the link for the meeting by emailing me.

Book of Remembrance

March 9 Moira Steer

March 10 Thomas Dunne,

March 12 Valerie Pollard

March 12 Reg Elphick

March 13 Hugh Rourke.

May the memory of the lives of those who have gone before us, inspire us to be a people of faith and prayer; may they rest in peace, AMEN



Mass Intentions

Jack Lawrenson, died recently.

Peter Corrigan, died recently.

Mary Patricia Kelly, anniv, 10th March

Nadra Sturdy, died recently.

We remember in our prayers Irene Sumner who was taken into hospital this week. May she, and all those who are sick, experience the healing touch of Christ and the support of loving community.

[Monica's Children's Liturgy Video](#)

Phoebe needs a little help in keeping up her Lenten promises!

