

# ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Year B

February Monthly Devotion: The Holy Family



Please St Mary & St Paul Pray for Us

**THEME:** God was willing to sacrifice his own Son for us

For Abraham, everything, including even his cherished son, was in God's hands; and for such trusting obedience he is greatly blessed. So shall we be when we trust him with our lives, because Christ not only sacrificed his life for us; he has also come right through death to the throne of heaven where he takes our part and pleads for us to the Father.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Thanksgiving for spec favour by Toni D G Rita Walker & Bernard Walker (Ann) Parishioners' intention
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ferial	6:15pm St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 7:00pm	Father Oliver's intention
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ferial	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00am	RCIA Candidates
Weds 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ferial	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00am	Those suffering through Cost of Living increases
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ferial	9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am	First Holy Communion Candidates
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	St David, Patron Saint of Wales	9:00am St Mary's School	Pupils and Teachers
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Ferial	9:45am Holy Rosary 10:00am Mass St Mary's followed by Stations of the Cross	Sick and Housebound
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Parishioner's Intentions Rita & Bernard Walker (Anniversary) RCIA Candidates

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 9:20am and by appointment.

**Sacraments and other liturgies:** Please speak to the Priest following the weekend masses.

Date	Event	Location
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm	RCIA Teaching	St Mary's Meeting Room
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> March 7pm	World Day of Prayer	St Mark's, Railway St, Dukinfield
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 11am	RCIA First Scrutiny	St. Mary's Church

**MARK 9:2-10:** The practicalities of crucifixion are not in any way ennobling. It is a sordid and sickening business, designed to strip the victim of every scrap of human dignity. Those exhausting hours of torture, interrogation, and slow, excruciating dying, would give an overriding impression of abject failure and shame. It was important, then, that the three who would be most vulnerable to despair should receive some encouraging sign of Christ's divinity before the trauma of Good Friday. They had to see their Lord in his glory, so that they could hang on to this when all dignity was shrouded in pain and jeering. Even in the middle of their grief and horror there would be a memory insisting that Christ was greater even than death. We, too, can use the memory of the transfiguration when grief or pain or bewilderment threatens to overwhelm us.

In the back of our minds, the image of the risen Christ instils calm and the confidence of victory: all is well, for he has overcome death.

**PRAY FOR UKRANIANS:** Saturday, 24 February marks the two-year anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia. It's a conflict that has slipped from the headlines somewhat, but the fighting remains intense and the suffering is great. Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Bishop of the Eparchy, or diocese, of the Holy Family of London offers us a Lenten reflection calling for prayer, support and a re-evaluation of how we are all called to be peacemakers in our society today. Bishop Nowakowski, who looks after the UK's Ukrainian Catholic Community, raises the plight of Ukraine's people, but is quick to call for prayer for the suffering of the Holy Land caught up in the conflict in Gaza. He also emphasises that, although we live miles away from the conflict, during this Lenten time of fasting and alms-giving, the other main pillar of the season – prayer – is where our focus should lie: "We can't help everybody throughout the world with our limited means, but surely we can pray. Pray for peace, pray for justice, pray for those who are alone. Pray for those who are suffering – especially for those who are suffering separation. We think of the families that have been torn apart because of the war in Ukraine, the tens of thousands of young women who have fled to the United Kingdom with their children while their husbands have had to remain behind to defend Ukraine."

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024: 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'** The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 'bear with one another in love' seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ. World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of those women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns, and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at local churches on Friday 1 March 2024 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Palestine. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. Please join us at St Mark's, Railway Street, Dukinfield at 7pm, not 7:30pm as said on the notices.

**CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2024 - LENT APPEAL:** This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give using the envelope or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION:** Teaching for parishioners who are not in Catholic schools will begin soon. This is for children over 7 years and adults who have already been baptised. Please pick up a registration form from the back of church.

**SUPPORTING THE PARISH:** We are always in need of volunteers to help with the parish, please support us with your prayers and consider if you could help. ***We urgently need additional catechists, someone who will help to prepare older children and adults for Baptism and Holy Communion. Training and resources will be provided, it is a commitment of about 1 hour a week, in the evening until June.*** If you think you can help with this, or any other activity within the parish, please speak to Fr Isidore.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** £452.35 including online donations. Thank you for your generosity.

**RETIRING COLLECTION:** CAFOD

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK:** Building Fund

<p>Reverend Father Isidore Madueke, 29 Zetland St, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 4EJ Tel: 0161 330 2424 Website: <a href="http://stmaryandstpaul.org">stmaryandstpaul.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:stmaryandstpaulRC@gmail.com">stmaryandstpaulRC@gmail.com</a> <b><i>Please consider remembering the parish in your will.</i></b> The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity no 234025</p>
---