



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BRIDLINGTON – EASTFIELD – FILEY

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MASS TIMES & SERVICES

3rd Sunday of Lent - 23rd March 2025 (week 3)

Saturday	22nd	Eastfield	4pm	Vigil of the 3rd Sunday of Lent	Maureen Steed	
		Bridlington	6pm		Doris Schembri (2nd Anniv)	
Sunday	23rd	Bridlington	9am	3rd Sunday of Lent	Angelo Schembri (b'day anniv)	
		Filey	11am		The Parishes	
		Eastfield	5pm		Nawrus (New Day) Festival	
Monday	24th	Eastfield	10am	Morning Prayers & Stations of the Cross		
			4:45-6pm	1st Holy Communion Catechesis - Hall		
			6pm	Mass- of Lent	Veronica Dowling	
Tuesday	25th	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Our Lord - No Mass				
Wed'day	26th	Bridlington	9:50	Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour		
			10am	Stations of the Cross		
Thursday	27th	Filey	10am	Stations of the Cross		
		Eastfield	6:30-7:30	5th Seminar: Life in the Spirit - Hall		
Friday	28th	Bridlington	12noon	Stations of the Cross		
			12:30pm	CAFOD - Soup Lunch		
			3-4pm	No Holy Hour		
Saturday	29th	Eastfield	4pm	Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Lent	Private Intention (BC)	
		Bridlington	6pm		Agapito Barinque	
Sunday	30th	Bridlington	9am	4th Sunday of Lent	A.T.George	
		Filey	11am		The Parishes	
		Eastfield	5pm		Nawrus (New Day) Festival	
Monday	31st	Eastfield	10am	Morning Prayers & Stations of the Cross		
			Bridlington	4pm	Receive the late Veronica Dowling in Church	
				4:45-6pm	1st Holy Communion Catechesis - Hall	
				6pm	Mass- of Lent	Benny George
				6:30-8pm	Confirmation Catechesis - Hall	

Parish Office Contact Hours for this week are Wednesday, 26th March, 2pm-4pm. Emails can be sent at any time through the week and voicemails can be left as usual.

3rd Sunday of Lent Reflection:

Jesus calls us to repentance, emphasising that tragedies are not punishments but reminders of our need for conversion. The parable of the barren fig tree illustrates God's patience and mercy, offering us time to bear fruit. Are we taking this opportunity to grow spiritually? What areas of our lives need transformation? God seeks to liberate us from sin and lead us to new life. This Lent, let us respond to His call with open hearts.

Prayer: Merciful God, you call us to repentance, not in fear, but in love. Like the barren fig tree, we are given time to grow—help us to use this season well. Show us the areas of our lives that need transformation and give us the grace to bear good fruits filled with love. Just as You heard the cries of Your people, hear us now as we seek freedom from sin. Open our hearts to Your call and lead us to new life in You. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Action Step: Identify a habit or behaviour that distances you from God and make a conscious effort to change it, seeking His assistance through prayer.

The Divine Gardener



“For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?” He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’” (Luke 13:7–9).

Imagine for a moment that you were the owner of the orchard in which this fig tree was planted. After the gardener asked you to wait for one more year and promised to fertilize the unfruitful fig tree and cultivate the ground around it, you agreed. Then imagine coming to inspect that same fig tree the next year. Imagine three scenarios. First, what would you do if, once again, there were no figs present? Second, what if there were only a few figs? Third, what if the tree suddenly produced an abundance of good fruit?

It seems clear that in the first scenario, if for the fourth year in a row not a single fig was produced, it would be time to cut down the tree. This depicts the justice of God sent forth on those who obstinately resist His grace. In the second scenario, the decision might be more difficult. If the tree produced only a few figs for the first time, then perhaps that would provide enough hope for the future of that tree to ask the gardener to continue caring for it. This depicts those who are in a state of grace but are still lazy in their service of the will of God. In the third scenario, however, the reaction of the owner of the orchard would be clear. There would be much excitement and gratitude that the gardener’s good work paid off.

Jesus is the Gardener, and we are the fig tree. This parable should lead us to look at our lives and examine whether or not we bear good fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus comes to you to cultivate the soil of your heart, fertilizing it with His holy Word, watering it with His Sacraments and doing all He can to give you the opportunity to produce the fruit of charity in your life. How successful are these actions of our Lord in your life?

Too often, when we see only a little good fruit being borne from our lives, we are satisfied. And though any good fruit is good, we are wasting our lives if we do not do all we can to become as abundantly fruitful as possible. Imagine the joy in the Hearts of our Lord and the Father in Heaven if they were to look upon you and see good fruit being produced beyond expectation. Why wouldn’t this be your goal in life? Our Lord is patient, but He is also just. Do not try His patience, and do not succumb to His justice.

Reflect, today, upon the image of you being this fig tree and our Lord as the divine Gardener. Commit yourself to His actions of tilling and fertilizing. You do so by strengthening your commitment to reading and understanding the Word of God, by participating more fully in the Sacraments, by being more focused upon your daily prayer, by examining your conscience more fully, and by sincerely confessing your sins. Do all you can to cooperate with the action of our divine Gardener and you will be amazed at the good fruit that begins to pour forth from your life.

Prayer: *My divine Gardener, You have committed Yourself to the humble work of tilling the soil of my heart and fertilizing it with Your abundant mercy. I choose, this day, to respond to Your grace and pray that my cooperation with You will produce an abundance of good fruit in my life for Your glory and the building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.*

25th March

Feast of the Annunciation

*When the Angel Gabriel announced
to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God.*

The Eternal WORD became Flesh.

Sanctify the day by the prayer of the Rosary.



Pius's (our church cat) reflection:

Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God’s help to attain it? Do I experience the hope that helps me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

(from Pope Francis Lent 2025 message)

PARISH NOTICES

- We continue to pray for the Health and wellbeing of **Pope Francis**. WE also pray for the sick, the housebound and those at the end of life in our parishes.
- We pray for the **repose of the souls** of the late Fr Peter Ryan (from our Diocese), the late Mary Alice (Cissie) Atkinson, Geoff Turner (husband of Mary Turner-Filey), Pasquale Farrugia (Fr Albert's Uncle, Bishop Paul Cremona (Bishop Emeritus of Malta) and Veronica Dowling (Fr Paul Dowling mother). May God grant them Eternal Rest. The Funeral Mass for the Late **Mr Geoff Turner** is at East Riding Crematorium in Octon, on Tuesday, 25th March. The Requiem Mass for the late **Mrs Veronica Dowling** is on Tuesday, 1st April, at Our Lady and St Peter's Church, Bridlington, at 11:30am. The Requiem Mass for the late **Mrs Cissie Atkinson** is at Our Lady and St Peter's Church, on Friday, 4th April, at 11am.
- **Stations of the Cross** follows every week day Mass and 20minutes before Mass at weekend Masses during Lent. In Bridlington, before the 9am Mass there will be Lauds (Morning Prayers).
- **Bridlington CAFOD Soup lunch**: This week there be stations of the Cross at 12noon, followed by the Soup Lunch at 12:30pm. There is no after noon Holy Hour or Confessions.
- **3 parishes**: Prayer group at St George's Church, Eastfield: The 5th session from the 6 sessions, is this Thursday, 27th March, at St George's Hall, Eastfield from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. These Seminars are an inspiring and practical talks, aimed at people of all ages, to help us encounter the Holy Spirit and empower us to share our faith.
- **Bridlington: Nicholas Postgate Prayer group** meets every Friday at Parish Hall, at 6pm.
- **SVP Filey & Eastfield**: On Saturday 29th March, following the Vigil Mass at St. George's Hall, Eastfield, there will be a cake stall for funds for the SVP. We would greatly appreciate donations of home made cakes.
- **Eastfield/Filey**: Initiatives are being taken to organise prayer and meetings during the week in both Churches. This is greatly encouraged. Eastfield meets on Monday (please ask Margaret Stewart) and Filey meets on Thursday (please ask Maria Foxton and Diane). In the coming weeks more information will be shared. If you have propositions please come forward and discuss it with Fr Albert.
- **Pope Francis prayer intention for the month of March is for families in crisis**. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

For your Diary

- **This Sunday: NOWRUZ** celebration in St George's Church Hall, starting at 5pm. *Nowruz* which means New Day is a cultural festival celebrated by Kurdish people and others to celebrate the start of Spring. There will be music, dancing, poetry, stories and food. It will be a family event and all our three parishes are invited, so put the date in your diary. It will in particular be an opportunity for our parish community to say welcome to refugees in our community and in particular to a newly arrived Kurdish Syrian Refugee Family who are staying in St George's Presbytery, as from March 20th.
- **Filey**: Mini fair in aid of building fund on 30th March 2025, after Mass. Stalls to include cakes, tombola, raffle and 'Doreen's stall'. Donations of cakes or tombola prizes gratefully received. Donations of chocolate or Easter eggs gratefully received for Easter Egg raffle in aid of Zoe's Place (Hospice for young children).
- **SVP Bridlington: Cake Celebration**: Sunday, 30th March- Mothering Sunday - after Sunday Mass (10am) at parish hall. Come and have a cake and tea or coffee. Everyone invited. An English tradition is that on this Sunday we share a SIMNEL CAKE. Other Cultures Lent/Easter cakes and sweets (Maltese, Italian, Polish, Indian, Philippine, Spanish etc) are encouraged to participate. If you like to participate by presenting a cake/sweets please contact Teresa O'Hagan or Floriana. Let us celebrate something English and something worldwide.
- **CAFOD Fundraising Event -Quiz Night**: Charlotte Jallow (member of Our Lady and St Peter's Church/Filey) is running the London Marathon in April, to raise money for CAFOD. We can sponsor Charlotte by donating personally to Charlotte or by attending the Quiz night, that will include refreshments, quizzes and raffles. All money raised will go to CAFOD.

Fundraising

The winning number of the Bonus Ball Eastfield & Filey on Saturday, 15th March was **28**. The Club 200 Bridlington drawn on Sunday, 16th March was **46**. Congratulations for the winners and thank you all for participating.

2nd Collections

29-30th March: Building Fund

5-6th April: Easter Flowers

Maundy Thursday, 17th April: Diocese Retired Priest Fund

Good Friday, 18th April: Holy Places of the Holy Land



Programme for Holy Week 2025 (12-20th April)

Saturday Vigil	12th	Eastfield	4pm	Palm Procession and Palm Sunday Vigil Mass	
		Bridlington	6pm		
Palm Sunday	13th	Bridlington	9am	Palm Procession and Palm Sunday Mass	
		Filey	11am		
Monday of Holy Week	14th	Bridlington	6pm	Mass	
			6:30-8pm	Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions	
Tuesday of Holy Week	15th	Midbrough	12noon	Chrism Mass (at Cathedral)	
		Eastfield	6pm	Healing Mass	
			6:30-8pm	Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions	
Spy Wednesday	16th	Bridlington	10am	Healing Mass	
		Filey	4pm	Healing Mass	
			4:30-6pm	Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions	
Maundy Thursday	17th	Bridlington	7pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	
		Bridlington	8-10pm	Adoration in front of the Altar of Repose	
Good Friday <i>Collection goes to support the Holy places of the Holy Land</i>	18th	Filey	10am	Ecumenical: Walk of Witness starting at Salvation Army	
		Bridlington	11am	Ecumenical: Walk of Witness at town centres	
		Bridlington	3pm	Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord	
		Eastfield	6pm	Meditation on the Stations of the Cross	
Saturday Holy Vigil	19th	Bridlington	11am	Polish Families blessing of the Easter Baskets	
		Eastfield	1 pm		
		Bridlington	9pm	Easter Vigil Mass (mother of all Vigils)	
Easter Sunday	20th	Bridlington	9am	Easter Sunday Mass	
		Eastfield	9am		
		Filey	11am		