



Is God harsh?

There are quite a few warnings in today's readings. St James warns those who are rich: "Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you." He sees how they have experienced comfort at the expense of others; it is a message which could be justly directed to most of the 'developed' world. In the Gospel the Lord tells us to cast off everything that might lead us to sin, so that there is no danger of us falling away from God. Reading these passages we could be forgiven for wondering if God is harsh, but the truth is different. God is love – and, like all loving parents, He wants to teach His children to avoid danger and seek out things which will make us truly happy. God's warnings are for our good – not to frighten us, but to invite us to see a better way. He wants what is best for us even more than we do – in this life, and in the next – so let's try to listen with faith and respond to the invitation to change He sets before us.

FOCUS ON... Reconciliation Preparation

This weekend the children who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) for the first time later this year begin their journey of preparation. They will meet regularly to learn about forgiveness, why we need it, and how God chooses to forgive our failings. This is an important lesson for all of us: only by learning – and experiencing – God's mercy do we truly come to know Him as the God of love. The children's parents will also have some preparation sessions, enabling them to explore these themes for themselves, and helping them to prepare their children at home. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they begin this next step in their journey of faith.



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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 138

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Week 26, Year 2

| Date | Time | Occasion | Intention/Details | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday 29 th Sept. | 6pm (vigil) | TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Mary & Eddie Sinnott RIP | |
| | 7pm (vigil) | | <i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i> | |
| Sunday 30 th Sept. | 9:30am | | Special Intention | |
| | 6pm | | People of the Parish | |
| Monday | 9:15am | | St Thérèse of Lisieux | Holy Souls |
| | 5:15pm | | | <i>Mass in hospital chapel</i> |
| Tuesday | 7pm | The Holy Guardian Angels | Christine Troger – intentions | |
| Wednesday | 9:15am | | Thanksgiving | |
| Thursday | 9:15am | St Francis of Assisi | Jack Burton RIP | |
| Friday | 12noon | Dedication of the Cathedral | Holy Souls | |
| Saturday 6 th Oct. | 10am | TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Special Intention (SC) | |
| | 6pm (vigil) | | Private Intention (SPH) | |
| | 7pm (vigil) | | <i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i> | |
| Sunday 7 th Oct. | 9:30am | | Holy Souls | |
| | 6pm | | People of the Parish | |

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7am-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

ROSARY: Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass.

ST ANTHONY: money donated in the wall box during September will go to our Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) appeal.

ANNIVERSARIES: Nora Jones, Cicely Brierley, Sharon Livesey, Barbara Knowling, Maureen Masters, Alice Turner, Mary Ryan, Mary Ryan, Clare Smart, Jack McEntee

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: This Friday, 7-8pm. Come and pray in Jesus' presence.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2018-9: Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins today (see front page). There is a brief meeting for parents immediately after 9:30am Mass. Confirmation preparation begins next Sunday.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? The next Journey in Faith group will begin shortly. If interested, contact the parish office.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Next meeting on Sunday 14th October. The booklet is on Blessed Oscar Romero, who will be canonised that day. Copies available from sacristans.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: This Friday. We are invited to forego some food and give the money saved to help those in need. Please return your fast day envelopes, with any donation inside, in the collection next weekend.

ACN IRAQ APPEAL: Continuing our work with Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), next month we will shift focus from Syria to Iraq. The new appeal will be launched in the hall after 7pm Mass on Tuesday 9th October. Also, **this Thursday** there is a talk at Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre, 7:30-9pm, with speakers who are visiting from Iraq. Further info: nw.office@acnuk.org or call 01524 388739.

YOUNG PEOPLE FUNDRAISING: Young parishioners are selling cakes after 9:30am Mass today, and doing a car wash here next Saturday (6th) 10:30am-1pm, to raise money for a retreat they are making next month. Thank you for your support.

RITA'S SPONSORED WALK was completed recently. Congratulations! If you signed up to sponsor her, please hand in your contribution in a marked envelope.

BLACKPOOL LIGHTS TRIP: Friday 26th October. A coach trip through the lights then fish and chips on way home. £5 adults/£2.50 (**transport only** – you will also need money for food on the way back) – sign up in narthex.

WEDNESDAY TEA/COFFEE: Resumes this week. After 9:15am Mass in the narthex.

RWANDA GROUP TRUST: Sunday (30th), 2pm at St Gregory's Social Centre

OUR LADY & ST EDWARDS: Regional Life Meeting 2nd October at 7.30pm

'ONE BODY' TALKS: Exploring the many faces of the Church in Preston, and fostering our unity as the one Body of Christ. Thursdays, 7:30pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre. This week: the Jesuits. See metanoiaproject.co.uk/07957566741.

VATICAN ASTRONOMER Br Guy Consolmagno SJ will speak at the Xaverian Centre (formerly Tabor), Monday 8th October, 7-9pm. See poster for more details.

APPEAL next Sunday for the Volunteer Missionary Movement.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 458; Collection: £1,085.60; Bishop's Admin: £217.74; Thank you for your generosity.

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

| Day | Time | What? | Where? |
|-----------|---------------|--|----------------|
| Sunday | 9:30am | Children's Liturgy of the Word | At Mass |
| | 10:30am | After-Mass tea/coffee | Parish Hall |
| | 10:30am | Reconciliation Preparation (1) | Parish Hall |
| | 10:30am | Reconciliation: Parents' info meeting | Chapel |
| | 7pm | Anointed/Sent Youth Groups | Parish Hall |
| Mon-Fri | 9am | Pre-school | Parish Hall |
| | 3:20pm | After-school club | Parish Hall |
| Monday | 6:15pm | Cubs | Parish Hall |
| | 7:30pm | Scouts | Parish Hall |
| Tuesday | 7:30pm | Prayer Group | Chapel |
| Wednesday | 9:45am | After-Mass tea/coffee | Narthex |
| | 6pm | Seekers (school years 4-6) | Parish Hall |
| | 7:30pm | NCW Liturgy of the Word | Chapel/Narthex |
| Thursday | 6:15pm | Beavers | Parish Hall |
| Friday | 7pm | First Friday Holy Hour | Church |
| Saturday | 8:30am | Pilates | Parish Hall |
| | 10:30am | Car Wash (see inside; ends 1pm) | Car Park |
| Sunday | 9:30am | Children's Liturgy of the Word | At Mass |
| | 10:30am | After-Mass tea/coffee | Parish Hall |
| | 10:30am | Reconciliation Preparation (2) | Parish Hall |
| | 4:30pm | Confirmation Preparation (1) | Parish Hall |
| | 7pm | Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11) | Parish Hall |

Advance Diary Dates

Friday 12th October: School Harvest Festival, 2pm

Saturday 13th October: Day of Renewal with Barbara Mason

Tuesday 16th October: Talk on the English Martyrs by Chris Robson

Thursday 1st November: All Saints' Day, Holy Day of Obligation

Friday 2nd November: All Souls' Day, Mass at 12noon

Monday 5th November: Blessing of new St Clare statue

Diocesan Education Mass: Lancaster Cathedral, 12th October, 7pm

Celebrated by Bishop Paul. All welcome. This is especially for all those involved in education and faith formation: catechists, youth ministry, children's liturgy and teachers. We ask God's blessing on the mission of education in our diocese.

NORTHERN SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL: at Salford Cathedral, 10am-5pm next Saturday (6th). Speakers, workshops, resources. www.scripturefestival.org / see poster.