

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL
PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND ST BERNADETTE

Serving the Churches of St Marie of the Annunciation, Standish: www.stmariestandish.co.uk and St Bernadette's, Shevington: stbernadetteshevington.org.uk

olasb@rcaol.org.uk : www.twitter.com/stmstb: Download our parish app at www.myparishapp.com

Parish newsletter for the 6th Sunday of Lent
 28th March 2021

IDIOT, FRAUD OR SON OF GOD



The events of Holy Week, and in particular the account of Jesus's Passion that we listen to today, present us with a choice that we cannot avoid making. The scriptures tell us that Jesus was shuttled around from one court to another. In fact, he underwent six trumped up court cases before Annas, Caiaphas, the Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod and then Pilate once more. He was shunted about because no one could find any fault with him that merited him being charged and no one wanted to take responsibility for his death. Finally he was charged with blasphemy. They said he claimed to be the Son of God. If someone claims to be the Son of God then there are three basic responses we can make to them. First, we can presume that they are mentally unstable like the man whose

psychiatric illness convinces him that he is Napoleon Bonaparte. Such people are actually harmless; they really believe what they are saying but they are simply deluded. Did Jesus show any of these signs of delusion? Secondly, we could be tempted to think that a person claiming to be the Son of God was involved in some sort of trick or fraud. It's likely to be a con trick where we will end up losing money while they disappearing overnight without trace. What did Jesus get out of it? But the only other response we can make is to presume that the claim is true. Did Jesus's teaching bring people closer to God? Did he speak about a closeness with the Father that made him in some sense inseparable from God? Did he gain any personal profit from this claim? Was it borne out in the way he lived his life? Did people identify him with the things of God or did they simply see him as a showman? And when it came to facing death did he use the opportunity to escape his fate? If Jesus was a fool then his Passion can have little merit. If he was involved in an elaborate religious scam then his Passion may even be thought of as deserved. But if he really was the Son of God then why did he allow it to happen?

The next seven days invite us to ponder...

Clergy: Fr Joseph Simionato sdp, St Marie's Presbytery, Almond Brook Road, Standish, Wigan WN6 0TB. Tel: 01257 423291

Parish Office at Saint Marie's: Open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 12 noon or email the parish office, olasb@rcaol.org.uk. **Please put this in your email address book.** The jointparishes@gmail.com email address still exists and is forwarded to the new email address.

Pastoral Associate: Joanne Wallace e-mail: j.wallace@rcaolp.co.uk

Baptisms: Check with Father Joseph whether possible.

Confessions: Saint Bernadette's: Sunday 9.10 to 9.20 am. Saint Marie's: 10.40 – 10.50 am on Sunday mornings or by request.

Funerals and Marriages: By arrangement.

Visits to sick and housebound: Please enquire about the current situation.

Hospital Visits: If you wish to see a priest please let the hospital staff know.

Mass Requests: Place in an envelope and hand in to the Sacristy or to the Parish Office. They can also be booked by telephone or email. Please indicate your preferred church, if any. Please also specify the reason for the intention, i.e. recently deceased, anniversary etc. For a particular day, please request early.

Newsletter Notices: Please e-mail to olasb@rcaol.org.uk or hand in to the Parish Office by Thursday morning.

Repository: Closed at present.

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Mass intentions

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.00 pm	Mary Siney (LD)
Saturday	St Marie's	6.00 pm	Margaret Laura Carney (B'day Rememb)
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday	St Marie's	11.00 am	Malcolm Morris (Anniv)
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Ivana Hedley
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Pat Herbert
Thursday	St Marie's Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.00 pm	Jean Ash (LD)
Friday	St Marie's	3.00 pm	Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Saturday	St Bernadette's Easter Vigil	6.00 pm	Thanks to St Jude for Special Intention answered
Saturday	St Marie's Easter Vigil	8.00 pm	Marie Brown (Anniv)
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday	St Marie's	11.00 am	Alessandro Ferro (B'Day Rememb)



QR code

To help during the pandemic when parish mass books are not able to be used, scan the QR code on your smartphone which will take you straight to a website where the texts of the readings can be found.

Thank you for your offerings £1,001.82. Thanks to all those Parishioners who are managing to make their offerings even when not able to attend Church. Payments can be made direct to St Marie & St Bernadette (001) HSBC account. Sort Code 40-29-12. Account number 61545922.

Standish Churches Together

There will be Midday prayer **every Wednesday during Lent** from 12 noon to 12.15, including Holy Week, to be held at St Wilfrid's church.

Lost property A wedding ring was found at church some time ago and nobody has asked after it. Please contact the office with a description if you have lost one.

Something to pray about

We can join **Pope Francis** in his prayer intention for March: **Sacrament of Reconciliation** let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God, and for April: **Fundamental Rights** We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Knights of St Columba

The Knights recite the Rosary on a Thursday evening at 7.30 pm. To receive an email invitation to join, please contact Steve Lester, steve.lester@zen.co.uk

What is Lent.

You can read below:-
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/lent-2021/>

Veiled Statues You will notice that the statues are now veiled. We fast from images that remind us of the Resurrection, just as we fast from food.

Local and Mayoral elections on Thursday, 6 May. Wigan Council has enquired if anyone would be interested in being a 'Meeter and greeter' at the polling station in St Marie's Hall. This would be from 6.30 am to 10.00 pm & the fee would be £170. Full details will be given when duties and responsibilities have been finalised, but essentially, the role involves giving a warm and friendly welcome to voters, monitoring and controlling the number of voters in the building and advising about social distancing and Covid-safety measures, which must be adhered to in the polling station. Applicants should have good people skills, the ability to stand for several hours, good mobility and the willingness to work outside. For more information or to apply, please contact Julie Lyon, Electoral Services Assistant, email Julie.Lyon@wigan.gov.uk or telephone, 01942 827171.

Offertory envelopes

Offertory envelopes for the next tax year are available for parishioners to collect. Nos. 1 to 80 are at St Bernadette's; nos. 82 to 117 are at St Marie's. Please contact the parish office if you do not have envelopes and would like a set.

Easter Tridium

Holy Thursday: 7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Marie's.

Good Friday: 3.00 pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Marie's. **(Special Collection for the Holy Places).**

Holy Saturday: 6.00 pm Easter Vigil at St Bernadette's.

8.00 pm Easter Vigil at St Marie's.

Easter Day: Holy Mass

9.30 am at St Bernadette's.

11.00 am at St Marie's.

It will be necessary to book in for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses. For St Marie's please email on olasb@rcaol.org.uk or telephone the Office. For St Bernadette's book in at church when at Mass, or ring Dave Madden on 01257 253632.

CAFOD

Thanks to parishioner Holly Jones who took part in the Lent appeal, **The Big Walk for Water** for CAFOD on Saturday 20th February 2021 and is still walking 10,000 steps (roughly 5 miles) for each of the 40 days of Lent. As an added extra, she is completing all of her

steps before 9am. Times are hard at the moment but any support you are able to give would be very gratefully received. You can find out more or donate online now using the below link:-

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-for-water-cafod-appeal2021>

Holly has already raised £645.00 until now. Keep going Holly, well done!

Pope Francis

The Holy See's news site – <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

At the back of church...

- April Catholic Pictorial are available as you leave Mass. Access the online edition at <https://bit.ly/30qfl3r>
- 'Living Faith' booklets for adults, and children, April to June.

Development Fund

We have been able to give 4 prizes in March. £100.00 No 451 T Smith, £50.00 No 77 C Walters, £25.00 No 172 T Stubbs & £25.00 No 99 C Cropper. Cheques are in the post.

Guidance for Holy Week – 2021

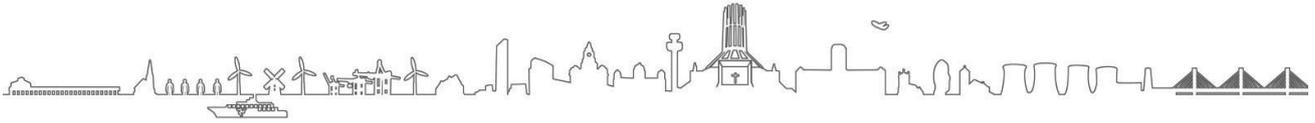
This year is going to be special regarding the celebration of the Holy Week. We are not expecting to have the full rights that we usually have.

The Bishops of England and Wales have sent us some guidance for this year. Please click the link below.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/03/Vade-Mecum-Holy-Week-280221.pdf>

Good Friday morning.

For anyone who would like to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament or to go to Confession, we will be open at St Marie's from 10 am to 12 noon.



**Standing Order
Mandate**



**Archdiocese of
Liverpool**

Name of parish Our Lady of the Annunciation & St Bernadette 001

Name and address of your own bank **To** The Manager

Address

Please pay to

Bank Name HSBC plc

Address 99-101 Lord Street
LIVERPOOL
L2 6PG

Sort code 40-29-12

Parish bank account number

for the credit of

Account name Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan
Trust St Marie's and St Bernadette (001)
Parish Account

Account Number 61545 922

the sum of

(in words) _____

(in figures) £ _____

commencing _____

Delete as applicable

and thereafter **monthly/annually.**

until you receive further notice from me/us in writing

**Please insert the title and number of your
own bank account**

and debit my account accordingly.

Account name _____

Account number _____

Signature _____

Date _____



**Archdiocese of
Liverpool**

