

Queen of Martyrs And St Swithin



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PASTORAL AREA of St Raphael and St Paul

Holy Name & Our Lady & St. Philomena 476 0289

Blessed Sacrament 474 2682

St Teresa's 226 1354



PARISH CLERGY

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris Fallon Assistant: Fr Anthony Kelly

Deacons: Rev Malcolm Fletcher & Rev Christopher Housbey

2nd Sunday or Lent – 8th March 2020



Seeing differently

I once spent a hot August day, just after the feast of the Transfiguration, sitting on top of Sandia Peak, a mountain which overlooks the city of Albuquerque, at a height of 10,678 feet. I didn't walk up it: you could drive nearly all the way to the top! As I spent the time reading, resting, thinking and praying, an amazing sense of peace came over me. Looking down on the city, spread out like a child's toy town on a carpet, the hand and voice of God seemed so clear, so self-evident. But I also realised that the vast majority of the people down there in the city, scurrying about their business as intently as ants, were probably not thinking about God at all.

It's rare for us to have a moment of transfiguration, when suddenly we are able to see our experience, ourselves, the people around us and especially God, in a new way. St. Matthew's way of describing what Peter, James and John experienced in their moment on the mountain is to say that Jesus's face shone like the sun and his clothes appeared as white as the light while a voice spoke from the bright cloud: it was a glimpse as clear as it was fleeting. Such experiences do not last: they cannot be prolonged, only remembered and pondered over the years that follow.

It was no accident that the three friends of Jesus who had this strange and wonderful experience on the mountain were the same three who would be with him in the garden of Gethsemane. Seeing him at his lowest ebb and in great danger, they could remember that they had once seen him revealed in glory as the Son of God.

Such experiences are given, not for their own sake, but to change the way we look at life, to provide us with a source of confidence and hope in the face of all other experiences, especially those that would tend to overwhelm and destroy us. We can't manufacture such experiences but one thing we do know is that they will not come to us in the midst of the hustle and bustle of our everyday life. We have to make some space into which light may shine, find some quiet in which God may speak.

Fr Chris

Every Lent BBC Radio 4 presents a series of talks by six prominent people on Wednesdays at 8.45 pm and they are repeated on Sunday at 5.45pm.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Please put your envelopes in the basket on the CAFOD table or in the collection bags. Spare envelopes are at the back of church.

This weekend we will have a raffle for a Fairtrade hamper, at both Masses, and a sale of **Fairtrade** food.

Shalom Healing Mass St Teresa's Church

10th March, 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm. See poster at the back of church

Stations of the Cross each Wednesday evening after 7pm Mass

Weekly Collections & Gift Aid

We will shortly be distributing weekly collection envelopes for use from Easter Sunday, 12 April and we want to thank you all for the kind and generous donations you make which greatly help the running of the parish.

If you are a taxpayer but do not Gift Aid your regular donation, please consider doing so and ask us for a Gift Aid form, because at no cost to you we can reclaim an additional 25 pence from HMRC for every £1 you donate. That doesn't sound much but last year we were able to claim £4722.45 from HMRC so it really does make a difference.

If you have been using Gift Aid but no longer pay tax or if you use Gift Aid and have changed your name or address, please let us know.

A number of parishioners now make donations via Standing Order rather than use the envelopes, whether using Gift Aid or not. Please ask us for a form if you would prefer to donate this way.

Margaret Nugent, who administers the Gift Aid scheme for the parish, and Tony Dowling, one of our counters, will be on hand after both Masses next weekend to provide forms and deal with any amendments.

Christian Life Programme

A series of talks on Saturdays starting at 1pm in the Community Room

If you would like more information please speak to Alex Torres.

40th Anniversary of Assassination of Archbishop Romero:

Romero Mass, Sunday 29th March 11am

at St Gregory's, Weld Bank, Chorley, PR7 3NW.

Sunday 29th March, 6pm at Liverpool Hope University Chapel at which the Archbishop of Liverpool will preside.

The Piety stall has a beautiful selection of St Patrick's Day cards, Mother's Day cards, Easter cards and First Holy Communion cards and gifts.

Liturgy for the Week

Saturday 7 th	6.00 pm	Michael McNally (28 th B'day Rem) Draper Family (Anniversary Rem)
Sunday 8 th 2 nd Sunday of Lent	11.30 am	Christine Rose Sherry (Anniversary) Emily Purdie (Thanksgiving)
Monday 9 th	9.05 am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 10 th	9.05 am 9.45 am	Eucharistic Service <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Wednesday 11 th	7.00 pm	Mass: Gertie Russell (Mem) James Morley (B'day Rem) <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Thursday 12 th	9.05 am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 13 th	9.05 am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 14 th	6.00 pm	Sarah Moore (B'day Rem) Elizabeth Moore (Anniv)
Sunday 15 th 3 rd Sunday of Lent	11.30 am	Francis Doran (Anniv)

We pray for those who have died recently,
and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time,
May they rest in peace. Amen

We pray for all who are sick,

Janet Clark, Raymond Doran, Peter Fraser, John Murphy, Peter Tallon, T. C. Sheila Willcox, Andreas Samaras, John Walker, Sr. Kathleen Hamilton, David & Julie Pearce, J. G., Mary Mousley, Paul, Angela Adlen, Emily Purdie, Giles Rowe, Angela Gregory