

Archdiocese of Liverpool
Parish of
Our Lady of the Annunciation
and Saint Bernadette

Clergy: Father John Hindley
Saint Marie's Presbytery
Almond Brook Road
Standish, Wigan, WN6 0TB
Telephone: 01257 423291

Serving the Churches of:

St Marie of the Annunciation
Standish

www.stmariesstandish.co.uk

St Bernadette Shevington
www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk
jointparishes@gmail.com
www.twitter.com/stmstb

Download our parish app at
www.myparishapp.com

Parish Office at Saint Marie's:
Open Monday to Friday
from 9.00 am to 12 noon

Pastoral Associate:

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

Baptisms: By prior arrangement.
Information available at weekend
Masses. All baptisms take place
during Mass. St Bernadette's first
Sunday, St Marie's third Sunday
of the month.

Confessions: Saint Bernadette's:
Sunday 9.10 to 9.20 am. Saint
Marie's: Thursday 6.30 - 6.50 pm.
or by request.

Church opening: Please
remember that Saint Marie's
Church is open for private prayer
during weekdays between 9.00
am and 12 noon.

Funerals and Marriages: By
arrangement.

Visits to sick and housebound:
Please inform Fr John if you know
of sick or housebound parishioners
who would like Holy Communion.

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.
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 jointparishes@gmail.com or
hand in to the Parish Office by
Thursday morning.

Repository: Open at the back of
church after each weekend Mass.

St Marie's Hall: All bookings for
hall usage should be made in
advance with the Parish Office
during the parish office hours.

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First Sunday of Lent

10 March 2019



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PUTTING UP RESISTANCE

Temptation always strikes us at our weakest moments. There would be no point otherwise. The same happened to Jesus: his mission just begun, he was feeling apprehensive. Alone in the desert he had been fasting for forty days. The devil knew when and how to pounce. In the next forty days we have the opportunity to look at our own temptations and to work out how to avoid giving in to them.

The first thing is to recognise what they are and when they happen. This gives us the chance to avoid being put in a position where we might give in. Sitting outside a bank at midnight is not the right place to resist an urge for robbery. The bar of a pub is no place to be fighting against a drink problem. For some it might be the company of a particular person that offers temptation, or even something as simple as a DVD player or the internet. How many times during this Lent do we plan to put ourselves at risk?

Watching out and praying is what Jesus tells us to do. Temptation is not a sin; it's just a reminder of our frailty and weakness. Jesus suffered even the most repulsive temptations that assail each of us. He had to if he was to redeem us at our basest. Yet he was able to resist



because the bond that linked him with his Father was stronger than the passing lure of temptation. Prayer is the strongest

armament in our arsenal. By ourselves we are powerless; we need the grace of God's Holy Spirit.

Knowing our boundaries is crucial. Some people can put themselves in situations and feel no temptation whereas others are sure to fall victim. There's nothing weak about accepting our own limitations. Knowing our boundaries helps us to appreciate the consequences of what we might do. What seems perfectly reasonable at the time can end up with terrible consequences later. We are tempted to think that anything is right as long as our motives are good but in the cold light of day we realise how damaging our supposed good intentions can be.

Lent's a time for doing something to resist our temptations. What not confide in another person? Why not consider the age-old practice of reconciliation through confession? Why not make the most of these forty days so that you will really feel part of the "Alleluia" when Easter comes?

Mass Intentions this week

First Sunday of Lent		Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. (Luke 4:1-2)	
Day	Church	Time	Intention
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Karen Gordon (Anniversary)
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	Margaret Prendergast (LD)
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Golden Wedding Anniv (C & J Melarkey)
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Father Kevin Snape (Anniversary)
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Margaret Stonehouse (Anniversary)
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	L.I.S.C.F.
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Mr & Mrs T. Robinson & Eric
Friday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Trooper Christopher Lowton (B'day Rem)
Second Sunday of Lent		Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. (Luke 9: 28-29)	
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	In thanksgiving (Diamond Wedding)
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	Maureen Downes (LD)
	St Marie's	11.00 am	John Carey (Snr) & John P Carey (Anniv)

This weekend:

Lenten CAFOD appeal at all Masses.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

This week:

Monday: **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at St Marie's at 2.00 pm (until 2.30 pm).

Monday: **'With You Always'** Programme session 5 in St Marie's Hall at 6.15 pm.

Monday: **Lent meeting** in St Marie's Hall at 7.30 pm using Synod 2020 resources for Lent.

Monday: **Knights of St Columba** Council meeting at St Marie's at 8.00 pm. Men wishing to learn about the Knights are invited to attend.

Tuesday: **Soup lunch** at St Marie's at 12 noon.

Wednesday: **Standish Churches Men's Fellowship** at the Globe Inn, Standish from 7.00 pm, with a talk on "Blackpool – a seaside holiday", buffet and raffle. £10 with all profit to local charities. Please contact Joe Fairhurst, 402185.

Thursday: **Stations of the Cross** at St Bernadette's after 9.15 am Mass

Thursday: **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at St Bernadette's at 2.00 pm (until 2.30 pm).

Thursday: **Stations of the Cross** at St Marie's at 6.30 pm.

Thursday: **Joint Parishes Working Group** at St Marie's at 7.30 pm.

Friday: **Lenten Fast Day.**

Next weekend:

Lenten CAFOD collection. Second collection at all Masses.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Baptism preparation** in St Marie's Hall.

Thank you for your offerings
£1,545.41.

Bonus Ball

No.54 - L King - £38.

At the back of church...

- St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and Easter cards;
- Lenten books, a source of prayer and learning in the lead up to and during the season of Lent.

From our Pastoral Associate

"What are you giving up for Lent?" I asked my children. The answers were "school", "homework" and "tidying my room" (which they all seem good at already), so I responded, "well, you could start doing something, like being nice to each other, or following instructions, or stop bickering? Maybe, instead of moaning, you could simply do what I ask you?" They didn't seem particularly keen on that suggestion...

Then it made me think: how often do we respond like this to God? We KNOW what God wants. Just as parents with their children, God knows what is best for us but we don't always choose to do that because it isn't what we want or it feels too difficult. Lent is an invitation for repentance and transformation. I, for one, pray for transformation so I can better serve Him and respond to the plans he has for my life and vocation in this role as Pastoral Associate.
Jo Wallace

Lenten Reflections

First Sunday: *The Temptations of Jesus.*

As Jesus is tempted to give up or distort his mission, we reflect on the temptations that could stop us from carrying out our mission to share the joy of the Gospel.

Marriage Matters

We seek each other

Today's Gospel reminds us that there is more to our life as married couples than we see. Our desire for each other has a deeper yearning – to be loved and accepted for who we are. In this season of Lent let us be led by the Spirit to resist the temptation to lead individual and separate lives within our marriages.

Safeguarding - DBS updates

Would parish volunteers needing to update their DBS certificate please collect and complete the relevant forms from Fr John or Margaret Jennings and attend the drop-in session in St Marie's Hall on Thursday, 28 March, 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm. A list of volunteers due for update can be found on the parish notice board.

Lenten Services

Have you considered doing something extra for Lent? The following will be held during Lent:

Mondays at St Marie's: **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at 2.00 pm. (until 2.30 pm). **Lent meetings** in St Marie's Hall using Synod 2020 resources for Lent at 7.30 pm.

Thursdays at St Bernadette's: **Stations of the Cross** after 9.15 am Mass. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at 2.00 pm. (until 2.30 pm).

Thursdays at St Marie's: **Stations of the Cross** at 6.30 pm (before Mass at 7.00 pm).

Offertory envelopes

Offertory envelopes for the next tax year are available for parishioners to collect. Nos. 1 to 95 are at St Bernadette's; nos. 96 to 200 are at St Marie's. Please contact the parish office if you do not have envelopes and would like a set.

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

This Friday is Lenten Fast Day. A second collection will be taken after Holy Communion at all Masses next weekend. Please gift aid if you can.

Mass Bags

Mass bags are available for families at the back of church (opposite side to piety side) which have been put together to help parents with small children during Mass. It has a different bible story in each bag and also a card activity to help teach them about what they see in church. Please place items in the bag at the end of each Mass and hang it back on the coat rack for the next family to use!

Knights of St Columba

Tickets for the KSC dinner dance at Gathurst Golf Club on Friday, 22 March. can be obtained from S.Lester, 427167 or A. Mitchinson, 421659.

Sale of Grand National draw tickets after all Masses.

Dementia Prayer Week

This coming week is Dementia Prayer Week. Prayer cards are available at the back of church. Please pray for those affected by dementia. and support their annual appeal for donations online at www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk.