



PARISH OF ST JOHN XXIII, PRESTON

St Joseph's and English Martyrs' Churches

Incorporating the districts of St Augustine, English Martyrs, St Ignatius, St Joseph & St Teresa

Sunday 14th September 2025

Exultation of the Holy Cross [C]

	Time	Church	
Sunday 14th September <i>Exultation of the Holy Cross</i> <i>Special Collection: Education</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.15am	SJ	<i>Confirmation Session (3)</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Gary Clarkson</i>
			<i>Veneration of the relic of the True Cross</i>
			<i>Followed by Parish Social</i>
			Rosary & Benediction
	4.00pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i>
	5.00pm	SJ	<i>Veneration of the relic of the True Cross</i>
Monday 15th September <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Peter Smith</i>
Tuesday 16th September <i>St Cornelius</i>	9.00am	SJ	Mass <i>Rachel France</i>
Wednesday 17th September <i>St Robert Bellarmine</i>	2.30pm	SI	Mass in St Ignatius' School <i>Parishioners welcome</i>
Thursday 18th September <i>of the 24th week of the Year</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Laura McDowell</i>
Friday 19th September <i>St Theodore of Canterbury</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Wedding Anniversary</i>
Saturday 20th September <i>Martyrs of Korea</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Mary Winters</i>
		SJ	No Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	11.00am		<i>Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell</i>
	5.30 - 5.50pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>May Rice</i>
Sunday 21st September <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Special Col: Home Mission</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Brigid Deane</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Hanna Borkowska</i>

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]

SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

ST HELENA AND THE TRUE CROSS

Following the Jewish revolts in 70 A.D. the city of Jerusalem lay in ruins. The Emperor Hadrian demolished the rest of the city, this included levelling the top of Mount Calvary and the tomb erecting pagan temples. However, some of this levelling helped preserve the sacred sites underneath.

Constantine came to power in the year 312, and in the following year, legalized Christianity with the Edict of Milan. In 324, with the blessing of Constantine, her son, St Helena set out for Palestine in search of the sacred sites. In the following years, St. Helena would build churches marking the place of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the site of the Ascension. St Helena strongly established a tradition of pilgrimage!

About the year 326, the pagan temples of Jupiter Capitolinus and Venus were demolished, revealing the remains of the reported tomb of our Lord and the site where he had been crucified. The Emperor Constantine himself wrote to the Bishop of Jerusalem, ordering him to make a search for the cross on Mount Calvary.

Just east of the site, three crosses were found in a rock-cistern as well as the titulus (the wood plaque inscribed with Jesus Nazaranus Rex Iudaeorum). The question then arose, "Which was the cross of Christ?" A woman, dying, was brought to the spot. She touched the crosses, one by one. After she touched the third cross, she was cured, thereby identifying the true cross. Most importantly, St. Ambrose preached that when St. Helena found the true cross, "*she worshiped not the wood, but the King, Him who hung on the wood. She burned with an earnest desire of touching the guarantee of immortality.*"

In today's feast we worship the King who hung upon the cross, perhaps with the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "*We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.*"

OUR PRAYERS

We pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners and those who care for them. We also pray for all the lately dead: Peter Smith (funeral 22nd September @ St Joseph) and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eddie Cornwall.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LADYEWELL

Our Lady of Fernyhalgh, Preston [PR2 5RR]

The annual pilgrimage from St Mary's church, Fernyhalgh to Ladyewell Shrine will take place next Saturday, 20th September. Mass in the Church will be at 11.00am, followed by Procession of the Blessed Sacrament down to the Shrine. If you can offer a lift or need a lift please speak with Fr Etienne.

*This Shrine is designated for the Holy Year in the Diocese of Lancaster. At this church you can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence which the Holy Father has granted for the Year. To receive the Indulgence, first go to Confession, receive Holy Communion and Prayer for the Holy Father. Then at the Shrine, pray the Our Father, profess our faith [Apostles' Creed or Nicene Creed], and pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CONSIDERING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Did you know that the word catholic means "for everyone"? The Catholic Church is filled with all kinds of people who know and love Jesus Christ. Jesus founded the Catholic Church so that everyone who looks for Him can find Him.

Do you think God might be calling you to follow Him in the Catholic Church? Do you know of others who are curious about our Catholic Faith, or someone lapsed from the Catholic Faith? Speak to a priest to start learning more about what Catholics believe.

In some parts of the UK there is a current surge of [especially young] people joining the Catholic Church. We pray for converts and returning souls.

PARISH SOCIALS

After the 11.15am Mass today (14th), at St Joseph's, you are very welcome to help contribute and/or join us for a little Parish Social in the Lancaster Room.

A number of games are provided for younger parishioners to enjoy (or older parishioners!)

N.B: For the diary, on Sunday 12th October we will celebrate our parish patronal feast.

Also, on Sunday 16th November we will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION

For those families with children who are currently at least 8 years old [school year 4+] who would like to consider preparing for these two Sacraments in our parish in 2026, there is an enquiry form at the back of both our churches to be completed and returned to the parish office by **Sunday 19th October 2025**. An initial information session for parents will be held *before* the Sunday Morning Mass 19th October at 10.30am.

N.B: There is no plan set, yet, about preparation/celebration dates for these celebrations. Fr Etienne will consider these once he receives all the returned enquiry forms.

DIOCESAN CENTENARY MASS

On Saturday 18th October the culmination of our Diocesan Centenary will take place with Mass at the Cathedral in Lancaster together with a Pastoral visit of the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia. Understandably this event is by ticket only. Our parish has been allocated 4 tickets for parishioners. The Mass is at 11.30am, followed by a reception in the Town Hall. The Priests will draw lots of those who wish to attend. If you would like to have your name included in the draw, please email Fr Etienne at daniel.etienne@lrcd.org.uk by 3rd October.

SPUC – PRESTON BRANCH

The Preston Branch of the *Society for Protection of Unborn Children*, will next meet on Saturday 11th October at St Joseph's in the Lancaster Room at 2.00pm. All parishioners are encouraged to join this important Pro-Life work. Pray for this apostolate!

YOUTH TEAM AT CASTLERIGG MANOR

There are still spaces on the Castlerigg team for this year [academic year] and they're open to late starters. Applicants should be aged 18-25, willing to commit for a year, and open to growing in faith and sharing it with other young people. For more information email: jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

THINKING OF BEING A PRIEST?

Young men 16+ are invited to come to a day of recollection and discernment! Saturday 22nd November, 10.00am-4.00pm at Lancaster Cathedral. The day will include Mass, Adoration, guided prayer, talks to assist discernment and lunch. Speak with our priests if you are interested.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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