



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 21st September 2025

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year [C]

	Time	Church	
Sunday 21st September <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Special Collection: Home Mission</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>May Rice</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>
Monday 22nd September <i>of 25th week of the year</i>	11.30am	SJ	Requiem Mass <i>Peter Smith</i>
Tuesday 23rd September <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Solange Murphy</i>
Wednesday 24th September <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>			No Public Mass
Thursday 25th September <i>of the 25th week of the Year</i>	11.15am	EM	Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i> <i>With children from St Ignatius' school</i>
Friday 26th September <i>Sts Comas & Damian</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Francesa Thompson</i>
Saturday 27th September <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Richard Adamson</i>
	10.00-10.30am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30 - 5.50pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>Margaret Dawson</i>
Sunday 28th September <i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Special Collection: Bishop's Admin</i>	10.15am	SJ	<i>Confirmation Session [4]</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Agnes Alfred</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]		SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]	

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

In 1061, in Norfolk, England, there lived a wealthy young widow named Richeldis de Faverches, the lady of Walsingham Manor. Richeldis had been widowed and found solace in prayer, developing a deep life of devotion. Our Lady took pity on this young woman who knelt faithfully day by day asking her aid so patiently.

Richeldis was not a visionary in the way we find them at Lourdes and Fatima, however in answer to sincere prayer Richeldis was 'spirited away' by our Lady to her home town of Nazareth. There reaching one small, unassuming dwelling. Our Lady turned to Richeldis and told her it was here, in the home of her youth, that the Angel Gabriel asked her to be the Mother of God. This was the place she spoke her *fiat* to God's will for the world. Our Lady asked Richeldis to remember what it looked like, to take dimensions in her mind, and to rebuild an exact replica of the house in her own little village of Walsingham. Richeldis took this to heart, and did as Our Lady asked. And so, there in her small village near Walsingham manor, a perfect replica of the holy house of Nazareth rose in its quiet simplicity to the wondering questions of the villagers. Our Lady said this to Richeldis:

"Do all this unto my special praise and honour. And all who are in any way distressed or in need, let them seek me here in that little house you have made. To all that seek me there shall be given succour."

As time went on the Holy House developed into a noble shrine, the refuge for both paupers and Kings, until suppression under Henry VIII. He confiscated and burned the Holy House of Our Lady of Walsingham. The priory was ransacked and fell into ruin. Our Lady's beautiful statue was taken away and burned in London.

Walsingham lay in ruins for many years. However in the 1890's a woman named Charlotte Boyd bought a small chapel that had once been the "Slipper Chapel," a mile from the original shrine. Pilgrims were said to have taken off their shoes and left them at this chapel to make the last mile of sacrifice in bare feet. And so pilgrims returned to Walsingham through Charlotte Boyd's efforts. Think of the beauty of Our Lady seeking to bring Nazareth to us, so we may also embrace joyfully the will of God!

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, Edna Gee, Barbara Parker, Elizabeth Griffith and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Edna Burton, Brigid Deane and Jack Moorby.

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.

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. 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.

PARISH PATRONAL FEAST

October 11th is the feast day of St John XXIII, the principal patron of our parish. To celebrate the feast and our gathering from various former parishes in Preston and now of so many others from throughout the world, we will have a little celebration after Saturday evening Mass at English Martyrs 11th October and after 11.15am Mass at St Joseph's. You are very welcome to help contribute and/or join us! Lists for contributions are in the church porches.

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

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY

During the month of October the Rosary will be said 20 minutes before Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Please sign up in the porch to lead the rosary one weekend.

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.

CLEANING OUR CHURCHES

If you could spare some time helping clean our churches please contact the parish office or speak with one of our priests. Thank you to our cleaners!

COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

Non-perishable food goods for those in need can be placed in the buckets found in the porches of our two churches. Thank you!

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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