

Third Sunday  
of Easter

14th April 2024 (B)



# Our Lady Star of the Sea

## Roman Catholic Church

Parish Priest  
Canon Peter Hart

01253 724511

*...a vision of faith ...formed in love ...lived in hope*

### Mass times this coming week:

(Vigil) Saturday 5pm and Sundays 9.30am & 11am  
Weekday Masses – 9.30am  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
No Mass on Tuesday mornings  
The church is closed at all other times

### Mass Intentions for this coming Week

Saturday: 5.00pm Special Intention  
(Dominic & Hannah)  
Sunday: 9.30am Mary Gwendoline Roberts R.I.P.  
11.00am People of the Parish  
Monday: 9.30am Bobby Brown (Health)  
Tuesday: NO MASS  
Wednesday: 9.30am Graham Fee R.I.P.  
Thursday: 9.30am June Caesar (Health)  
Friday: 9.30am Raymond Parkinson R.I.P.  
1.45pm Funeral Service for  
Leo McGeeney R.I.P.  
Saturday: 5.00pm Mary Stuttard R.I.P.  
Sunday: 9.30am Tom Carter  
11.00am People of the Parish

### Faithful Departed

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently, especially Theresa Coles and Shirley Nightingale. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

### Anniversaries

Brian Bernard Sergeant, Mary Harris, Paddy McMahon, Shaun White, Joyce Cartmel, Teresa Coleman, Barbara Lawson, Mary Gwendoline Roberts, John Varley, Bernard Fitzpatrick, Ada Regan, Margaret (Marie) Pickup, Joseph Doyle, Raymond Parkinson, Eileen Streete, Patricia Payne, Mamie Hughes, Veronica Bennett.

### Our Sick

Please continue to remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick and those who are anxious at this time – Norah Ince, Pauline Coleman, Norah Osborn, John Acton-Reid, Fr Harry Holden, Rosemary Saddington, Gerard Curley, Christine Read, Chris Horan, Sarah Bell, Dawn Robinson, Denis Parkinson, Anne Hepes, Rita Ambler, Sadie Everard-Walker, Phil Kay, Michelle Hinds, Violet Fishwick, Jane Hughes, Sheila O'Brien, Eileen Veevers, Michael Young, Catherine Dee, Sheila Harrison.

### Confessions

Confessions will now be heard in the Confessional on Saturday 4.30 – 4.55pm. Also, by appointment.

### Mobile phones

Recently there has been an increase in mobile phones ringing during Mass. Please either switch off your phone or at least turn it to silent mode during Mass.

### Offertory envelopes

The new set on offertory envelopes are available in the church porch for those who use them for their contributions to the parish.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

This year's annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place 23rd – 30th July. The cost is from £899.00. If anyone is interested in going please speak to Fr Peter who has booking forms.

### The Sacrament of Baptism

The Celebration is a wonderful occasion for the whole parish family as well as the family of the baby being baptised as we welcome a new member into our community. We would ask that families wishing to arrange a baptism for their child ring Fr. Peter to discuss available dates rather than trying to do so by email or through the parish website. As they say, "book early to avoid disappointment"!

### Parish Social Events

Key Parish Family dates for your diary in April are the Coffee morning on the 19th and 28th April to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Canon Peter's ordination.  
19 Apr Coffee morning – 10.15am  
28 Apr Event to celebrate Canon Peter 50th Anniversary of Ordination – Further detail to be provided nearer the time

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

It will be September (2nd – 6th) The Bishop is renewing the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine to Our Blessed Lady. The Bishop invites you to join him! This will be the first pilgrimage since the Pandemic, and we have so much to pray for, so much to give thanks for. Some of you are familiar with Walsingham. For others it will be your first visit.

In the Middle Ages the Shrine was one of the great ancient Marian places of pilgrimage in the whole of Christendom. It is known as England's very own Nazareth and is a place where the incarnation of Jesus is particularly remembered. Therefore, for the modern pilgrim, it is a place for all who would rejoice with Mary at 'the great joy of the Annunciation.' Like Lourdes in France, it is a place of reconciliation, conversion, peace and healing. Dependent on accommodation type the all-inclusive cost is no more than £500 per person. Coach collection/drop off will take place in Workington, Carlisle, Penrith, Lancaster and Preston. For more information and booking details contact the pilgrimage organiser Deacon Charlie Conner on 07895 742 732 or email [charlie.conner@lrdc.org.uk](mailto:charlie.conner@lrdc.org.uk)  
The places will be limited, so please book in good time.

### Diocesan Directories

Copies of the Lancaster Diocesan Directory for 2024 are on sale in the Bookshop priced £6.00.

### 200 Club

The next draw will take place during the Coffee Morning at the Parish Centre on Friday 19 April. All are welcome.

### Church Cleaning Rota

Copies will be available in the Sacristy from the weekend.

### **Parish Centre Bookings**

Parish centre bookings can now be made online via: <https://hallbookingonline.com/ourladystarofthesea> or to discuss further please telephone Christopher on 07759144537 r email [olssbookings@hotmail.com](mailto:olssbookings@hotmail.com)

### **Food Bank**

Thank you for your generous donations which were extremely appreciated by the Wesley's Larder at the Methodist Church, please keep donating items shown on the list by the boxes. Wesley's Larder is open to local people to collect food Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 11.30am to 1.30pm while the associated community café is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 1.00pm to feed the community for free. Everyone's welcome and one of the Café's aims is to combat loneliness. More details on the Parish website.

### **St Vincent de Paul Society**

The SVP wishes to express its grateful thanks to everyone for their continued and most generous support and for the many individual donations received which has enabled help to be provided to those in need. If you would like further information about the work of the SVP please contact Peter Donnelly 01253 721481.

### **The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for April**

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this April is for "the role of women." The Pope invited the Church to pray for this intention in this month's The Pope Video, which is entrusted to the entire Catholic Church through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. In The Pope Video for April, the Holy Father insists on the steps today's society needs to take, and asks Christians to join him in prayer "that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

### **Bishops welcome Vatican Statement on Human Rights**

Two bishop members of the Department for Social Justice at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have welcomed the Vatican declaration on human dignity *Dignitas infinita* released by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith on Monday, 8 April 2024. Department Chair, Bishop Richard Moth, and Lead Bishop for Life Issues, Bishop John Sherrington assert that the promotion and defence of human dignity lie at the heart of the mission of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

### **Full statement**

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales welcomes the declaration on human dignity, *Dignitas infinita*, published by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith earlier this week. In our troubled times, it is important for Christians to proclaim the inherent and unconditional dignity of all human beings, without exception, as being the basis for authentic human rights. Although human rights have increasingly been codified in secular documents, such as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, our dignity and rights originate in the Gospel preached by Christ. As Cardinal Fernandez states in presenting the document: "we cannot separate faith from the defence of human dignity, evangelisation from the promotion of a dignified life, and spirituality from a

commitment to the dignity of every human being." The promotion and defence of human dignity continues to be at the heart of the mission of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

There are many areas where human dignity is misunderstood and human rights are under attack. These include questions about the dignity of human life from conception to natural death as well as the recognition of the unity of the person, body and soul, created as masculine and feminine. Although our faith and reason teach us that human rights are inviolable and apply to the most vulnerable in society including the unborn, our abortion laws promote a false understanding of human dignity based on age, level of development, and mental capacity rather than on our shared humanity from conception until natural death.

In addition, our laws and culture must allow us to recognise the difference between and complementarity of male and female whilst resisting the sometimes intolerant imposition of a gender theory that 'cancels differences in its claim to make everyone equal'. (*Dignitas infinita*, 56).

In our own country, we also face the threat of the legalisation of assisted suicide. *Dignitas infinita* emphasises the links between the dignity of the sick and dying, our duty to care for them, and need to resist the growing threat of assisted suicide and euthanasia. "Helping the suicidal person to take his or her own life is an objective offence against the dignity of the person asking for it, even if one would be thereby fulfilling the person's wish" (*Dignitas infinita*, 52). Instead, we must respond to the suffering of the sick and dying with appropriate forms of personal and medical care. As the Declaration reminds us, to undermine the human dignity of the most vulnerable is to undermine the human dignity of us all.

The protection and promotion of human dignity is critical to addressing many other social justice challenges. As the document explains, by proclaiming that the Kingdom of God belongs to the poor, the humble, the despised, and those who suffer in body and spirit, Jesus recognised the dignity of every person, especially those who were considered 'unworthy'. (*Dignitas infinita*, 19) In our parish, civic and political life, we must, therefore, never forget the human dignity and human rights of the poor, prisoners, the sick, and those living with disabilities.

We also echo the Dicastery's call to bring an end to all war and end the scourge of violence within our local communities and in our homes. There is an urgent need for all of us to be peacemakers. This requires us to welcome migrants, work to tackle human trafficking and speak up for women who "endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment, and violence" (*Dignitas infinita*, 44).

The Declaration concludes by reminding us: "Each individual and also every human community is responsible for the concrete and actual realisation of human dignity." (*Dignitas infinita*, 65). It is our hope that recognition of this shared responsibility will strengthen the social action of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and transform our civil and political life.

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### **Parish Priest: Canon. Peter Hart E.V.**

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To book a room in the Parish Centre, please visit:  
[hallbookingonline.com/ourladystarofthesea](https://hallbookingonline.com/ourladystarofthesea)  
Enquiries: [olssbookings@hotmail.com](mailto:olssbookings@hotmail.com) or 07759 144537

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