

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 St Marie's:
Open Monday to Friday
from 9.00 am to 12 noon

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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BROKEN

People face brokenness on all sorts of levels. They feel devastated when their marriage breaks up. Children sense insecurity when they end up in a broken home. Death and separation, sickness and pain all make people realise that the wholeness they once experienced has been lost. For others it's about their children rejecting what they believe about God. Yet others feel broken when they are sacked, when they love life collapses or when something they long enjoyed is denied to them. It can be hard to face the future and we end up wondering why it is happening to us.

Today's gospel confronts these situations and tells us in Jesus's words that unless we are prepared to let go of some things we will never experience the true and deep joy of what life is all about. "Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest."

All of us are broken in one way or another. Sometimes this brokenness is part of our basic personality and sometimes it's the result of external circumstances. Pretending that we are not broken does us no good, and it's the way we deal with our brokenness that produces something positive or just leaves us defective.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

18 March 2018

Brokenness can actually make us whole because it is an important ingredient in maturity. Realising our limitations enables us to rely not simply on our own strengths but on the power of God. Many people who go through traumatic experiences find they are now closer to God than they were previously.

St Paul speaks about being at his strongest when he recognises his weakness. This is because brokenness empowers; it is a process of surrender of mind and heart to God. It forces us to admit that any goodness or potential we might possess is really God's. And, perhaps more importantly, it allows us to identify with the rest of our fellow human beings. It lets us realise our lowliness in the face of God and it teaches us about our dependence, for we know that our greatest triumphs are really small when compared with what God can do.

The paradox is that in Jesus God allowed himself to be broken. By letting his Father use him on Calvary Christ was able to bring life to the world. We too, as grains of wheat, have to be prepared not to live out a pretence but to be broken so that our brokenness can germinate into a rich harvest for others. For our brokenness connects us to Christ. And Christ is God.

Mass Intentions this week

Fifth Sunday of Lent		Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. (John 12:24)	
Day	Church	Time	Intention
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Pat Herbert (LD)
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	Margaret Laura Carney (Birthday Rem)
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Tommy & Trooper Christopher Lowton (Birthday Remembrance)
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Cecil Roach (LD)
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Thomas Darwin
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Gerald Fairhurst (LD)
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Eucharistic Service
Friday	St Marie's school	9.30 am	John Donegan
Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord		So you would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: Come down from the cross! (Mk 15: 29)	
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Teresa Telford (Anniversary)
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	Bill McCracken (Birthday Rem)
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Malcolm Morris (Anniversary)

This weekend:

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

Sunday: **Baptism preparation** after 11.00 am Mass.

This week:

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

Monday: **'With You Always'** Programme session 7 in St Marie's Hall at 6.15 pm.

Monday: **'Let it be done to me, according to your word'** Lent course at St Bernadette's Church at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday: **Reflection and Contemplation Day** based around the Easter Story in St Bernadette's school from 1.30 pm.

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

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

Friday: **Stations of the Cross** at St Bernadette's at 9.30 am.

Friday: **Joanne Wallace concert**, with Martin Fletcher, 'A Lenten Reflection' at St Joseph's Church, Wrightington at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 from 676027.

Next weekend:

Sunday: **Refreshments** after 9.30 am Mass. Proceeds to local charities. All welcome.

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

Sunday: **Baptism preparation** after 11.00 am Mass.

Thank you for your offerings

£1,515.14

Nugent

£493.71. Thank you.

Bonus Ball

No.50 - Rollover - £20.

When filling in the bonus ball sheet, please complete full names rather than initials, so that cheques can be completed.

Holy Thursday

The traditional watching at the altar of repose does not take place this year as the Good Friday service takes place at St Marie's. Watching only happens when the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services take place in the same church.

Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes for the tax year 2018-19 are available at the back of Church for collection. Nos. 1 to 95 are at St Bernadette's; nos. 96 to 200 are at St Marie's. Please note that parishioners formerly having offertory box nos. 96 to 103 and 201 to 219 have been reallocated. A list of the reallocated numbers is also available. The new envelopes should be used from the new tax year. Please do not use any of the envelopes from 2017/18. If you do not have envelopes and would like a set, please contact the parish office.

Mass on Friday

Mass on Friday will be celebrated in St Marie's school at 9.30 am. Parishioners may be aware that Margaret Whitter, caretaker at the school, will be retiring on Thursday, 29 March and the Mass will be an occasion to express thanks for Margaret's loyal service of over 30 years.

Church Cleaning

Volunteers are required to help clean St Bernadette's Church for Easter after Mass on the next two Tuesdays.

Readers for Holy Week

Please sign the list in the Church porch if you are able to read at services during Holy Week.

At the back of church...

- Easter cards and First Holy Communion cards; and
- APF Mill Hill Mission books.

Lourdes petition

Please place any petitions you may have in the shoe box in church before Good Friday. Please do not include any money as they will be left at the Grotto unopened. Thank you.

Veiled Statues

You will notice that the statues are now veiled. We fast from images that remind us of the Resurrection, just as we fast from food.

Pilgrimage to Knock

Fully escorted four night Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland from 10 September, £599 per person. Tel. 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Holy Week 2018

Monday:

9.15 am: Mass at St Marie's.
2.00 pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Marie's.
7.00 pm: Lenten Reconciliation Service at St Bernadette's.
7.30 pm: Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at St Marie's.

Tuesday:

9.15 am: Mass at St Bernadette's.

Wednesday:

7.30 pm: ChrisM Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool.

Easter Triduum:

Holy Thursday:

7.30 pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Bernadette's (followed by confessions).

Good Friday:

11.00 am: Stations of the Cross at St Bernadette's.
3.00 pm: Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Marie's.
(*Special collection for the Holy Places*)

Holy Saturday:

7.30 pm: Easter Vigil at St Marie's.
(*There are no other services on Holy Saturday*)

Easter Day - Holy Mass

9.30 am at St Bernadette's.
11.00 am at St Marie's

St Marie's Sanctuary Lamp

Kevin Carey

Ordination anniversary

On Friday, 13 April, Fr John will be 20 years ordained a priest. He will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving at St Marie's at 7.30 pm on the day, followed by a drinks reception in the Hall.

Ladies Section

If you wish to join the Ladies Section, which meets on the last Tuesday of the month in St Marie's Hall at 8.00 pm, please contact Marjorie, 424332 or Monica, 400558.

Baptism

This weekend, we welcome a new member to our Catholic Church community when Lucas Michael Francis Unsworth is baptised during the 11.00 am Mass. Congratulations!