

St John the Evangelist

Poulton-le-Fylde

Parish Diary this Week

Date	Time	Feast	Pray for:
Saturday April 24 th	6.00pm	Fourth Sunday of Easter SUNDAY Vigil MASS – St John's	People of the Parish
Sunday April 25 th	-	NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS – St Martin's NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS – St John's or Children's Liturgy of the Word NO Excellent Coffee in the Hall after Mass	
Monday April 26 th	-	... of the Third Week of Easter NO PUBLIC Prayer & Liturgy of Word	-
Tuesday April 27 th	9.30am	... of the Fourth Week of Easter Morning Mass (St John's)	BR Birthday
Wednesday April 28 th	9.30am	... of the Fourth Week of Easter Morning Mass (St Martin's Chapel)	Bridget Flynn
Thursday April 29 th	9.30am	St Catherine of Siena Morning Mass (St John's)	Keith Milton-Barker
Friday April 30 th	9.30am	... of the Fourth Week of Easter Morning Mass (St John's)	Cunniff Family
Saturday May 1 st	6.00pm	St Joseph the Worker Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday Vigil Mass (St John's)	People of the Parish
Sunday May 2 nd	-	NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS – St Martin's NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS – St John's No Children's Liturgy of the Word No Excellent Coffee in the Hall after Mass	

(Mass Readings: Sundays of Easter B ; Weekdays: ...of Easter)

Reconciliation: If you wish to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation please contact Fr Peter and we can arrange a time to meet in the Presbytery at a distance (Providing neither of us has the symptoms)

Please pray for: Veronica Morris, Megan (aged 11), Louis Crowson, Christopher Brown, Pauline Cafferty, Antonio Palmer, Joanne Porter, Ann Marie Cooke,, Margaret Johnston, Pat Jackson, Shelly Caine, Fr John Walsh, Paul Bradley, and all those who are sick.

Anniversaries: **APRIL** 1st Mona Brown, 11th Barbara Brown, 12th Teresa Brownwood, 14th Mike Butler, 15th April, Jim Booth, April 18th Shelagh Booth

Lately Dead: Len Rawcliffe.
Maroulla Koratzitis (5th May 2021 at St Martins Church, Carleton at 2:30pm – invitation by family, please)

Church Services and COVID Guidelines: My reading of the lockdown loosening suggest:
Baptisms & Wedding of up to 30 people 'no earlier than 17th May'.
End of Church number restrictions 'no earlier than 21st May.' (15 people no earlier than 12th April)



Public Baptisms: We have our governmental dates for when full churches might be available – as mentioned on the front of the bulletin these depend on COVID data. However it has come to my notice that social venues are already booking for all sorts of events after these dates now. If parents wish to book 'provisional' dates for Baptism please contact me by phone or email and we can see what we can do.

Sunday 25th April 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Masses

Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St John's
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	St Martin's
Thursday	9.30am	Mass	St John's
Friday	9.30am	Mass	St John's
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00pm	Mass	St John's

If you wish to join our list of readers for Masses please let us know – what day, etc. Thanks

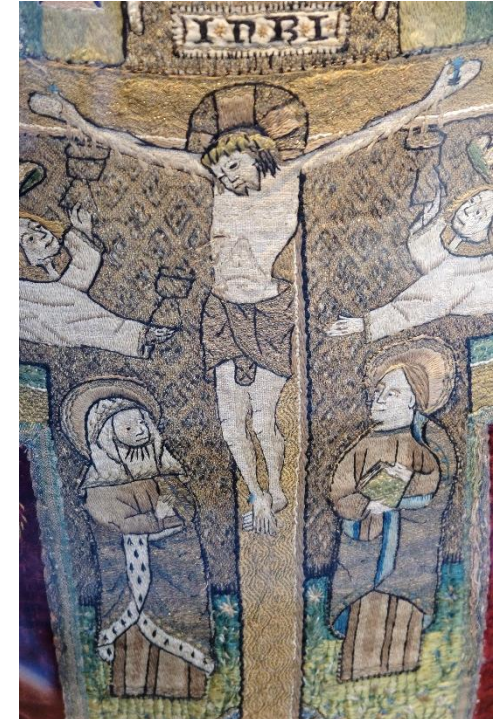
From our Hospital Chaplains

The total number of COVID-positive inpatients now stands at three. A total of 27,807 vaccinations have been administered. The Trust has now discharged 2,226 COVID-positive patients (including readmissions) and the number of COVID-positive deaths stands at 765.

As expected, last week the Trust's visiting policy was relaxed with patients now permitted to have one visitor for a specified one hour each day with time slots set for 2-3pm, 3.30pm-4.30pm or 7pm-8pm. There has been some initial confusion on the wards over whether Chaplains counted as the designated visitor, and a number of members of the chaplaincy team experienced difficulties in seeing their patients on occasion last week

For End of Life patients, the new limit is 4 visitors, but because of the possibility of these being drawn from more than one household, those visitors visiting patients at the end of their lives will be asked to take a PCR test

(Please keep the chaplains in your prayers as they have done a sterling job over the year!)



The St John's Chasuble:

Some time ago I had a request from a man doing a study on liturgical garments. He had heard of our Chasuble and asked if he could photograph it. This arrived this week which may be of interest to sewers and historians and others:

[\(Click here\)](#)

"You will find your flower in Figure 13 top right. The inverted three-point 'base' placed between the body and the top of the flower is most unusual."

<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/6YWHSDVX/IXX79FTCKHF7/full?target=10.1080/00404969.2020.1767438>



*Welcome to all parishioners and visitors to our Parish today
and throughout the week*

Parish Priest: Fr Peter J Sharrock
Parish Deacon: Rev Bill Milton

Presbytery: 98 Breck Road, FY6 7HT
Telephone: 01253 893184 (**New Number!**)
email: saintjohnpoulton@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnspoulton.org.uk

Parish School: St John's Primary School:
Telephone: 01253 883690
Website:
www.stjohnscatholicprimarypoulton.co.uk/

Please pray for those living in: Blackpool Old Rd, Blackpool Rd, Bleasdale Ave, Bolton Ave, Bramley Gardens, Breck Close, Breck Drive, Breck Rd, Breckside Close, Brentwood Ave, Briarfield Rd, Broadfield Ave, Brockholes Crescent, Brocklewood Ave, Brock Way, Brompton Rd, Broughton Way, Buckingham Way / Canterbury Close, Burlington House

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention April: Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Baptism Preparation: Our next gatherings for parents wishing to prepare for their child's Baptism will be on:

TBA

(When Virus development is clearer)

at 7pm at the presbytery

Please take a leaflet from church.

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits are served after the 11:00 am Mass every Sunday at St John's and after the 9:30 am Mass every 2nd Sunday of the month at St Martin's & St Hilda's. Please come along and join us.

Also: after the Tuesday morning Mass most weeks. Come along and meet others.

St Oscar Romero Fund: Is our parish fund for local poor – you may see the collection after Masses.

Parish Bulletin News: If you have any items for the bulletin please contact Elaine 886219.

Parish Offertory Donations

Thanks to parishioner who have used the last few weeks to catch up on their offertory giving from the lockdown period. Thanks to those parishioners who have taken out standing orders during lockdown to keep up your parish offerings – Bank details are across the page if you wish to do this. There are some new boxes of offertory envelopes at the back of church. If you wish to order some envelopes or deliver let us know. Gift Aid is available to be gained by the parish if you are a tax payer and wish to sign up for this. Please contact parishioner Angela Hartley if you need help with this – it is worth it for us! (Her number is: 07365 112011)

Parish Bank Details:

Although we have two church buildings this is one parish and the parish account is a business account named:

'Parish of St John the Evangelist – Poulton le Fylde'

Please could you make cheques out to this title only as banks are becoming less imaginative!

Acc Number: 71335227

Sort Code: 40-27-02

(This information has worked online on 24.02.2021)

Fleetwood Foodbank: Thanks for your continued delivery of food for the foodbank – they are very appreciative. If you know of people who need help – or have food to send yourself, please phone: **07821 498161** (*New number*)

Printed Bulletin: When the church buildings are closed the bulletin and Mass sheet will be in a box on the presbytery doorstep if you want to have a walk.

Parish WhatsApp Group: Emily Halliwell (as part of the above group) has set up a closed parish WhatsApp account. I have finally been beaten into joining but am a bit of a WhatsApp virgin as yet! Emily says: "My number is 07969643648 if you want to be added just reply with your mobile number or text me."

Safeguarding: *As always be aware of hoax callers. Do not give personal or finance details, or money to anyone – check with the people here or Fr Peter.*

THE PARISH "VIRUS TIMES"

Parish Daily Scripture Reflections & Newsletter:

Many parishioners have asked to receive the newsletter with Mass reflections and a "hello" each day. If your relative or neighbour cannot ask for this why not print a copy, and the regular Bulletin (This!) to keep them in touch. (*Email above left*)

Pastoral Letter from the Bishop

The fourth Sunday of Easter always has a Gospel speaking of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In our diocese this has become a day for prayer for vocations – or a day for listening for a call from God.

There is a Letter from the bishop available today – but he speaks of the importance of not just 'asking' but 'listening':



"Other forms of prayer can take more effort. A very important one is listening. Asking for vocations is important, but it must lead us to listen for vocations because a vocation is a response to the voice of the Good Shepherd's call. Creating an outer-silence helps us to listen with the heart, and can help others to hear too. Our silence will help them to recognise the Lord's reassuring voice."

Pope Francis on "Christ, the Good Shepherd:"

Christ is the true shepherd, who fulfils the loftiest model of love for the flock: He freely lays down his own life, no one takes it from Him (cf. v. 18), but He gives it for the sheep (v. 17). In open opposition to false shepherds, Jesus presents himself as the one true shepherd of the people. A bad pastor thinks of himself and exploits the sheep; a good shepherd thinks of the sheep and gives himself. Unlike the mercenary, Christ the pastor is a careful guide who participates in the life of his flock, does not seek other interests, has no ambition other than guiding, feeding and protecting his sheep. All of this at the highest price, that of sacrificing his own life.

But it is not enough to contemplate and give thanks. It is also necessary to follow the Good Shepherd.

THE EMMAUS STORY – A MODEL FOR CATECHESIS?

This week we have been considering Luke's story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) and what we can learn from it in terms of catechesis. This is a wonderful story and one of my favourites and I am sure you know it, too. It is still the day of Jesus' resurrection – but all these two disciples are aware of is that when the women went to anoint Jesus' body, they found the tomb empty and came back talking about a vision of angels telling them he was alive. The disciples are talking together as they walk along - no doubt in a state of confusion wondering what to make of things. Jesus "walked by their side": there's no meeting, he just appears and walks with them. I am sure Jesus would have known exactly what they were talking about. Yet, to open the conversation, he asks: "What are you discussing?" Utterly amazed they tell him he must be the only person in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has been happening. The irony is that Jesus was the central character in all that had taken place. Nevertheless, Jesus continues with his questioning: "What things?" and they tell him what has happened and how their own hope had been that Jesus was the one to set God's people free. Jesus is asking them to share their experience of the events, and what their faith is. This is the first point for catechesis: we need to meet people "where they are", learn about their life experience and what has prompted them to come forward and want to learn more about our faith and then to walk alongside them.

Back to the story: Jesus then calls them "foolish" and "slow to believe the full message of the prophets". In biblical terms we could say that they were "blind" and needed to have their eyes opened. Jesus does this by explaining the scriptures to them. This is where as catechists we have to go to understand our faith – to the scriptures – and we need Jesus to open our eyes, too, so that we can understand what our faith is about (the second point for catechesis).

Thirdly, it is in the breaking of bread that they recognise Jesus for who he is. All catechesis leads to the Eucharist, the celebration of our faith, the great thanksgiving for all that Jesus has done for us and the sharing of Jesus' life through the sharing of bread and wine together.

Having recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread, the disciples are faced with a choice – what do they do with this knowledge they have gained, this experience of meeting the risen Lord? Is it just to be cherished for themselves – or is it to be shared?

Even though it is night-time, they set off back to Jerusalem, all weariness from the earlier journey forgotten. When they reach the room where the other disciples are, they tell their story and the other disciples tell them that they, too have seen the Lord. Jesus appears again to them all together – and again "opens their minds to the scriptures". They are then sent out to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" to all (the offer of true life in relationship with God and with others) – but before they can do this, they are told to wait until they receive what the Father has promised - the Holy Spirit. So we are back to catechesis being the work of the Holy Spirit – we just have to "accompany" others on their journey of faith and be willing to share what we know of Jesus.

Elaine Brownwood