

Parish of St Winefride, Lymm

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Hello everybody. Many households experienced a massive change this week as most children were able to return to school. We hope all went well. This Sunday is the fourth in Lent, half way to Easter, and it's Mothering Sunday in the Church of England. Our entry antiphon at Mass bids us 'Rejoice'. The two weekend Masses were booked up by six o'clock on Wednesday and a few people missed out. NEXT WEEK I will schedule a 9.00am Mass as well as 5.45pm and 10.30am. Perhaps we will be able to welcome more families back to Mass. Safety standards will not be lowered, you can be assured.

Prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of George Riley, whose funeral was today, for James Sproats, (Tuesday 16th), and James McKenna, a long-time resident of Brookfield CH until recently, whose funeral will be on Friday 19th. Also Elizabeth Moss, of Keate House, who died yesterday; she will be buried from St Anthony's, Woodhouse Park. Please remember also Rosie Fairs, well known as a resident at the old Cotebrook Home, who is now very poorly. I have offered Mass for the souls of David Jack, John Dodd, Rita Andrus, Mary Catherine Higgins, David O'Callaghan, and Stan Beardwood; a Mass in thanksgiving (JK), and for Mike Clayton who is sick; for the intentions of the Beardwood family, and of Peter Coffey. The week ahead sees the feasts of St Patrick (Wed.) and St Joseph (Fri.)

This year there will be some shortened Holy Week ceremonies, and next week I will give you the opportunity of booking in for those. I look forward to being able to celebrate the spirit and essentials of the Paschal Liturgy without a lot of the length. Some of you at least will be able to join me.

There is yet another zoomed Churches Together meeting at 7.00pm this coming Wednesday. They have two ongoing initiatives: an Easter Challenge Family Quiz with some Easter eggs for prizes – and also a projected help facility, based on the Sanctuary Hub, for older people who can't keep abreast with IT. Essential leaflets will be available at Mass this weekend for finding out more about both these ventures.

Another helpful weekly online course, from the Westminster Archdiocese, is about Bible History. It begins in April, and details about this course will be available next week.

The readings at Mass this weekend start with a passage from one of the history books in the bible: the book of Chronicles describes how the people failed to heed the warnings of the prophets, and enemies came and deported them to Babylon. Then after seventy years they were allowed to go home. St Paul writes to the people of Ephesus about God's mercy, and calls them 'God's work of art'. John's gospel quotes Jesus speaking to Nicodemus, and we have the most quoted text in the bible, with its most Googled reference John 3:16. "God loved the world so much, that he gave his only Son, so that all who believe in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life". There is so much to reflect upon in our prayers based on the readings for this weekend. Do try to find some

extra time for prayer. God bless you all.
Fr Tony Elder