

**The Parish of St Joseph with  
the Parish Community of St Charles Borromeo, Sheffield  
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**Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**2 March 2025**

Rev Fr Mark McManus *Parish Priest* Rev Mr Simon Hegarty *Deacon* [stjosephsdeacon@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephsdeacon@outlook.com)

**Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound, especially: Oliver Wragg, Karen Andrew, Martin Tasker, Terry George, Mary Cooper, Mary Broomhead, Sonia Prince, Jade Goodinson, Alan Charlesworth, Harley Bond, Pauline Sheppard, Jackie Whelan, Ann Parkinson, Lol Hodges, Joyce McGowan, Heidi Howson, Audrey Rodgers, Sylvia Hayden, Janette Taylor, Reece Wilson, Liz Moran, Elizabeth Dodson, Eunice Mannion, Sue & Frank Rodgers, Andy Mitchell, Marie Montgomery, Rita & Vin Todd, Georgina Shirt, Maria Tarnowski, Susan De Couto, Jacqueline Wagland, Sr. Teresa Paschal, Tom Bryant. *If you would like anyone included on this list, and the individual concerned or a family member has consented to it, simply write the person's name down and hand it in. Thank you.***

**N.B.** There is **no Exposition this Friday morning** due to exterior work taking place on the drainage chute of the Lady Chapel and Chancel.

**Ash Wednesday, 5 March, a Day of Fasting & Abstinence:** everyone aged 14 years and older must abstain from consuming meat, while everyone aged from 18 to 59 must fast, unless exempt (usually for a medical reason). Regardless of age, everyone is encouraged to observe the spirit of the day and to assume some form of penance.

In the Old Testament, ashes are a sign of mourning and repentance, an act of humility. The practise of penance and fasting was often accompanied with the wearing of ashes on the crown of the head. It symbolized grief, especially grief over sin that causes division from God and destruction of self as an individual and as a people.

Next **Saturday, 8 March, A Lenten Recollection:** with a Talk, ***Keep Lent and Carry On***, at 10.00am, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 10.30-ish with Confessions available, Benediction at 11.20am and concluding with Mass at 11.30am.

The **next UCM meeting** will be after Mass this Friday, **7 March**. The Mothers especially want to welcome anyone who is curious about what they do and there is no obligation or expectation to join. There will be a presentation on the theme of the Jubilee year that is open to everyone.

**First Holy Communion:** Parents are the primary educators in the life and Catholic Faith of their children. The next parish preparation classes assisting them in this responsibility will be on Saturday **8 & 22 March** at 9.30am in the undercroft. Please remember the children and their catechists in your prayers.

***Dates for your diary:***

**Friday, 14 March, CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day.**

**Wednesday, 19 March, the solemnity of St Joseph,** our patronal feast day. There will be **Mass at 10.00am with St Joseph's School.**

**Sunday, 13 April, Palm Sunday, Holy Week begins.**

**Sunday, 20 April, Easter Sunday.**

From 5 March, **Sheffield's 40 Days for Life** campaign invites you to join other Christians in praying and fasting for an end to abortion in our community. Come and join us to peacefully witness for the sanctity of human life. If you're interested, please call Rachel 07368297872 or Andrew 07943893945 or see [40daysforlife.com/en/broomhall](http://40daysforlife.com/en/broomhall)

## **The Season of Lent**

During his life on earth Our Lord undertook voluntary penance, e.g. the Forty Days in the desert, and he invited us all to do the same. Our penance can therefore be offered spiritually as a share in his own suffering, especially in his blessed Passion and Death. Christian penance is also an expression of inner conversion and a form of reparation for sin, it should be a personal action or sacrifice offered in love for God and neighbour. Following Christ means we must always practise some form of penance and devote ourselves in a particular way to prayer, self-denial and works of charity.

- From **8 March**, on the **Saturdays of Lent** there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions** from **10.00am to 11.00am**, with Benediction at 10.50am. (N.B. the slightly different times the first week.)
- There will also be **Stations of the Cross at 4.15pm** on the **Saturdays of Lent**.
- From **9 March**, there will be **Stations of the Cross after the Lenten Sunday 10.00am Mass**.
- From **10 March**, for the **Mondays of Lent**, the morning **Mass** will be **at 7.15am**.

### **Stations of the Cross**

I would like to encourage people to feel free to pray this Lenten devotion before or after Mass should you wish. It is a lovely sight to see people meandering around a church in prayer and a simple prayer at each Station is all that is required (although the traditional format is very popular there is no set or series of necessary prayers that you must say). Our church is always open half-an-hour before any Mass or service.

### **Financial matters**

Offertory envelopes for the new tax year, commencing in April, are available to collect in the church. To save on costs, especially as bank charges have risen significantly (particularly for banking cash – especially coins – and cheques) please consider making a regular contribution to the parish via standing order. As usual, in order that its value does not decline, I respectfully ask that you also please consider an increase in your regular giving to keep pace with inflation. Finally, if anyone pays UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax and has not completed a Gift Aid declaration, but would like to know more about the scheme, then they can e-mail or speak to Tony Brodrick or Fr M. Thank you for your understanding and for your continuing support.

