

# St. Joseph's and St. Peter's

## The Roman Catholic Parishes of Ansdell & Lytham

Clergy: Parish Priest Fr. Peter Clarke, Deacons Michael Harrison, David Pope & William Riley (Retired)

Parish Hub: 16, Woodlands Road, Ansdell FY8 4EP; Telephone 01253 737037; Email [sjsp.lsa@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:sjsp.lsa@lrcd.org.uk)

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### Fifth Sunday of Eastertide C 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**"I will bless your name forever, my God and King."**

#### Weekend 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> May Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass People of the Parishes
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass Repose of the Souls of Members of the Burke Family
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass Joan Woodcock

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St. Peter's	No Mass today
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St. Joseph's	No Mass today
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9am	St. Peter's	Mass Tom Carter
	2pm	St. Peter's	Requiem Mass for Frances Julie Watson
	7pm	St. Joseph's	Vespers for Pope Leo XIV
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	St. Joseph's	Mass Stuart Peacock
	4pm	Stella Matutina	Reception for Sr. Filumina
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11am	Stella Matutina	Requiem for Sr. Filumina

#### Weekend 24<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> May Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass Maria Henzi
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass Greta Nickson
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass People of the Parishes

**No Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition this week.**

Confession is also available by arrangement with Fr. Peter. Tel. 737037

**This Sunday's Readings: 5th Sunday of Easter.** As we journey through life, the Lord is always there, taking the first step, coming to help us with the great commandment to love one another as he has loved us.

**First Reading Acts 14:21-27** Paul and Barnabas put fresh heart into the disciples and give an account of all God has done with them.

**Second Reading Apocalypse 21:1-5** The Lord makes his home among his people and wipes away all their tears.

**Gospel John 13:31-35** Jesus gives his disciples the new commandment to love one another.

**Message from Fr. Peter:** A couple of weeks ago, St. John's Gospel told us about the third resurrection appearance to the Apostles – where he asked Peter three times 'Do you love me?' This was preceded by the Apostles having spent the night fishing and caught nothing, until Jesus appeared and encouraged them to try again, at which they caught a full net of fish – 153 of them. 153 is a very definite number to mention, and it sent me on a chase to figure out why that exact number should be mentioned. Well over the past couple of thousand years scholars have been chasing an explanation, too, and whilst there is no consensus on the why there should be this number, there are a number of suggested explanations. Some explanations focus on Hebrew words having numerical equivalents, which mean that 153 could be read as 'I AM GOD' or something or other, but other scholars completely debunk this. Numerologically wise, number 153 is equal to adding the first seventeen digits or  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14 + 15 + 16 + 17$ . 153 is also the product of  $9 \times 17$ . If we add the individual digits ( $1 + 5 + 3$ ) we end up with 9. If we add the cube of each of the individual digits ( $1 \times 1 \times 1$ ) + ( $5 \times 5 \times 5$ ) + ( $3 \times 3 \times 3$ ), the result is 1 plus 125 plus 27 or 153. (I don't understand any of that, so please don't ask me). Apparently if you add up the number of personal blessings that Jesus gives in the four Gospels it comes to 153 (I haven't verified this). St Louise de Montfort connects the catch of 153 fish with the number of [Hail Marys](#) said (3 plus 15 sets of 10) in the whole Rosary. There are heaps of other suggestions, but my favourite explanation comes from the Patron Saint of Bible Scholars, St. Jerome. He suggested that it was believed that there were 153 species of fish, and so the number symbolised all the different peoples of the world being welcomed into the one fishing net of the Holy Church, the peoples of which the Apostles were to be the 'fishers of men'. Let's ensure that our churches and our parishes are truly welcoming to all peoples, so that, like the net of the Apostles in the Gospels, our Churches might overflow with God's wonderful catch of people.



# St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ansdell

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Clarke.

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*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

## Deanery Vespers for Pope LEO XIV This Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May At St. Joseph's at 7pm. All Welcome.

Once again Congratulations to Our First Reconciliation and Holy Communion who last week made that extra special step in the journey of faith. Many thanks to their families who helped us celebrate the weekend so wonderfully, and huge thanks to our wonderful team of Sacramental catechists who spend so much time and work in helping the younger members of our community. May God bless them for their incredibly important ministry.

**Edwina Gillett**

**Reception of the BeneMerenti for Service to the Diocese**  
as Editor of the Catholic Voice  
**Mass at Lancaster Cathedral**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 12noon. All Welcome**

*Will guests travelling by coach to the presentation of the Bene Merenti Medal at Lancaster Cathedral on Saturday 31 May please note that the coach will depart St Joseph's at 10:30 am prompt. The coach will return from Lancaster Golf Club at 4pm.*

**Celebration Vespers**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 4pm at St. Joseph's**

***Followed by Sherry in the Presbytery All Welcome.***

The Benemerenti Medal was first given by Pope Pius VI as a military award for soldiers. Under Pope Gregory XVI (1831–1846) a special Benemerenti medal was created to reward those who fought courageously in the Papal army at Ferrara, Bologna, and Vienna. In 1925, under Pope Pius XI, this medal began to be awarded to civil, military, laity and clergy, in recognition of exceptional service to the Catholic Church.

**Please pray for those whom Requiems we will be celebrating over the next few weeks:** Frances Julie Watson at SPs on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30pm and Pat Kay on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of May at 12noon. *Requiescat in pace.*

**From Pope Leo's First Sunday Message:** *Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday! Today brothers and sisters, I have the joy of praying with you and all the People of God for vocations, especially those to the priesthood and consecrated life. The Church has such a great need for them! It is important that young men and women on their vocational journey find acceptance, listening and encouragement in their communities, and that they can look up to credible models of generous dedication to God and to their brothers and sisters. Let us take up the invitation that Pope Francis left us in his Message for today: the invitation to welcome and accompany young people. And let us ask our heavenly Father to assist us in living in service to one another, each according to his or her state of life, shepherds after his own heart capable of helping one another to walk in love and truth. And to young people, I say: "Do not be afraid! Accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord!" May the Virgin Mary, whose entire life was a response to the Lord's call, always accompany us in following Jesus.*



*A new commandment I give you:  
love one another as I have loved you*

**COLLECTION COUNT:** for April: *with grateful thanks*  
Gift Aid £572.92 Non Gift Aid £1940.92 SO £2928.50  
St. Joseph's Care £574.17 Cafod £1499.97 Easter flowers £25  
Specials Gift Aid £82.34 Non Gift Aid £70.30 Bell ropes £610

**Please pray for all who have died recently,** especially Mary Veronica McLoughlin, Pat Kay, Sister Filumena, and Frances Julie Watson, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Julie Meechan, Mark McMahon, Peter Beesley and Mildred Myerscough.

**Please pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish,** especially: Paul Bunyan, Michael Cookson, Andrew Cox, Judith Cross, Rosaline Fox, Cathy Gaughan, Patrick Gilligan, Pat Heeny, Christopher Hunter, Peter Jones, Sr Kay, Caroline Ledward, Margaret Long, Maureen Lundy, Pat Marion, Paul Meskell, Anne Meyer, George Morgan, Pat Moss, Molly Murphy, Zivile Petraviciute, Bob Osachuk, Alison Singleton, Margaret Spillane, Susan Standing, Sr Michaela Toulmin (Hynning), Alan Watkins, Brenda Wilmot, Phil Winstanley, Kath Woods, Albert Zammit, Emmanuel Zammit.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** at Sunday Morning Mass!

**COFFEE & BACON BUTTIES** after 9.15am Mass this week (*or after 10:30am Mass for me. FrP*).

**ST JOSEPH'S CARE:** Do you know of anyone in our community who is in need or might need a little more support, and would like either a friendly a visit, or Holy Communion at Home? Please let St. Joseph's Care Visiting Team know by emailing or phone the Parish on the above contact details.

**BELL RINGING PRACTICE** every Thursday from 7-8.30 pm. If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St Joseph's, please get in touch with Tower Captains James (07743684900) and Stacey (07921032390) and they'll show you the ropes!

**REPOSITORY:** Mass cards, a selection of greetings cards, Rosary Beads, Prayer cards and statues always available. **First Holy Communion Cards and Gifts now available.** Orders for other items can be taken, too. If you are interested in joining a rota for either of the weekend Masses please contact Margaret on 07711698195

**LECTIO DIVINA** Scripture prayer and discussions in the hall on Wednesdays at 10am.

**THE HOLY ROSARY:** every Thursday after 10am Mass in Church, for this beautiful prayer.

**Rotas for Weekend 24<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> May**

**Readers Sat Vigil:** Richard Golding

**Sun 9.15am:** Anne Waters

**Meet and Greet**

**Sat Vigil:** J&C O'Neil

**Sun 9.15am:** M.Cookson & M. Reid