



# FAMILY OF PARISHES NEWSLETTER

Incorporating Farington, Leyland, Longton, Penwortham and Tarleton

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Welcome to the first edition of our Family of Parishes newsletter. The newsletter will be produced three times a year and will include information about Masses, events, and news.

**Journey In Faith (RCIA) Group – Family of Parishes:** Our Journey In Faith (RCIA) group – meeting at St Teresa’s Penwortham - is now in ‘full swing’ having recently met for the second time. The purpose of the group is to accompany on their journey in faith a group of ‘Enquirers’ – people who are considering becoming Catholics – who are drawn from all of the churches in our ‘family of parishes’.

Last week offered an introduction and explanation of the purpose of the course followed by a tour of St Teresa’s church concluding with a short time of prayer in the sanctuary with the Easter Candle. This week, Fr Ian led our reflections on the question ‘Who is God?’ and there was a real buzz about the sharing groups afterwards, and our evening finished with a ‘Celtic expression’ of night prayer.

There are around fifteen Enquirers and a committed team of accompaniers/helpers, and our time together is proving to be a truly meaningful expression of our working together as a Catholic family in this area of Lancashire.



**Christmas Fair:** Fun for all the family with arts and crafts, a raffle and elf hunt. We also have a special visitor. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 11am – 1pm. **St Mary’s Community Centre, PR25 1PD**



**Christmas Fair:** Join us after 10am Mass in the hall. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. **Our Lady Help of Christians, Tarleton, PR4 6AS.**



**Advent Service of Light:** A time of procession, prayer and light honouring the great season of Advent. Refreshments served afterwards.  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024, 4pm. **St Mary’s RC Church, Leyland, PR25 1PD.**



**Taizé Prayer:** A time of prayer, scripture reading, singing and silence.  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm. **St Teresa’s Church, Queensway, Penwortham, PR1 0DS.**



**Christmas Bingo:** A revival of a past community event. The bar will be open. All are welcome. Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm. **Our Lady Help of Christians, Church Hall, Tarleton, PR4 6AS.**



**Service of Reconciliation with confession:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm. **Our Lady Help of Christians, Tarleton, PR4 6AS.**



**Christingle:** All are welcome. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm. **Our Lady Help of Christians, Tarleton, PR4 6AS.**



**Whoops-a-Daisy Angel:** A story of how a clumsy, forgetful, yet humble little angel gets an important job to do and does it perfectly. Children's nativity. Refreshments to follow. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 11am. **St Mary's RC Church, Leyland, PR25 1PD.**



**Charity Carol Concert with the Octavius Singers:** Entrance is free but there will be a collection for the work of the Order of St Lazarus, which includes supporting those suffering from leprosy in Sri Lanka. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the Social Centre afterwards. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 7.30pm. **St Mary's Church, Euxton, PR7 6JW.**

At the request of the Archbishop, Fr Simon Henry, long-time parish priest at St Catherine's, Farington, has also taken on responsibility for St Mary's parish in Euxton. It was then proposed that the two parishes "merge" to form one parish with two churches. Having consulted with parishioners of both parishes (and those of St Mary's Leyland, as they will be affected by some boundary changes as well) it was agreed to instigate this process. At a meeting of the Council of Priests ( an advisory body to the Archbishop) this was unanimously recommended. So the process of uniting the two parishes can now go forward in Canon Law. When it happens, there will be some form of celebration to mark the occasion.

**Fr Simon writes:** *It has been a challenging time for the two parishes, particularly for St Catherine's, where Mass times have been drastically changed. Of course, many communities in the Archdiocese have undergone a similar process and there will be more to come, no doubt. However, there are positives to be drawn out of change that seems forced upon us by circumstances but in fact, may bear fruit in the longer term. My own experience at St Catherine's over 16 years has been a very happy one with a small but vibrant and committed community. That does not come to an end, rather there is now an opportunity to extend those same qualities and share them more widely. The same applies for the gifts evident among the community at St Mary's in Euxton. Already one seemingly negative - fewer Masses - is turning out to have positive aspects, for the three Masses between the two churches are now much fuller, which of itself, raises the spirit and feels empowering - boosting confidence that we are not a remnant but a large and thriving family.*

*The welcome of parishioners into one another's communities has also been a joyful thing, reflecting a truly Christian spirit. I take this opportunity to thank parishioners from both churches and to ask for your prayers for a continuing outpouring of God's Holy Spirit as we work to make God's presence known so that all may come to salvation in His Church.*

#### Masses of Christmas

	St Catherine's, Farington, PR25 4QG	St Mary's, Leyland, PR25 1PD	St Oswald's, Longton, PR4 5EB	St Mary Magdalen's, Penwortham PR1 9QD	St Teresa's, Penwortham, PR1 0DS	Our Lady's, Tarleton, PR4 6BP
Christmas Eve		18.00 / 21.00	17.00 / 19.00	17.00	18.30	19.30
Christmas Day	08.30	10.00	08.30		10.00	10.00