

# The Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart, Darwen



“ Jesus fasts for forty days  
and is tempted ”

St. Joseph's Church  
Bolton Rd

St Edward's Church  
Blackburn Rd

Parish Office  
Church House  
370 Blackburn Road  
Darwen, BB3 0AA  
01254 702525

Priest's Residence  
St. Joseph's Presbytery  
149 Bolton Road  
Darwen, BB3 2PG  
**01254 702026**

[www.darwencatholic.org.uk](http://www.darwencatholic.org.uk)  
Priest Fr. Brian Kealey

**First Sunday of Lent Ordinary Time Year A**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

**St Edward's**

**St Joseph's**

Saturday	6.15 p.m.	9.15 a.m.	Mass Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.00 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	First Sunday of Lent in Ordinary Time Year A
Monday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
Tuesday		11.30 a.m.	Mass followed by soup and bread in the Hall as a Lenten lunch and discipline. This will be followed by the formation of a new Olympic bid to the lottery for free style conversation.
Wednesday	1.00 p.m.		Requiem Mass Ron Thompson RIP
Thursday	1.00 p.m.		Requiem Mass Ilda Ricioppo RIP
Friday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
Saturday	6.15 p.m.	9.15 a.m.	Mass Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.00 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	<b>Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent in Ordinary Time Year A</b>

### Spring Coach Trip

The date for this years Spring Coach Trip is **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of April** and our destination is the wonderful City of Chester. The price will be £15. We will be picked up from Darwen about 9.00am and leave at about 5.00pm from the Roman Amphitheatre . It is quite a time off but think about it and jot it in your diary. There is now a list at the back of Church upon which you could please add your names and help with the planning.



### Lent means soup

Mass on Tuesdays in Lent will be held at St Edwards at 11.30 am, The Mass will be followed by soup in the Parish Hall. This is the annual traditional penance and fund raiser. All parishioners are encouraged to participate.

### Becoming a Catholic

After this year's set of courses Fr Brian is committing to giving three talks on our faith throughout the coming year. What do you want to learn about? Please let him know.

### Reconciliation Service

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March (the week before holy week) WE hope to have a reconciliation service in St Joseph's Church involving a number of priests. This will include personal confession.

### What are you doing for Lent?

**Live-Stream St Joseph's:**

<https://www.churchservices.tv/darwen>

A special word for all those at home who follow the Church services on our streaming service. You remain very welcome and a real part of our praying community.



## Mass Intentions

**Lately Dead:** June McKay (LD), Ron Thompson (LD), Ilda Ricioppo (LD), Patricia Hilton (LD).

**Anniversary:** Janie Hackett, Winifred Boland, Peggy Read, Paul John Davies, Jim Dawson, Russell Cowell (Birthday Anniversary), Mary Scott, Colin Charnock, Josephine Anne Smith, Andrea Lawless, Bill Clarkson, Annie Conlon, Mark Knowles.

**Special Intention:** For a dear friend awaiting medical test results.

## Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

These are now back on in St Joseph's Hall each Friday with a 7.00pm start. This group is extremely welcome and have an Open Meeting on the first Friday every month for family, friends or professionals.

All other Friday meetings are closed meetings for those with a drinking problem who want to stop. Contact 07963795427 or 07990598651.

## Play Group

After the half term break the Wednesday Play Group will only meet once a month. The next play group will be on 25th of March and will be open between 9.30-11am.

## Ash Wednesday

Many thanks to all who showed such support at this the beginning of Lent. A special thanks must go to the pupils of St Joseph's school who volunteered to administer the ashes with F. Brian.

What are you doing for lent?

Give up Booze. A walk a day. Read a book of reasonable quality, An hour without TV. A diary of events of the day. A piece of fruit a day. Give up chocolate. No sugar in tea. Contact by phone a different member of your family each week. Half an hour's silent prayer. Read a poem a day. Walk to the supermarket. **ANYTHING**

## Thought for the Week

Happiness is in Heaven, but the Joy is the journey.

## A Class on Scripture

Fr Brian will be giving an hour's class on the Bible on **Tuesday 10th of March** at St Edwards Parish Hall. This will be a fairly casual affair, and will involve history and prayer. If the last time you had a class on your faith was when you were at school, why not give it a try.

## Carpet Correction

Thanks go to Mark Southworth (Carpet Fitter) who corrected a fault in St Edwards where the carpet was rising and potentially created a trip hazard. Prevention is better than the cure.

## PRAYER

Dashing around the edge  
Working about the periphery  
Avoiding the next step  
Into silence  
Into eternity

## What is Lent?

Lent is a significant period in our Christian calendar, symbolising self-reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth. It encourages us to pause, consider our actions, and seek forgiveness, often through fasting, prayer, and charitable deeds. By stepping away from everyday distractions and focusing on faith, Lent helps us all strengthen our relationship with God. This time also fosters a sense of community as we unite to share in observance, preparing spiritually for the celebration of Easter and the message of hope it brings.



## St Joseph's School

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## St Edward's School

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Tel. 01254 701616  
[www.stedwardsrcdarwen.co.uk](http://www.stedwardsrcdarwen.co.uk)

**Rotas next weekend 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

**Readers Sat 6.15pm:** P Craven

**Sun 9 am:** M. Alvarez **11am:** B. Beardsworth

**Eucharistic Ministers Sat: 6.15pm:** D. Witherington

**Sun 9 am** S. McMillan **11am:** B. Suddick

**Rotas this weekend 28<sup>th</sup> Feb & 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

**Readers Sat: 6.15 pm:** A. Morgan

**Sun 9 am:** B. Hughes **11am:** J. Fitzgerald

**Eucharistic Ministers Sat: 6.15 P.** Wardle

**Sun 9 am:** M. Alvarez **11 am:** T. Kennedy