



# The Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart, Darwen

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

"I am the way, and the truth and the life"

**Fifth Sunday of Easter in Year A**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

*St Edward's*

*St Joseph's*

Saturday	6.15 p.m.	9.15 p.m.	Mass Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.00 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	Fifth Sunday of Easter in Ordinary Time in Year A
Monday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	9.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	St Joseph's School Mass in Church May Rosary Eucharistic Service followed by tea coffee cake and a celebration of the lifting of American tariffs on Scotch Whisky.
Wednesday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
Thursday		9.15 a.m.	Mass
Friday	9.15 a.m.		Eucharistic Service
Saturday	6.15 p.m.	9.15 a.m.	Mass Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.00 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter in Ordinary Time Year A</b>

### A Musical Afternoon

We hope you can support a musical afternoon with Reece Thomas playing the guitar and singing hits from across the decades. This event will be taking place this **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May** at St Edward's Parish Hall from 1.30 pm. Tickets on the door are priced at £7.00

### Future Collection

As many of you will have realised the Arab Christians throughout the Holy Land are suffering badly because of the present situation. The region is very dependent upon tourism and is continually threatened by constant violence. These innocent victims need our support so the weekend collection for the 9<sup>th</sup> May will be sent to the Roman Catholic Church for the area which will go to support these poor people.

### A Prayer for Peace

In these troubled times, please dedicate a prayer for peace across the world.

### May Rosary

The Knights of St Columba will be leading the Rosary each Tuesday morning during May starting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am (prior to the 10.00am Mass) at St Edwards.

Please come along and support this activity as May is the month dedicated to Mary. By joining in the Rosary you will ask Mary to act as an intermediary to her Son Jesus.

### Spring Coach Trip

Thank you to Maggie and Glenda for arranging the glorious sunny weather last Thursday. We had a great day wandering around the very historic City of Chester. We were thrilled as we watched school children march by along with Roman soldiers. Some of us climbed the city wall and walked along this ancient defence. Others visited the Cathedral and some were amazed at the expensive shops dotted about the place. The next trip will be announced soon but it will be on a date avoiding schools booking their summer trips.



**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:** Malcolm Crook (LD), Davie Armstrong (LD) Kieran O'Conner (LD), Natalia Barbah Jayne (LD), Patricia Tedeschi (LD), Sjoerd Eisma (LD)

**Anniversary:** Ken and Dorothy Witherington, Sarah Jane Walsh, Percy Scott, Esther Holden, Pauline Nuttall.

**Special Intention:** Mass for a full recovery for Judith Sergeant, Thanksgiving for blessings received, For a special intention.

### Summer Chester Zoo Trip

This heavily sponsored family trip to the zoo will be on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August**. The price is £5.00 for a child (15 years or below) and £7.00 for an adult.

To book places put the total fee in an envelope and write the name of the family, the number of children, the number of adults and a telephone contact number and put through either church door. There are limited numbers so get booked as soon as you can and book time off work.

### Drug Addicts Anonymous

This group meets in St Edwards Parish Hall on a Thursday evening and are most welcoming. Let us pray that groups such as this support each other. May they also spread the word about the ways out of dependency.

### Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

This group are now back on in St Joseph's Hall each Friday with a 7.00pm start. The group is extremely welcoming 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.

### Thought for the Week

The Fear of the Lord is a Fountain of Life.  
*Seen on a building in Chester*

### Fr Brian's Holiday

This already seems to be a long time ago, but thanks still go to all who made it possible; our Eucharistic ministers and Fr Michael the supply priest. Also, to those who pop in and out of the church. It is funny whenever Fr Michael stands in for Fr. Brian, we always receive the comment of how wonderful he is.

### Gift Aid

We kindly urge all members of our congregation, who unfortunately have to pay UK taxes, to consider making their weekly donation to the church using Gift Aid. This simple step enables us to increase our income at no extra cost to you, as the government adds 25p for every £1 you donate. Once set up you will simply place your donation into a Gift Aid envelope and place this into the offertory basket. Your generous weekly support through Gift Aid will help us sustain our vital initiatives and help maintain the church for future generations.

Please speak to Glenda Brindle at St Joseph's Church or Julie Ainsworth at St Edward's Church for further information and help with the easy setting up of Gift Aid. All that is needed is your name, address and signature and we will do the rest. Your contribution will make a difference.

### First Communion dates

The children of our parish are busy preparing for an important milestone in the journey of their faith. The dates are as follows.

**St Edwards** Sunday 7th June 1.00 p.m.

**St Josephs** Sunday 28th June 1.00 p.m.

Confirmation Wed 24th June



### St Joseph's School

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### St Edward's School

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

### Rotas this weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

**Readers Sat 6.15pm:** L. Atherton

**Sun 9 am:** B. Hughes **11am:** B. Beardsworth

**Eucharistic Ministers Sat: 6.15pm:** P. Ainscough

**Sun 9 am** M. Worden **11am:** M. Bauer

### Rotas next weekend 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Readers Sat: 6.15 pm:** D. Witherington

**Sun 9 am:** S. McMillan **11am:** J. Fitzgerald

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

**Sun 9 am:** M.R. Gordon **11 am:** C. Avino