

St Joseph and St Peter, Newchurch

St James the Less, Rawtenstall

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th September, 2022

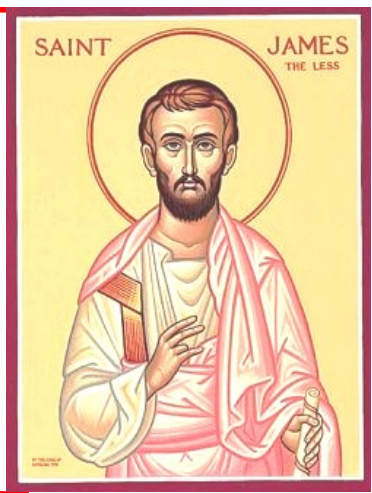
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Masses in St Peter's

Tuesday 27th September	Holy Mass	9.30am
Thursday 29th September	Holy Mass	7.00pm
Saturday 1st October	Holy Mass	11.00am

Sunday 2nd October Holy Mass 9.00am

Confessions in St Peter's

Thursday 29th September	6.00pm - 6.45pm
Saturday 1st October	10.00am - 10.45am

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday	8.30am - 9.30am
Thursday	6.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday	10.00am - 11.00am

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: Bernard Graves

Anniversary: David Spencer

Welcome Back Quiz Night at St Peter's

On Friday 7th October, we will be holding our first Quiz Night since Covid at St Peter's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Doors and Bar open from 7pm. Maximum 6 per team. Tickets are £5 each, including supper. They will be on sale at the back of church from this weekend or contact Ann on 07779 822504 or Linda on 01706 220405. Everyone is welcome. Please do support this event as we begin to get together again socially after the pandemic.

Parish Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to all the parishioners who came to the initial meeting about the Christmas Fayre in the Hall at St Peter's on Thursday evening. Our Christmas Fayre will be on **Sunday, 11th December beginning after the 9am Mass in St Peter's Hall**. We want this Fayre to be very much a joint effort between our two Parishes, and it was good to see some parishioners from St James the Less at the meeting offering to help with the planning. Next weekend, I will be putting sign up sheets at the back of both churches encouraging parishioners to sign up to help on stalls and also to sponsor some of the attractions. Please put the date in your diary!

Masses in St James the Less

Monday 26th September	Holy Mass	9.00am
Wednesday 28th September	Holy Mass	9.00am
Friday 30th September	Holy Mass	12 noon

Saturday 1st October Vigil Mass 6.30pm
Sunday 2nd October Holy Mass 11.00am

Confessions in St James the Less

Saturday 1st October 5.30pm - 6.15pm

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday and Wednesday 8.00am - 9.00am

Welcome

We welcome into the new life of grace **Harriet Slater** who will be Baptised this Sunday, 25th September at 12.30pm in St James the Less. Please pray for her.

Wedding in St James the Less

Our warmest congratulations to **Rosetta Mary Helen Skelton & Joseph Robert Miles** who married in St James the Less on Saturday, 24th September at 12.30pm. We wish them many years of happiness.

Reception into the Church

This Saturday, 24th September at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass in St James the Less, I am delighted to receive into full communion with the Catholic Church **Joyce Rowe**. Joyce will also be Confirmed and receive First Holy Communion at this Mass. Congratulations to Joyce as she becomes a Catholic here with us at St James the Less. Pray for her.

Musicians and Singers

On Wednesday 28th September at 7.00pm there will be a meeting for musicians and singers at St James the Less in the Parish Centre. Please come along if you currently play or sing at St James the Less or if you would like to get involved.

There will be a meeting for the Parish Choir at St Peter's on **Thursday, 29th September at 7.30pm in St Peter's church** after the 7pm Mass. If you would like to help with the singing at the 9am Mass, this is also a good opportunity to come along.

Children's Liturgy in St Peter's

Our first Children's Liturgy at St Peter's last weekend was a great success. Many thanks to the volunteers and those parents who brought children to be involved. The Children's Liturgy continues this Sunday at the 9am Mass. All children are welcome to attend. Please bring the children into church for the beginning of Mass and the volunteers will direct them from there. If you would be interested in helping, please let me have your contact details. Many thanks!

Children's Liturgy in St James the Less

A sincere thank you to those who responded to the appeal for more volunteers at the Children's Liturgy in St James the Less. Our co-ordinator, Helen, has been in contact with the new volunteers and our first Children's Liturgy after the holidays at St James the Less will take place next **Sunday 2nd October at the 11am Mass**. Please take children directly into the Old School Rooms. If you would be interested in helping, please let me have your name and contact details.

McMillan Coffee Morning in St Joseph's School

On **Friday, 30th September**, St Joseph's RC Primary School will be hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Parishioners are most welcome to attend **from 9.30am** in the School. If any parishioners would be able to bake some goods for this event, we would be extremely grateful.

Sick and Housebound Parishioners

Over the past few weeks, I have been making my way around the sick and housebound parishioners in the four areas of the Parishes: Crawshawbooth, Rawtenstall, Newchurch and Stacksteads. If you know of any housebound parishioner who is unable to get to Mass but would appreciate a visit from the Priest, please let me have their contact details.

Changes to the Church at St Peter's

On Bank Holiday Monday last week, I met with a renovation company from Liverpool, Lewis & Lewis, in the church at St Peter's. They had taken away the large crucifix from the Parish Hall and restored it. On Monday, they fitted the restored crucifix to the sanctuary wall above the Tabernacle. Originally, when the Risen Christ crucifix was placed in the church in the 1970s, it was placed higher up the wall because the wooden panelling surrounding the Tabernacle reached higher and it needed to be placed above that. However, at some point, a further re-ordering was carried out and some of the wooden panelling was removed. The Risen Christ crucifix was placed lower, but it looked a little small for the size of the wall, which is a very big space. I hope you will agree that the crucifix from the Hall which is larger is now a better fit.

Lewis & Lewis also extended the wooden shelf either side of the Tabernacle so that the 'Big Six' brass candle sticks which were on the side Altar could be replaced onto the sanctuary. These had been removed because the shelf was too narrow and the candles were blackening the wall.

At the same time, I managed to obtain from the Diocese some Altar furniture from some of our closed churches. The carved wooden Altar which has replaced the 1970s Altar is from St Peter & St Paul's, Bolton. I hope you will agree that this Altar matches perfectly both the side Altar in the Lady Chapel and also the wooden panelling at the back - when I first saw it I thought it could have been made for St Peter's.

The carved wooden lectern with the wooden stools which match, decorated with mother of pearl are from St Anne's, Greenacres in Oldham. These too are in keeping with the Altar at St Peter's.

The large brass crucifix on the main Altar was in the side chapel with the large brass candle sticks. It matches the processional crucifix donated by Father Duffy's family in memory of him and which stands next to the lectern. A few parishioners have already expressed the view that this might be too large for the main Altar, but I will leave it on just for now as it is very beautiful and it seems a shame for it to be hidden away. Added to this, the Church asks that there be a visible crucifix on the Altar where Mass is celebrated to remind Priest and people that the Mass is the Sacrifice of Our Lord on Calvary. If, after a couple of weeks, parishioners still feel it is out of place, we will revisit it and perhaps exchange it for a smaller brass crucifix for the celebration of Mass.

I have removed the brass tabernacle which was bolted onto the wood of the Altar surround in the Lady Chapel, and placed the Lady Statue which was in the Choir Loft onto the Lady Altar. This is a beautiful statue which is rare as it shows Our Lady unveiling the Infant Jesus to reveal Him to the onlooker.

Originally, in the re-ordering of the 1970s, the two wooden pillars or stands which were in the Narthex at the back of the church, were on the sanctuary. At the time they had two large angels on them. I have replaced the stands onto the sanctuary and have placed the two statues, one of Our Lady holding the Infant Jesus and the other of St Joseph holding the Infant Jesus, onto these stands. These two statues belong to the church at St Peter's and they are matching. If you look closely at the faces of the Infant Jesus on both statues, they have the same face.

I have already had lots of positive comments from parishioners about these changes. I feel they enhance the beauty of the church, but none of them are irreversible. If over time, parishioners feel the changes need 'tweaking' I am always open to suggestions. Let's remember a prayer for the parishioners of St Peter and St Paul's, Bolton and St Anne's Greenacres where the new furniture was taken from.