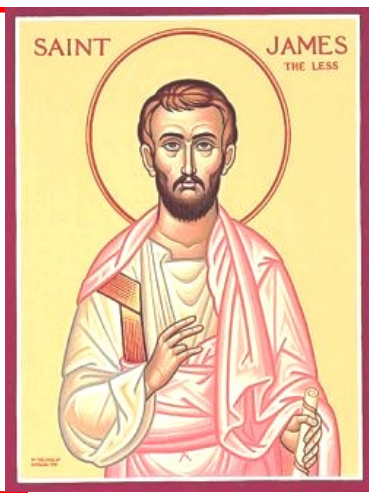


**St Joseph and St Peter, Newchurch**  
**St James the Less, Rawtenstall**  
 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 22nd January, 2023  
 Telephone: 01706 215634  
 Parish Priest: Father S. D. Stamp  
 email: [simon.stamp@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:simon.stamp@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)  
 Parish Administrator: Mrs Siobhan Wood  
 email: [siobhan.wood@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:siobhan.wood@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)



**Masses in St Peter's**

Tuesday 24th January	Holy Mass	9.30am
Thursday 26th January	Holy Mass	9.30am
Saturday 28th January	Holy Mass	11.00am

**Sunday 29th January**                      **Holy Mass 9.00am**

**Confessions in St Peter's**

Saturday 28th January                      10.00am - 11.00am

**Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Saturday 28th January                      10.00am - 11.00am

**Reader at Mass Sunday 29th January**

Maureen Ashworth

**Masses Received**

**Lately Dead:** Margaret Daley; Pope Benedict XVI; Eileen Wargacki; Sean Donelan; Michael Skinner

**Anniversaries:** Joseph Hoyle; Alice Glew; James Farragher.

**Welcome**

We welcome into the new life of grace **Mae O'Neill** who will be Baptised this Sunday, 22nd January at 12.30pm in St James the Less. Please pray for Mae and her family on this special day.

In order to book a Baptism, it is necessary for one of the parents to speak to Father Stamp after one of the weekend Masses, either on Saturday evening or Sunday morning for a chat about what is required. Many thanks.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage**

A few more parishioners have booked on for the mini pilgrimage, but there are still some places left on the Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham taking place from 9th - 11th October later this year. You can secure a place by giving me a £50 deposit and stipulating whether you would like a single or a twin room. In the New Year, I will be announcing a meeting with the rep who has booked the Pilgrimage for us so that we can chat through arrangements and the itinerary which I am very pleased with. It promises to be a really good few days, so if you are interested please book on.

**Masses in St James the Less**

Monday 23rd January	Holy Mass	9.00am
Wednesday 25th January	Holy Mass	9.00am
Friday 27th January	Holy Mass	12 noon

**Saturday 28th January**                      **Vigil Mass 6.30pm**  
**Sunday 29th January**                      **Holy Mass 11.00am**

**Confessions in St James the Less**

Saturday 28th January                      5.30pm - 6.15pm

**Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Wednesday 25th January                      8.00am - 9.00am

**Readers at Mass 21st & 22nd January**

6.30pm	Dawn Winfield
11.00am	Bill Wilkinson

**Sacramental Programme for St James the Less School**

The Sacramental Programme for children in our Primary School at St James the Less will begin on **Thursday 2nd February at 6.00pm in St James the Less Church** with an introductory meeting for parents. The children from the Primary School will then be presented as candidates for the Programme on **Sunday, 5th February at the 11am Mass**. At that Mass, the children will be presented with packs for the Programme ahead.

**Sacramental Programme for those in non-Parish schools**

On **Wednesday, 25th January at 6.00pm** I would like to invite those parents and children who do not attend one of the three Parish Primary Schools but who wish to receive their First Holy Communion either in St Peter's or in St James the Less to come along to a meeting in **St James the Less church**. If you are unable to attend, please let me know so that I can pass on to you details of the Programme we will follow over the coming weeks.

**Brownie Leader**

The St James the Less Brownies are in need of another Leader. The Brownies meet in the Old School Room on Wednesdays from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kate Hodson either by telephone on 07500 298898 or by email at: [katehodson@rocketmail.com](mailto:katehodson@rocketmail.com)

### Foodbank Appeal

Both Parishes have a wonderful tradition of donating to local foodbanks. At the back of St Peter's church, there is a box in which you can place food items for a local foodbank. At St James the Less church, you can place these food items under the table which has the Parish newsletter and Mass leaflets on top. In both places, kind parishioners then transport these goods to the local foodbank to support those families who are struggling financially. There has been an increasing demand for these food items, so please do give generously. This is one of the ways we can put our Faith into action.

### Football League Sweepstake

This weekend, after the Masses, Peter Tracey will be selling numbers for our Parish Football Sweepstake. This was very successful before Christmas and we would like to sell numbers for teams for the next part of the Football Season. Numbers are £10 each - each number is assigned to a team. If your team is top of the League, you win £100. As a consolation, if you come bottom, you receive a £10 booby prize. Please do support this - you have to be in it to win it!

### Children's Liturgy - An Appeal to Parents

Our Children's Liturgy, or Little Church, has begun again after the Christmas holidays in both churches. **There is Little Church each week at the 9am Mass in St Peter's on Sundays and at the 11am Mass in St James the Less also on Sundays.** If you would like your child to take part, please take them, at St Peter's, to the door of the house (Presbytery) before the 9am Mass begins, and in St James the Less, please take them to the Old School Room before the 11am Mass begins. If you are not sure where to go, one of the parishioners in church will direct you to the right place. Our volunteers work hard to ensure that the children learn something about the Gospel for that Sunday whilst also making it very fun and 'hands on' for the children.

I would like to make an appeal to parents of children in our three Primary Schools. I always say to parents whose children are beginning the Sacramental Programme that they need the Parish to provide the Sacraments for their children, but the Parish also needs them as without new families, the Parish churches will not be here to provide the Sacraments for the next generation. So my appeal to parents is, please consider bringing your child to either the Little Church at the 9am or 11am Mass. It is also a time for you to take a step back and reflect on the deeper questions in human life and to find strength for the week ahead. You will find it makes a massive difference!

After the pandemic, all churches are in need of new life and are working to build up again the Parish community. Parents and families, we are counting on you!

Also, if you would be interested in volunteering to help with the Children's Liturgy in either church, please ask.

### Support for Charities

There has been a strong approach over many years in both churches of support for Catholic and local charities. In St James the Less, there has been a strong tradition of supporting CAFOD through the Parish Group. In St Peter's, as well as having a CAFOD rep, the Social Committee have supported local initiatives. Before the Season of Lent begins this year, I would like to meet with the members of the CAFOD Group and members of the Social Committee to plan our charitable outreach going forward. In the previous Parishes I was asked to amalgamate, we established a group of parishioners who co-ordinated a unified approach for the year to charitable outreach. Parishioners were asked to vote on a selection of charities for the year, including some Catholic national and international charities and some local and Parish based initiatives. We then stuck to those charities for that year, and ensured that parishioners were not being hammered with too many appeals for different things each week. At the end of the year, we then reviewed and considered other charities for the year ahead. We also organised this so that there was space for fundraising for the Parishes themselves, because if the Parishes were not able to support themselves, there would be no Parish there to carry out the charitable outreach to other charities. I would be grateful for any feedback or comments from parishioners in the meantime while we look to develop our outreach going forward.

### Writings and Prayers of St Francis de Sales - Feast Day Tuesday, 24th January

#### Be at Peace

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

#### An Act of Abandonment

O my God, I thank you and I praise you for accomplishing your holy and all-lovable will without any regard for mine. With my whole heart, in spite of my heart, do I receive this cross I feared so much! It is the cross of Your choice, the cross of Your love. I venerate it; nor for anything in the world would I wish that it had not come, since You willed it. I keep it with gratitude and with joy, as I do everything that comes from Your hand; and I shall strive to carry it without letting it drag, with all the respect and all the affection which Your works deserve. Amen.