

Lasting light

15 MARCH 2026

SUNDAY *Plus*

4th Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

The light of faith

My human experience goes beyond merely the regularity of nature as seen in science. The Incarnation means that this creation has been sanctified by God's presence. Only such a faith can also explain the beauty I experience in understanding that regularity and the love I have for nature and its beauties and its laws.

And only the story of the fall and redemption can explain the loves and trials and shortcomings I experience in my human life, even when I am not busy doing the work of a scientist...

The fact that my personal experience of God, in worship and in prayer, is so identical to the experiences of religious people in so many different times and places and cultures, tells me that either there's an underlying truth we are all sharing... or else we are all hallucinating in exactly the same manner...

The fact is, I do personally experience God. I have, always, from earliest childhood...

The science fundamentalist believes, and the religious fundamentalist fears, that religion is a fairy tale suitable only for children, and that once you learn science it will leave no more room for religion. But that just doesn't happen.

Some people are tone-deaf. It's not their fault, and I don't criticise them for it. But I might get bent out of shape if a tone-deaf person insisted that my love of music was an hallucination, based on lies my parents taught me.

Or more absurdly, that my love of music would go away once I'd learned the physics of sound waves.

Guy Consolmagno SJ, *Brother Astronomer: adventures of a Vatican scientist*

Life is made up of encounters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are. We find ourselves in front of others, faced with their fragility and weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them or pretend nothing is wrong.

Pope Leo XIV

To see as Jesus sees

Making the blind man see was a sign Jesus quoted to the friends of John the Baptist when they came asking to know who he was. For him, as for all of us, it is a symbol. We readily call people "blind" who shut their eyes to the truth. But which of us can dare claim that we "see the truth"? The truth is immensely vast and challenging. Would we

be eager to see our conduct to our family, our fulfilment of our responsibilities, our unselfishness, as God sees these things?

The blind beggar knew he was blind, he cried out however hopelessly in human terms, to be given sight. Jesus spoke sadly of those who have eyes yet do not see. This is us. He accepts this, he understands it, he feels compassion for it. But he cannot heal it unless we acknowledge it and ask for light.

Lord of light, my eyes are important but the eyes of my heart are even more valuable. Open the eyes of my heart to see you in everything I say, think and do. Let me see you in everybody I meet. Amen.

Feast of the week
Tuesday 17 March

St Patrick (c. 385-461)

St Patrick was born in Britain – possibly in Wales – during the early fifth century and, at the age of sixteen, was taken prisoner by a band of Irish raiders who attacked his parents' farm. He seems to have been taken to Antrim or Mayo and put to work as a shepherd. Lonely and afraid, he rediscovered Christianity.

After six years Patrick escaped and returned to Britain. Soon afterwards he came to believe that God wanted him to go back to Ireland – but as a missionary, a venture which took fifteen years of study, preparation and ordination to the priesthood.

Knowing something of the Irish language and culture, Patrick incorporated Irish traditions into his teaching of Christianity. So for example he celebrated Easter with bonfires and superimposed the sun onto the cross, creating the Celtic cross. He also used the three-leaved shamrock to explain how the Trinity could be three Persons and yet one God.

READINGS

Today:
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Monday:
Isaiah 65:17-21
John 4:43-54

Tuesday:
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
John 5:1-3, 5-16
England & Scotland:
St Patrick (Feast):
1 Peter 4:7-11
Luke 5:1-11
Ireland: St Patrick
(Solemnity):
Jeremiah 1:4-9
Acts 13:46-49
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Wednesday:
Isaiah 49:8-15
John 5:17-30

Thursday:
2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24

Friday:
Wisdom 2:1, 12-22
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday:
Jeremiah 11:18-20
John 7:40-52

Next Sunday:
Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45



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Denton

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4th Sunday of Lent
15th March 2026

The Word This Week

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was "neophyte", which means "newly enlightened". There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - 'no evil would I fear' as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being 'anointed' with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world

Happy Mother's Day

Prayer of Blessing of Mothers on Mother's Day

Loving God,
as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,
as you watch over your Church.
Bless these women,
that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
May honor them always
with a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.




Mass Times 15th March 2026		
Sunday 15th March	Vigil - Saturday 14th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Derek Griffin
Monday 16th	Mass	9.30- Wilfred Appleton
Tuesday 17th	No Mass	
Wednesday 18th	Requiem Mass	No 9.30am Mass 12noon. Margaret Roddy Faith In Action group -6.30pm Parish Hall
Thursday 19th	Mass	6pm Exposition 6.30pm- Gabriella Mezzdirone (90th Birthday)
Friday 20th	Requiem Mass	No 9.30am Mass 1pm-Raymond O'Kelly
Saturday 21st	Vigil Mass	4pm- Wendy Ladley
Sunday 22nd March		11am - Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Catherine Mannion x 2 (LD); Pat (LD); Patrick Byrne (B'day Mem); Cath Lenihan (A); Thomas Fadden Snr (A); Tom Lally; Oliver McDonald; Special Intentions; Sr Dolores

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 15th March 2026	
The Sanctuary	Debbie Greenwood
Sacred Heart	Tom Lally
Our Lady	Anthony Scanlon

Vigil Mass; 4pm St Mary's, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank

Sunday Morning; 9am St Joseph's, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary's, Denton

What's coming up in our parish

Scripture Course

Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:
2026 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June



Recent deaths in our Parish

The following deaths has occurred in the Parish, our prayers and condolence go to all the families and friends at this time.

Margaret Roddy—Requiem Mass 12 noon, Wednesday 18th March

Lawrence Mc Donald—Funeral Services at Dukinfield Crem 2pm, Wednesday 18th March.

Raymond Vincent O'Kelly—Requiem Mass 1pm, Friday 20th March.

Bernard Hourihane - Requiem Mass, 10am Monday 23rd March

Catherine Mary Mannion—Requiem Mass, 10.30am, Tuesday 24th March.

May they all rest in peace.



Mass Intentions.

All the March Masses have now been allocated, we will now forward any intentions to Fr Laurence Gambella, to be said on our behalf. We will start allocating Masses again from the 1st April.

Altar Prayer Candles

Our Seven Day Candles can be lit next to the Sanctuary, Our Lady's Altar and The Sacred Heart Statue at St Mary's. To dedicate a candle for your own intentions please pick up a green form at the back of church and return in an envelope with your donation. This is another way for your special intentions to be remembered and prayed for in the Parish.

Pastoral Visits to Hospitals and Care Homes.

If you have a relative or friend who has been taken into hospital or has moved into a Care home, and requires a visit from a Catholic Priest/Chaplin for Pastoral support, please ask the Nursing staff to contact the local Hospital Catholic Chaplin or Parish Priest in that area.

For Care home visits, this would have to be carried out by the Parish Priest local to the home itself and may be outside of our parish boundaries. Homes that are in Stockport; Dukinfield and Hyde, are located in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, and unfortunately Priests from our Diocese have no authorisation in these areas.

CONFIRMATION

There will be two classes for our confirmation candidates. These will be on 18th and 25th April from 9.30am until 2.30pm.

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have red mission boxes please bring them in to be emptied. The Mill Hill Fathers rely on the money raised from these boxes to finance their missionary work overseas and very much appreciate your support and generosity. Thank you, Paula & Dorothy

New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, **we will be offering a group for children in school years 4, 5 and 6.**

The group will take place monthly and be from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

Our Faith in Action young people will run it (though there will be adult supervision as well) and it will consist of liturgy alongside games and activities.

There is a maximum of 20 places and this will be on a first come first serve basis. The dates are as follows 18/03/26; 22/04/26; 20/05/26; 17/06/26

This is a lovely opportunity to allow our Faith in Action young people to develop their skills further as well as bringing the young of the Parish together.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like any further information please could you speak to Claire Cull after Sunday mass for a parental application form.



S	R	E	N	N	I	S	L	E	T	BLIND	SPAT	PASTE
S	E	D	E	V	O	U	T	H	S	SPITTLE	SIGHT	RESTORED
P	E	I	R	T	R	O	H	R	T	PROPHET	PARENTS	DISCIPLES
I	S	L	A	S	A	R	G	E	N	SINNERS	DEVOUT	BELIEVE
T	E	H	P	O	R	P	I	S	E			
T	A	S	P	I	A	A	S	T	R			
L	H	G	I	S	C	O	P	O	A			
E	O	U	T	I	P	S	I	R	P			
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E	D	N	I	L	B	L	N	D	I			