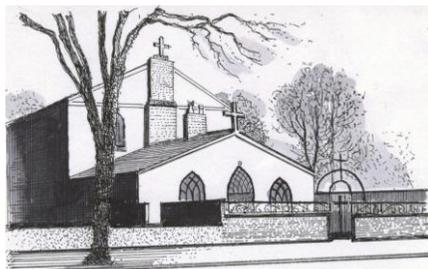


# Our Lady

## Help of Christians



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### 4th SUNDAY OF LENT 11 MARCH 2018

(Prayer of the Church Week 4 Parish Mass Book Page 162 )

#### MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Saturday	6.30pm	David V G Smerdon
Sunday	9.00am	Anthony Egan
	10.30am	Lol Pennington
Monday	7.30pm	Mary Florence Davies
Tuesday	9.00am	Michael Delahunty
Wednesday	9.00am	ohn Doyle
Thursday	9.00am	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Friday	9.00am	ervice of the Word & Holy Communion

#### MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday	6.30pm	eople of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Patricia Farrelly
	10.30am	Shirley Coxon

Novena	No novena this week
Confessions	No confessions until further notice
Meditation	Monday after Mass & Saturday 10.15am

#### Counters team next Sunday - Team C

Hilary & Stephen Shacklady Peggy Jordan Marie Wilson

**GIFT AID AND STANDING ORDER FORMS:** Last weekend showed that we are blessed with a formidable range of support for parish activities here at Our Lady's. As we learned, on the finance side we raise an extra £10,000 annually for parish use through the Gift Aid scheme (which is entirely administered by our volunteers) and we could increase that sum substantially without it costing a single parishioner an extra penny. However, all the activity required to make these things happen comes at a cost in time and commitment by our volunteers, and anything we can do to make life easier for them is to be very much welcomed. So I fully support last week's appeal for parishioners to sign standing order mandates and for more parishioners (and visitors) to sign up for the Gift Aid scheme. I was delighted to hear from Anne Marie and Tony that a great many parishioners requested copies of the forms after last weekend's masses so can I ask you this week please to place your Gift Aid pledge forms in the basket provided in the porch. You may want to deal direct with your bank in respect of the standing order form but the finance team will be happy to forward it to your bank on your behalf if you wish to leave this form in the basket as well.

**TAKING STOCK:** Perhaps now is a good time to stop and take stock of how you support the church to keep it going. Being human it is easy to drift from year to year. It is so easy to go on giving the same amount year in year out and forget that money decreases in value. What you could get for £5 20 years ago you no longer can get. It is the same with Mass offerings. When I came here almost 20 years ago most people offered £5 for a Mass. As I said £5 no longer buys what it did 20 years ago.. The offering traditionally was meant to support the priest on the day he offered the Mass. Initially it was food that was given and brought up at the offertory. As some of the food was dirty, like potatoes, the priest needed to wash his hands after the offertory. He still does it though there is no longer the need. Money took the place of food. Now £5 wont go far for a priest even in Africa where many of our Masses are offered.

**50 PLUS GROUP:** The next meeting of the 50 Plus Group will be on Wednesday 14th March at 2:00pm in St James' Church Hall. Payment of £28 (by cash or cheque) will be required for the outing to Rivington Barn on Wednesday 18th April. Cheques should be made payable to Our Lady Help of Christians.

**ROMERO WEEK:** This year Romero Week is from 14-20 March. 38th Annual Romero Mass at 11am on Sun 18th March at St Charles and St Thomas More, 224 Aigburth Rd, L17 9PG (Hospitality after Mass). On 19th March a talk will be given by Ruben Zamora, distinguished Salvadorean diplomat and politician on 'Romero and the Social Challenges of El Salvador today'. It is at 7.00pm at Hope University. Details on posters in the porch.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Could anyone lead a prayer service on Good Friday afternoon for the parishioners of St James, St Matthew and ourselves. It could be anything that first brings us together and helps us to stop and reflect. We have a rich tradition of stations of the cross that could be shared. With Holy Thursday, Good Friday, The Vigil and Easter Sunday I think I have more than enough. Sam too is overburdened in St James'