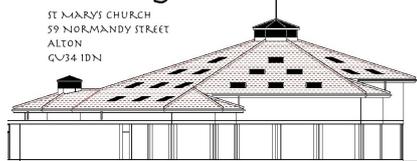


# St Mary's Parish Newsletter



59, Normandy Street  
Alton, Hants  
GU34 1DN  
Tel: 01420 82030  
Fax: 01420 85821

**Parish Priest - Rev. Peter Hart**  
**Website: [www.stmarysalton.co.uk](http://www.stmarysalton.co.uk)**  
**Email: [stmarysalton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stmarysalton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**  
**Parish Deacon: Rev. Stephen Joseph**  
**Safeguarding Rep. Mrs. Anne Bothwell**  
**Contact No: 01420 82030**



## 2nd Sunday of Lent 1st March, 2026

Lent is a Season of preparation for the whole Paschal Triduum – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday: not just a time to reflect on the Cross. Often our Lenten devotions can focus exclusively on the Cross, and the idea of Baptism can be lost. This is why the Church invites us to join the disciples in looking beyond the cross this Sunday: we see the glory of Easter, the glory of the resurrection and the glory of the baptised. We see all this in the Transfiguration: we are invited to recognise who Jesus is. It is the glorified Jesus, whom we will celebrate at Easter, who calls us to journey through Lent, just as God called Abram to journey far from his home. So the readings lead to us acknowledge that Lent is a very special 'calling', to follow the Lord of glory to the renewal of baptismal purity. **'His face shone like the sun'...**

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 1st March, 2026

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

(A2) (Psalter Week 2)

|                   |                           |  |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday</b>   | <b>Lent Feria</b>         |  |
|                   | <b>4.45pm</b>             | Stations of the Cross                                      |
|                   | <b>5.30pm</b>             | Fiona Kent, RIP  |
| <b>Sunday</b>     | <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> |  |
| <i>St. Lucy's</i> | <b>9.00am</b>             | The People of The Parish                                   |
| <i>St. Mary's</i> | <b>11.00am</b>            |  |
| <b>Monday</b>     | <b>Lent Feria</b>         |  |
|                   | <b>9.30am</b>             | Fr. James Carling, RIP (RG)                                |
| <b>Tuesday</b>    | <b>Lent Feria</b>         |  |
|                   | <b>NO MASS</b>            |  |
| <b>Wednesday</b>  | <b>Lent Feria</b>         |  |
|                   | <b>9.30am</b>             | Charles Toal, RIP (MD)                                     |
| <b>Thursday</b>   | <b>Lent Feria</b>         |  |
|                   | <b>9.30am</b>             | Special Intention  |
| <b>Friday</b>     | <b>Lent Feria</b>         |  |
|                   | <b>9.30am</b>             | Women's World Day of Prayer<br>Eileen McDermott, RIP(KMcD) |
| <b>Saturday</b>   | <b>Lent Feria</b>         |  |
|                   | <b>4.45pm</b>             | Stations of the Cross                                      |
|                   | <b>5.30pm</b>             | Bernie & Richie Ahearne, RIP (MC)                          |
| <b>Sunday</b>     | <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> |  |
| <i>St. Lucy's</i> | <b>9.00am</b>             | The People of The Parish                                   |
| <i>St. Mary's</i> | <b>11.00am</b>            | Amy & Len Gilbert, RIP (KH)                                |

*Confessions: Saturday at 3.20pm and by appointment*

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

#### Entrance Antiphon

**Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.**

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

#### Responsorial Psalm

**May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

#### Gospel Acclamation

**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.**

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:

'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.

**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.**

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

#### Communion Antiphon

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**

### CAFOD—Family Fast Day Collection

The Special Collection, this week-end, 28th February & 1st March is for CAFOD

### A Pope's Reflection - Pope Benedict

*Today, the Second Sunday of Lent, as we continue on the penitential journey, the liturgy invites us, after presenting the Gospel of Jesus' temptations in the desert last week, to reflect on the extraordinary event of the Transfiguration on the mountain. Considered together, these episodes anticipate the Paschal Mystery: Jesus' struggle with the tempter prelude the great final duel of the Passion, while the light of his transfigured Body anticipates the glory of the Resurrection. On the one hand, we see Jesus, fully man, sharing with us even temptation; on the other, we contemplate him as the Son of God who divinizes our humanity. Thus, we could say that these two Sundays serve as pillars on which to build the entire structure of Lent until Easter, and indeed, the entire structure of Christian life, which consists essentially in paschal dynamism: from death to life. The mountain - Mount Tabor, like Sinai - is the place of nearness to God. Compared with daily life it is the lofty space in which to breathe the pure air of creation. It is the place of prayer in which to stand in the Lord's presence like Moses and Elijah, who appeared beside the transfigured Jesus and spoke to him of the "exodus" that awaited him in Jerusalem, that is, his Pasch. The Transfiguration is a prayer event: in praying, Jesus is immersed in God, closely united to him, adhering with his own human will to the loving will of the Father, and thus light invades him and appears visibly as the truth of his being: he is God, Light of Light. Even Jesus' raiment becomes dazzling white. This is reminiscent of the white garment worn by neophytes. Those who are reborn in Baptism are clothed in light, anticipating heavenly existence (cf. Rev 7: 9, 13). This is the crucial point: the Transfiguration is an anticipation of the Resurrection, but this presupposes death. Jesus expresses his glory to the Apostles so that they may have the strength to face the scandal of the Cross and understand that it is necessary to pass through many tribulations in order to reach the Kingdom of God. The Father's voice, which resounds from on high, proclaims Jesus his beloved Son as he did at the Baptism in the Jordan, adding: "Listen to him". To enter eternal life requires listening to Jesus, following him on the way of the Cross, carrying in our heart like him the hope of the Resurrection. "Spe salvi", saved in hope. Today we can say: "Transfigured in hope". Turning now in prayer to Mary, let us recognize in her the human creature transfigured within by Christ's grace and entrust ourselves to her guidance, to walk joyfully on our path through Lent.*

### EASTER GIFT BAGS

**We would like to distribute Gift Bags once again, to those who are perhaps unwell or unable to come to Mass and would be most grateful for donations of small Easter Eggs, bars of chocolate or biscuits or small gifts. As previously, these can be left at the back of the Church. Thank you**

**WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY  
AND FULLNESS OF REDEMPTION**

# Saints of the Week

## 2nd March: St. Agnes of Bohemia

Agnes had no children of her own but was certainly life-giving for all who knew her. Agnes was the daughter of Queen Constance and King Ottokar I of Bohemia. She was betrothed to the Duke of Silesia, who died three years later. As she grew up, she decided she wanted to enter the religious life. After declining marriages to King Henry VII of Germany and King Henry III of England, Agnes was faced with a proposal from Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor. She appealed to Pope Gregory IX for help. The pope was persuasive; Frederick magnanimously said that he could not be offended if Agnes preferred the King of Heaven to him. After Agnes built a hospital for the poor and a residence for the friars, she financed the construction of a Poor Clare monastery in Prague. In 1236, she and seven other noblewomen entered this monastery. Saint Clare sent five sisters from San Damiano to join them, and wrote Agnes four letters advising her on the beauty of her vocation and her duties as abbess. St Agnes became known for prayer, obedience and mortification. Papal pressure forced her to accept her election as abbess, nevertheless, the title she preferred was "senior sister." Her position did not prevent her from cooking for the other sisters and mending the clothes of lepers. The sisters found her kind but very strict regarding the observance of poverty; she declined her royal brother's offer to set up an endowment for the monastery. Devotion to Agnes arose soon after her death on March 6, 1282. Canonized in 1899, her liturgical feast is celebrated on March 6.



**Reflection:** Agnes spent at least 45 years in a Poor Clare monastery. Such a life requires a great deal of patience and charity. The temptation to selfishness certainly didn't vanish when Agnes walked into the monastery. It is perhaps easy for us to think that cloistered nuns "have it made" regarding their holiness. Their route is the same as ours: gradual exchange of our standards—inclinations to selfishness—for God's standard of generosity.

## 6th March, St Mary Ann of Jesus of Paredes

Mary Ann grew close to God and his people during her short life. The youngest of eight, Mary Ann was born in Quito, Ecuador, which had been brought under Spanish control in 1534. She joined the Secular Franciscans and led a life of prayer and penance at home, leaving her parents' house only to go to church and to perform some work of charity. She established in Quito, a clinic and a school for Africans and indigenous Americans. When a plague broke out, she nursed the sick and died shortly thereafter. St Mary Ann was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1950. Her liturgical feast is celebrated on May 28.



**Reflection:** Francis of Assisi overcame himself and his upbringing when he kissed the man afflicted with leprosy. If our self-denial does not lead to charity, the penance is being practiced for the wrong reason. The penances of Mary Ann made her more sensitive to the needs of others and more courageous in trying to serve those needs. She is also known as The Lily of Quito: According to tradition, when she died on May 26, 1645, a white lily sprouted from her blood, this symbolizing her purity.

*Next week-end, 7th & 8th March There will be a **Special Collection for Flowers** to adorn the Church at Easter.*

+++++

*The next Special Collection will be for the **Clergy Assistance Fund** on Saturday, 14th & Sunday, 15th March.*

**The Holy Father's Intentions (March)**  
**For disarmament and peace**  
 Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

## EASTER SERVICES 2026

### Thursday, 2nd April—Holy Thursday

8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
 Watching until 10pm

### Friday, 3rd April—Good Friday

10.00am Children's Stations  
 3.00pm Solemn Passion Liturgy

### Saturday, 4th April—Holy Saturday

10.00am, Blessing of Polish Food Baskets  
 8.00pm, Solemn Easter Vigil

### Sunday, 5th April

9.00am, Mass at St. Lucy's  
 11am, Mass at St. Mary's

## Prayers for Lent Week 2:

### Strength and Faith

#### Prayer for Faith

*Lord, strengthen my faith when doubts arise. Help me trust You completely, even when circumstances are uncertain. Remind me that you are always in control. Increase my confidence in Your promises and Your love. Help me walk by faith and not by sight. Amen.*

#### Prayer for Trust

*Heavenly Father, help me trust Your plan for my life. When I feel anxious about the future, remind me that you are guiding my steps. Help me release my fears and place my confidence in You. Teach me to rely on Your wisdom and timing. Amen.*

#### Prayer for Patience

*Lord, teach me patience as I wait on You. Help me remain faithful and calm during delays and challenges. Strengthen my heart so I don't lose hope. Remind me that your timing is perfect. Help me trust that you are working all things for good. Amen.*

#### Prayer for Courage

*Father, give me courage to follow You boldly. Help me stand firm in my faith even when it is difficult. Remove fear from my heart and replace it with confidence in Your strength. Help me live courageously for Your glory. Amen.*

#### Prayer for Endurance

*Lord, when I feel tired or discouraged, give me strength to endure. Help me remain faithful through every trial. Remind me that You are my refuge and strength. Help me persevere and grow stronger in faith. Amen.*

#### Prayer for Peace

*Prince of Peace, calm my anxious heart. Remove fear and worry from my mind. Fill me with Your peace that surpasses understanding. Help me trust You completely and rest in Your presence. Amen.*

#### Prayer for Hope

*Lord, fill my heart with hope during difficult times. Help me remember that Your promises never fail. Strengthen my spirit and remind me that You are always with me. Help me walk forward with confidence and faith. Amen.*

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |       |       |       |          |        |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|-------|-------|----------|--------|
| P | E | R | T | E | P | I | N | JESUS | PETER | JAMES |          |        |
| E | F | A | N | E | C | F | E | S     | A     | JOHN  | MOUNTAIN | FACE   |
| H | A | J | I | L | E | L | T | U     | I     | SUN   | MOSES    | ELIJAH |
| E | C | E | A | W | J | I | E | S     | T     | TENTS | CLOUD    | SHADOW |
| R | E | S | T | T | O | S | R | E     | N     |       |          |        |
| T | U | N | N | D | E | D | H | J     | U     |       |          |        |
| E | S | H | U | S | E | N | A | J     | O     |       |          |        |
| P | O | O | S | U | M | T | H | M     |       |       |          |        |
| J | L | M | M | O | E | M | O | S     | S     |       |          |        |
| C | A | S | E | S | S | E | O | M     | E     |       |          |        |

**Please remember in your prayers**  
 Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham, John D., Sr. Joan Henry; Mary McGinty, Maria Proli, Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock, Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire, Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies, Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour