

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY – For parishes to be open communities:

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of February, in which he asks parishes to be generous and open communities close to all. In his prayer intention video for February, Pope Francis asks parishes to truly be communities: places of listening and welcome whose doors are always open to all, no one excluded.

In the video, which begins with an image of the outside of a beautiful but empty parish church, followed by that of the same church full of people, thus becoming even more beautiful, Pope Francis notes that every parish should put a sign on their door saying, "Free Admission".

In a press release accompanying the second prayer intention of 2023, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer network explains that with these words Pope Francis wants to remind all of us that there are no special requirements for entering, because, as he says, "parishes are not a club for the few, which give a certain kind of social belonging."

Indeed, in Pope Francis' vision, parishes are "close-knit communities, without bureaucracy, people centred— a place where the gift of the Sacraments can be found."

This idea is conveyed by the images of the video coming from parishes around the world, which show get-togethers, talks, the distribution of aid to those most in need, visits to the elderly and the sick, pageants, and internal or external events.

In his video, Pope Francis insists on this idea of parishes continuing along the path of being a centre of welcome and listening: "They have to become once again schools of service and generosity, with their doors always open to those who are excluded. And to those included. To all."

You can watch the video here - [https://youtu.be/e507Ge8fsEw?si=np2sPrPHlzK\\_i5C-](https://youtu.be/e507Ge8fsEw?si=np2sPrPHlzK_i5C-)

**PS FROM BRIAN WOOD:** This is an extract from the newsletter of a Catholic parish in the USA. "Due to inflation, our weekly parish collection is not keeping pace and is no longer covering the running expenses of the parish. I have upped my weekly contribution..... so up yours!" Dear Jesus, please give eternal rest to all those who, over the years, have helped their Parish Priests in the administration of their parishes.

### REPEAT NOTICES

**CHURCH CLEANING FOR FEBRUARY:** Please could anyone who can spare some time on Monday morning from 9.30am on 5<sup>th</sup> of February, come and help with the Church cleaning. Entry is by the choir door. Thank you.

**THE COLLECTION:** This ancient ritual goes back to the days when, especially in rural communities, people brought gifts of produce or food as part of the offertory. Over time, for sheer convenience, the offertory gifts became money. I remember as a boy being given a 'penny for the plate'. As you know, during Covid, we had to stop using the collection plate, as it was passed from hand to hand, but now we feel it would be good to restore the 'personal touch' by restoring the collection in its rightful place at the offertory. If, as many of you do, you contribute by standing order, feel free to simply pass the plate down the bench. We hope to re-start the plate collection next Sunday. Also, in next weeks' bulletin, there will be a message from the finance committee on bank charges, which have made a big difference since they were introduced last April.

**THE VOICE:** The latest edition is at the back of church - please take a copy home. It can also be viewed online - [https://issuu.com/cathcom/docs/lancaster\\_february\\_2024\\_final](https://issuu.com/cathcom/docs/lancaster_february_2024_final)

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### *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B ~ 04/02/23*

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1000	Charles Coxall (Anniversary)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	1800	People of the Parish
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	0930 1000	Paul Buschini (Anniversary) Holy Half Hour
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	1800	Sherrie Brosnan & family
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	0930 1230	Frank Dillon (RIP) Funeral Service for Barbara Gotto
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	0930 0950- 10.20	Chris Metson & family Holy Half Hour & Confessions
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	0930 - 0945 1000	Confessions John Lynch (RIP)

**SUNDAY MASS IS NOW LIVESTREAMED ON YOUTUBE VIA OUR PARISH WEBSITE**

*The Lady Chapel is open every day from 0800-1700 for private prayer.*

**Confessions : Saturday 9.50 – 10.20  
Sunday 9.30 – 9.45**

<u>Collection</u>		<u>Attendance</u>	
28 <sup>th</sup> January	£472.56	158	Website - 67 Households

**Keeping in Touch:** X (formerly Twitter) <https://twitter.com/ssWulstanEdmund>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.wulstansfleetwood/>  
Instagram: St Wulstan & St Edmund

**Please pray for:** All the sick and housebound of our parish family  
and also those in care or in hospital.

**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:** Vincent Cheetham, Beryl Woodward, Karen Hutson, Carol Ann Stafford, Charles Coxall, Steve Welsh, Stephen Godfrey, Catherine Jolly, Charlotte Lee, Sarah Briggs, John Rigby, 'Louie' Margaret Clerkin, Irene Stewart, Betty Wilkinson, Paul Buschini, Margaret Cuffe, Hilda Geldart

**CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER CALENDAR:** This week we are praying for Trinity Baptist Church and the people of Ainsdale Avenue, Calder Avenue, Fleetwood Road, Kingfisher Way, Mere Avenue, Rothwell Drive and Waverley Avenue with the prayer:  
*May the peace of Christ be in their hearts and their homes.*

### **NEW NOTICES**

**BONUS BALL WINNERS:** 27<sup>th</sup> January - Michael Quinn - No 16

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK:**  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 1830 Bible Share in Presbytery

**THE PANTRY:** We are very pleased to announce that Mike Smith will take over a supervisor at the pantry on Monday 5th February. We are very grateful to Mike and all our other wonderful volunteers who enable us to provide food and help for people struggling to make ends meet.

**BANK CHARGES:** As mentioned last week, our Finance Committee has put together an up-to-date report on Bank Charges. Since these charges came into effect last April, our team has monitored them, and we are able to say what that means for us and our parish funds. Since April 2023 the bankers started to charge us for all transactions this means that you're offering monies cost varying amounts for us to receive, depending how you make your donations. We are currently paying about £50 a month to receive donations. Standing orders cost the parish 15p each to receive, regardless of the amount donated, this is the cheapest method. We would encourage as many people as possible to donate this way. However, four weekly donations costs 60p per month whereas a single monthly donation costs 15p per month so monthly donations are preferred. If those who already donate by weekly standing order can change to monthly, it will save us 45p per month, per person. Donating by card costs us 16p per £10 donated. Donating cash costs 15p per £10 to pay into the bank and if you use pre-printed envelopes, each box of envelopes costs just over £2.

Cheques are the most expensive, costing us 50p per cheque to clear plus £1.50 per month to pay our cheques into the bank. We don't get many cheques so if we only get one cheque in a month the value of that donation is reduced by £2.

**Special Collections** - at the moment, those using envelopes are the only individuals who regularly contribute to special collections. These will also now be available to pay by card and there will be a basket at the back of church each week when a special collection is held.

**GREAT NEWS:** We are delighted to share the news that we have appointed a new headteacher for our school earlier this week, who will take up the post at the beginning of the Summer term. We will be able to share her name once the parents at her school, and ours, have been informed.

**VIGIL FOR THE END OF ABORTION:** On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, the Vigil of the Feast Our Lady of Lourdes, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

**PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE:** A special prayer card, with a beautiful icon of Our Lady, has been produced to ask for our continued prayer for an end to the war in Ukraine. Copies are at the back of church.

**NEWS FROM HEALTHIER FLEETWOOD: REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES:** This is an opportunity to meet many local organisations and voluntary groups, hear about their great work in the Town and look for new, collaborative ways to support the community ... very much in line with Healthier Fleetwood's role since 2016. The event is at the North Euston Hotel on Wed. 28th Feb. from 7pm to 9pm. Find out more about Redeeming Our Communities by [visiting their website](#) and [places for the Conversation event can be reserved here](#) - all welcome

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES:** **Become a History Detective on Saturday 10th February.** Clues about the history of Fleetwood are hidden somewhere on The Mount - solve them and you can win a prize. It's a FREE event, meet at the Pavilion, 10am - noon.

**Also at The Mount is Plantastic, a FREE funday of nature, arts & crafts & more.** Pop along on Thursday 15th February, 11am - 3pm to plant your own tree, learn about marine life and wildlife, and enjoy all the family-friendly activities.



**As it's the start of the month there's new listings for groups, activities and events to enjoy, indoors and outside in the fresh air.**

Visit the **Try Something New** pages of our website for details of .

[> What's On at Fleetwood Library](#)

[> Discover Wyre's Great Outdoors](#)

You can also pick up printed copies of both listings from our drop-in sessions at the library, 10am to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays AND also in our Information area at Mount View Practice.



**Healthier Fleetwood Open Meeting:** The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th February at Emmanuel Church, Mount Road from 6.30pm. If you've not been before, it's a great way to connect with the community, find out what's happening and share ideas for something new! Since 2017, many established voluntary groups and events have started with conversations at these meetings. The evenings are very relaxed and informal, chaired with a light touch by local resident Pauline. You can get involved in the discussion or just listen as you feel most comfortable ... and we'll have some very exciting news of our own to share.

There will be free refreshments and it will also be an opportunity to see the rooms and facilities of the newly refurbished church building. So please come along if you can and bring a friend!