

LITTLE FIGHTERS CAMPAIGN: Julia Limage has put some alternative postcards asking MPs to support the 22-week campaign, with delightful pictures of living babies.

WHAT DOES A SYNOD CHURCH LOOK LIKE: A zoom conversation led by Gerry Proctor on how Fr Kevin Kelly, a leading Moral Theologian always combined theology and ethics with an open pastoral heart. Thursday 7th March, 7:00-8:00p.m. If you would like to attend, email merseyprophets@gmail.com for the zoom link. (The first talk by Fr. Nicholas Postlethwaite on Fr. Austin Smith CP is available on 3prophets.co.uk)

A NOTE FROM BRIDE TO BE PATRICIA BENSON: We've always made Easter special and this is year Patricia Benson and Stephen Buzza will be getting married on Easter Sunday. A special date for Patricia as it's her Nana and Grandads Boe's wedding anniversary too. This year we will be planning a little get together, Easter egg hunts, and a 'Jacob's Join'. We will have lots of visitors and our hospitality is well known in our parish so let's raise the bar. There will be a list at the back of church for people to write down what they will bring so we haven't got hundreds of cheese sandwiches etc. There's a team of helpers already on task for this. Any questions speak to Patricia, Annie Benson or Cathy Anderton.

PS FROM BRIAN WOOD: John Amis, the operatic tenor, told of the time, early in his career, when he was invited to sing at La Scala Opera House in Milan. This was quite a significant milestone in his career. The audiences at La Scala were well known for being highly critical and not easily satisfied. When the great day came, he sang a well-known tenor aria and, when he had finished, the audience applauded and shouted "Ancora ancora!", demanding that he sing it again. He regarded this as a triumph. He sang it again and, once more, the audience shouted "Ancora ancora!" He was quite overcome with pride. He sang the aria for a third time with the same result... "Ancora ancora!" He then announced to the audience "I am sorry, I am exhausted. I am unable to sing it again." At that point, someone in the audience in the Upper Gallery shouted back "You have to keep singing it till you get it right!" Dear Jesus, please don't allow young performers to be too discouraged by over critical audiences.

REPEAT NOTICES

REPOSITORY: We now have a selection of Easter cards available as well as cards for Mothers' Day and St Patrick's Day. We do, of course, have cards for most occasions, reasonably priced.

FLEETWOOD CHURCHES TOGETHER - LENT LUNCHESES: Lunches will be served each Friday in Lent, between 11.45 am and 1.30 pm.
8/3 Methodist Church with Trinity Baptist, 15/3 St Mary's,
22/3 St Nicholas Church with St Wulstan's & St Edmund's.
Proceeds from the lunches this year will go to Fleetwood RNLI.

GARDENING: If it ever stops raining, we'll soon be looking to getting parish garden ship-shape for Spring sowing. All are welcome to join us. Let Fr Alf know if you are interested.

MEN'S MONDAY: about half a dozen of our male parishioners have formed a small group, to meet up on a Monday evening, for a bit of 'man-socialising' over a game of snooker at the Park Club, Cleveleys from 7.30pm. Amazingly, BAD snooker players are welcomed. If you'd like to join this merry band, you would be most welcome. See Keith Urwin or Vic Hudson for details.

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES:

Harry Cook	10 th March 2013	Lilly Cook	10 th March 2013
Evie-Lea Nolan	11 th March 2018		

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Patricia Wilkinson, Winifred Gibbons, Rose McKenna, Allen Miller, Fr John Slater, Mary Carr, Fr Larry Wells, Irene Ellarby, John Quinn, Charles Monaghan, Clare Cattel, Marjorie Morgan,

NEW NOTICES

FR MICHAEL MURPHY: You will remember we prayed at Mass last Sunday for Fr Michael who is seriously ill. He was operated on last Sunday night to remove a section of his lower intestine. He is now on a ventilator and his condition is stable. Please continue your prayers for a good recovery. In the meantime, Bishop Paul has asked me to help the people of St Mary's over this difficult period. I will be meeting with the parish council on Friday evening.

BONUS BALL WINNERS: 2nd March - No 6 - Jessie Graham & Jean Whitehead
A gentle reminder, to those Bonus Ball players who pay their subs half-yearly, that the second instalment of £25 is now due. Please see Anne Holland or Cathy Wilson.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Wednesday 13 th	1900	Maintenance Committee in the Presbytery
Thursday 14 th	1830	Bible Share in the Presbytery
Saturday 16 th	1000	First Confession in Lady Chapel

THE BELLS: At long last (after 18 months) the bells have been restored to their former glory, and will once more be able to help us play our part in singing out the joyous message that, in spite of rumours to the contrary, the Christian faith is alive and well and living in Fleetwood. A huge thanks to Keith and Adrian Earnshaw for monitoring the progress of the renovation and ensuring that the job was completed to our satisfaction.

HOLY WEEK - DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Sunday 24 th March	1000	Palm Sunday Mass
Wednesday 27 th March	1830	Penitential Service
Thursday 28 th March		MAUNDY THURSDAY
	1130	Chrism Mass at the Cathedral
	1900	Mass of the Last Supper
	2200	Night Prayer at the Altar of Repose
Friday 29 th March		GOOD FRIDAY
	1030	Stations of the Cross
	1500	The Lord's Passion
Saturday 30 th	2000	The Easter Vigil
Sunday 31 st March		EASTER SUNDAY
	*NB*1100	Easter Sunday Mass

THE PANTRY: As mentioned last week, the Pantry is about to be renovated to make it more user friendly. The work starts on Tuesday and is due to be finished by 2nd April, which

means the pantry will be closed for three weeks. If you know of anyone who uses it, or is in need, please let them know that food parcels, made up the night before, will be available for collection from St Peter's church between 1 and 2pm, Monday - Friday, during the closure of the pantry.

ABORTION LAW: Just to let you know, Cat Smith, our MP, has declined to support the Criminal Justice Bill to lower the abortion time limit to 22 weeks, a move which could save many viable lives. At least this time, she referred to 'babies born at 22 weeks' not 'foetuses'.

VIEW FROM THE PEW: Since moving to Fleetwood, people often ask us why we moved here. We always say the same thing - "Because of St Wulstan's and its beautiful community". As newbies to the parish, we really must tell you how wonderful you all are!

From the first Mass that Simon and I attended, we have been welcomed with open arms. The first moment Father Alf saw us, he called us friends. It's truly heart-warming to be in such a lovely place of nourishment because neither of us grew up in a parish community. Neither of us grew up knowing that Jesus was by our side. We didn't go to church. We didn't feel that holy love connecting us all, so we're going to make the most of it now. Hooray!

It's a blessing to be around such generous, caring, inspirational souls, whose hearts are full of love and kindness. You're always there to help, have a giggle with, put a smile on a face. You make a difference and lift spirits. You look after the church. You care for the parish. You make beautiful, sacred music. You work in the gardens. You look after the bees. You bake cakes, cakes and more cakes and always make sure there's enough milky coffee to go around. The list goes on and on. It's a joy to behold. A devotion to God. We are in awe! We are thankful. We love you! Alleluia! Holly Honeychurch

FREE LEARNING PACKAGE FROM WYRE: This is available, FREE of charge, from The Institute of accountants and Bookkeepers (IAB) which is a non-profit making organisation. This learning package is a 1-hour course that can be accessed on any device.

The learning course module has the following items included in the package:

Setting a budget, Personal balance sheets, How to understand a payslip, How to reduce your cost-of-living expenses, Understanding loan repayments, Support if struggling financially and trusted useful links/signposting.

On completion of the course a certificate will be available for learners to use in the following ways: To support further qualification applications, Job interviews or volunteering, Housing applications, Job centre and benefit services as proof of actively looking for future employment through independent learning.

Please feel free to access the learning package here [IAB \(iabeducation.co.uk\)](http://iabeducation.co.uk)

For more information about IAB - <https://www.iab.org.uk/>

CASTLERIGG EASTER RETREAT: **Easter Retreat 2024** // We still have spaces on this year's open retreat. It's for anyone in year 7 upwards and it costs £85, but anyone who is put off by the cost should get in touch and we can probably help out. The Easter Retreat is a great chance for young people to make some friends, have fun, and journey together through the Easter weekend. More here - <https://castleriggmanor.com/easterretreat/>