Society of Saint Pius X

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SAINT MARY'S NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2019

My Dear Faithful,



n every month of the liturgical year we celebrated at least one feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a good way to bring home to us that Our Lady must

accompany us at all times during our earthly pilgrimage. In other words, it is important for us to have Our Lady as a guide, a protector as well as an intercessor towards God, so that we may secure the salvation of our souls. The month of September is particularly rich in Marian feasts. We start with the day of Our Lady's birth on 8th September. The other feasts are, as it were, only a consequence of this event, which is not always held in as high an esteem as it should be.

With the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin we celebrate the birth of the most beautiful and important of all God's creatures since, at the end of His life, Our Lord from the Cross was to give Our Lady to us to be our mother. We see in Our Lady's birth, according to God's Wisdom, the first prerequisite for the Word of God to become man and consequently, to be able to redeem mankind. Our Lady is so important and worthy of our esteem that the Church also has a feast for the Most Holy Name of Mary on 12th September.



Her name is subject of many interpretations and although its etymology is complicated, all the explanations seem to point to a connection with the sea. Mary means "Star of the sea" and this is what represents in the best manner the function of Our Lady. Our lives as Catholics are like a journey across the sea, in the ship of

the Catholic Church, a sea subject to storms. We always need to keep in the right direction and this is possible if we use the stars to navigate. Likewise, if we keep looking to Our Lady to guide us, we will securely find her son who is in Heaven. Finally, on 15th September is celebrated the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady. This feast highlights the way that Our Blessed Lady corresponded to God's Will. What is more, the feast shows the secret of all sanctification. This secret is simply that we must in our hearts be united to Our Lord in His sufferings as well as His joys. It is by being united to Our Redeemer that we shall become saints and save our souls.

We need to be children of Mary and allow our heavenly mother to teach us. She obviously set the ideal example of her own life but she has also taken the trouble to appear in many places in more recent times to deliver clear messages for her faithful children. One of the most famous of places of apparition was at Lourdes in the south of France during the nineteenth century. There were a total of 18 apparitions to Saint Bernadette, and although the messages were first heard nearly 170 years ago their content is still ever fresh and relevant, especially in these difficult days for the Church. Let us not be deaf to what our heavenly mother is telling us. There is an article on this subject in this Newsletter. It is an opportunity for us all to revive our Marian devotion and surrender again our lives to Our Lady's maternal cares and intercession for the salvation of our souls. What is more, charity demands that we be Apostles and think of the salvation of the souls of others. In this regards, the Militia Immaculatæ is certainly the current movement we should look at in order to do so. We shall try to develop for you the knowledge of this movement later this year as a means for our apostolate.

May Our Lady protect you and God bless you all.

Rev. Vianney Vandendaele (Prior)

The Spiritual Lessons of Lourdes as Explained by Pius XII

Founded by Archbishop Lefebvre on 1st November 1970, the Society of Saint Pius X will be fifty years old in 2020. On decision of its Superior General, Fr. Davide Pagliarani, the Society will celebrate its golden jubilee in Lourdes during the international pilgrimage of Christ the King, on 24th, 25th and 26th October 2020. The Society has already celebrated the 20th anniversary of the episcopal consecrations in 2008 in the Marian city.

The announcement of this Golden Jubilee provides an opportunity to recall the close ties that united Pope Pius XII to Lourdes.

On 29th May 1954, in the year of the centenary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pius IX, Pope Pius XII canonised Saint Pius X. Four years later, a few months before surrendering his soul to God, the Angelic Pastor had the joy of celebrating the centenary of the apparitions.

With this in mind, on 2nd July 1957, Pope Pius XII published an encyclical written in French, *The Lourdes Pilgrimage*, in which he emphasises the importance of this "century of Marian devotions" that was the nineteenth century, and he recalls the many graces received through the intercession of Our Lady, not only in Lourdes. Quoting his predecessor Pius XI, the Pope reaffirms that "this sanctuary has now rightly become one of the leading Marian shrines in the world," and that the sovereign pontiffs, aware of the importance of these pilgrimages, "have never stopped enriching them with spiritual favours."



In the second part of his encyclical Pius XII explains the spiritual lessons of the apparitions at Lourdes. More than 60 years later, his remarks are strikingly topical. After having encouraged individual conversion, Pope Pius XII calls for a

Christian renewal of the whole society for which are mobilised priests, consecrated souls, Christian families, all those who have professional and civic influence, without forgetting the little ones, the poor and the sick, whose "sufferings united to those of the Saviour" are precious help in this enterprise of the Christian renewal of society.



"These lessons, a faithful echo of the Gospel message, accentuate in a striking way the differences which set off God's judgments from the vain wisdom of this world. In a society which is barely conscious of the ills which assail it, which conceals its miseries and injustices beneath a prosperous, glittering, and trouble-free exterior, the Immaculate Virgin, whom sin has never touched, manifests herself to an innocent child. With a mother's compassion she looks upon world redeemed by her Son's blood, where sin accomplishes so much ruin daily, and three times makes her urgent appeal: 'Penance, penance, penance!' She even appeals for outward expressions: 'Go kiss the earth in penance for sinners.' And to this gesture must be added a prayer: 'Pray to God for sinners.' As in the days of John the Baptist, as at the start of Jesus' ministry, this command, strong and rigorous, shows men the way which leads back to God: 'Repent!' (Matthew 3:2-12). Who would dare to say that this appeal for the conversion of hearts is untimely today?"

"But the Mother of God could come to her children only as a messenger of forgiveness and hope. Already the water flows at her feet: 'Omnes sitientes, venite ad aquas, et haurietis salutem a Domino.' At this spring where gentle Bernadette was the first to go to drink and wash, all miseries of soul and body will flow away. 'And I went and washed and I see,' (John 9:11) the grateful pilgrim

will be able to reply, in the words of the blind man of the Gospel. But as was true for the crowds which pressed around Jesus, the healing of bodily ills is still a gesture of mercy and a sign of that power which the Son of Man has to forgive sins (cf. Mark 2:10). The Virgin invites us to the blessed grotto in her Divine Son's name for the conversion of our hearts and in the hope of forgiveness. Will we heed her?"

Personal Conversion

"The true greatness of this jubilee year is in the humble answer of the man who admits that he is a sinner. Great blessings for the Church could be justly anticipated if every pilgrim to Lourdes in fact, every Christian united in spirit with the centenary celebrations—would first realise within himself this work of sanctification, 'not in word, neither with the tongue, but in deed and in truth' (1 John 3:18). Moreover, everything invites him to this work, for nowhere, perhaps, except at Lourdes does one feel so moved to prayer, to the forgetting of oneself, and to charity. When they see the devotion of the stretcher-bearers and the serene peace of the invalids, when they consider the spirit of brotherhood which unites the faithful of all races in a single prayer, when they observe the spontaneous mutual assistance and the sincere fervour of the pilgrims kneeling before the grotto, then the best of men are seized by the appeal of a life more completely dedicated to the service of God and their brothers; the less fervent become conscious of their lukewarmness and return to the road of prayer; quite hardened and skeptical sinners are often touched by grace, or at least, if they are honest, are moved by the testimony of this 'multitude of believers of one heart and one soul" (Acts 4:32).



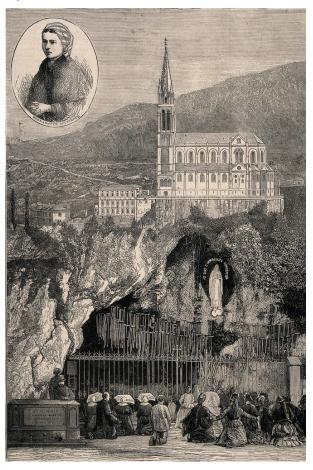
But in itself this experience of a few brief days of pilgrimage is not usually sufficient to engrave in indelible letters the call of Mary to a genuine spiritual conversion. That is why We exhort the shepherds of dioceses and all priests to outdo one another in zeal that the centenary pilgrimages may benefit by preparation, and, above all, by a follow-up which will be as conducive as possible to a profound and lasting action of grace. Only on condition of a return to regular reception of the sacraments, a regard for Christian morals in everyday life, entry into the ranks of various works and other apostolates recommended by the Church, can the great crowds expected to gather at Lourdes in 1958 yield—according to the expectations of the Immaculate Virgin herselfthe fruits of salvation so necessary to mankind today."

The Christian Renewal of Society

"But however important it may be, the conversion of the individual pilgrim is not enough. We exhort you in this jubilee year, Beloved Sons and Venerable Brothers, to inspire among the faithful entrusted to your care a common effort for the Christian renewal of society in answer to Mary's appeal. 'May blind spirits... be illumined by the light of truth and justice,' Pius XI asked during the Marian feasts of the Jubilee of the Redemption, 'so that those who have gone astray into error may be brought back to the straight path, that a just liberty may be granted the Church everywhere, and that an era of peace and true prosperity may come upon all the nations" (Letter of 10th January 1935).

"But the world, which today affords so many justifiable reasons for pride and hope, undergoing a terrible temptation materialism which has been denounced by Our Predecessors and Ourselves on many occasions. materialism is not confined to that condemned philosophy which dictates the policies and economy of a large segment of mankind. It rages also in a love of money which creates ever greater havoc as modern enterprises expand, and which, unfortunately, determines many of the decisions which weigh heavy on the life of the people. It finds expression in the cult of the body, in excessive desire for comforts, and in flight from all the austerities of life. It encourages scorn for human life, even for life which is destroyed before seeing the light of day. This materialism is present in the unrestrained search for pleasure,

which flaunts itself shamelessly and tries, through reading matter and entertainments, to seduce souls which are still pure. It shows itself in lack of interest in one's brother, in selfishness which crushes him, in justice which deprives him of his rights—in a word, in that concept of life which regulates everything exclusively in terms of material prosperity and earthly satisfactions. 'And I will say to my soul, the rich man said, Soul, thou hast many good things laid up for many years; take thy ease, eat, drink, be merry. But God said to him, Thou fool, this night do they require thy soul of thee'" (Luke 12:19-20).



Mary's Cry of Alarm

To a society which in its public life often contests the supreme rights of God, to a society which would gain the whole world at the expense of its own soul (cf. Mark 8:36) and thus hasten to its own destruction, the Virgin Mother has sent a cry of alarm. May priests be attentive to her appeal and have the courage to preach the great truths of salvation fearlessly. The only lasting renewal, in fact, will be one based on the changeless principles of faith, and it is the duty of priests to form the consciences of Christian people. Just as the Immaculate, compassionate of our miseries, but discerning our real needs, came to men to remind

them of the essential and austere steps of religious conversion, so the ministers of the Word of God should, with supernatural confidence, point out to souls the narrow road which leads to life (cf. Matthew 7:14). They will do this without forgetting the spirit of kindness and patience which they profess, but also without concealing anything of the Gospel's demands (cf. Luke 9:55-56). In the school of Mary they will learn to live not only that they may give Christ to the world, but also, if need be, to await with faith the hour of lesus and to remain at the foot of the cross.

Assembled around their priests, the faithful must cooperate in this effort for renewal. Wherever Providence has placed a man, there is always more to be done for God's cause. Our thoughts turn first to the host of consecrated souls who, within the framework of the Church, devote themselves to innumerable good works. Their religious vows dedicate them more than others to fight victoriously under Mary's banner against the onslaught which inordinate lust for freedom, riches, and pleasure makes on the world. In response to the Immaculate, they will resolve to oppose the attacks of evil with the weapons of prayer and penance and by triumphs of charity. Our thoughts turn also to Christian families, to ask them to remain faithful to their vital mission in society. May they consecrate themselves in this jubilee year to the Immaculate Heart of Mary! For married couples this act of piety will be a valuable aid in performing their conjugal duties of chastity and faithfulness. It will keep pure the atmosphere in which their children grow up. Even more, it will make the family, inspired by its devotion to Mary, a living centre of social rebirth and apostolic influence. Beyond the family circle, professional and civic affairs offer a vast field of action for Christians who desire to work for the renewal of society. Gathered about the Virgin's feet, docile to her exhortations, they will first take a searching look at themselves and will try to uproot from their consciences any false judgments and selfish impulses, fearing the falsehood of a love for God which does not translate itself into effective love for their brothers (cf. 1 John 4:20). Christians of every class and every nation will try to be of one mind in truth and charity, and to banish misunderstanding and suspicion. Without doubt, social structures and economic pressures of enormous weight burden the good will of men and often paralyse it. But if it is true, as Our predecessors and We Ourselves have insistently stressed, that the quest for social and political

peace among men is, above all, a moral problem, then no reform can bear fruit, no agreement can be lasting without a conversion and cleansing of heart. In this jubilee year the Virgin of Lourdes reminds all men of this truth!"

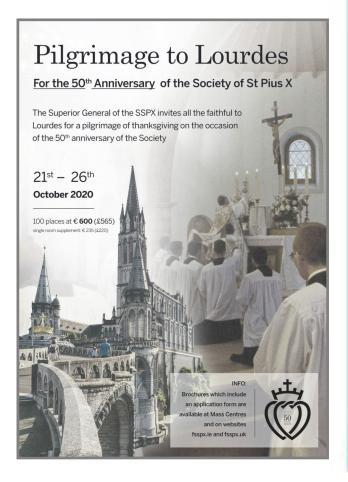


"And if in her solicitude Mary looks upon some of her children with a special predilection, is it not, Beloved Sons and Venerable Brothers, upon the lowly, the poor, and the afflicted whom Jesus loved so much? 'Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest,' she seems to say along with her divine Son (Matthew 11:28). Go to her, you who are crushed by material misery, defenceless against the hardships of life and the indifference of men. Go to her, you who are assailed by sorrows and moral trials. Go to her, beloved invalids and infirm, you who are sincerely welcomed and honoured at Lourdes as the suffering members of our Lord. Go to her and receive peace of heart, strength for your daily duties, joy for the sacrifice you offer. The Immaculate Virgin, who knows the secret ways by which grace operates in souls and the silent work of this supernatural leaven in this world, knows also the great price which God attaches to your sufferings united to those of the Saviour. They can greatly contribute, We have no doubt, to this Christian renewal of society which We implore of God through the powerful intercession of His Mother. In response to the prayers of the sick, of the humble, of all the pilgrims to Lourdes, may Mary turn her maternal gaze upon those still outside the limits of the only fold, the Church, that they may come together in unity. May she look upon those who are in search, who are thirsty for truth, and lead them to the source of living waters. May she cast her glance upon the vast continents and their limitless human areas where Christ is unfortunately so little known, so little loved; and may she obtain for the Church freedom

and the joy of being able to respond everywhere, always youthful, holy, and apostolic, to the longing of men."

"Kindly come...,' said the Virgin to Bernadette. This discreet invitation, which does not compel but is addressed to the heart and requests with delicacy a free and generous response, the Mother of God addresses again to her children in France and the whole world. Christians will not remain deaf to this appeal; they will go to Mary. It is to each of them that We wish to say at the conclusion of this letter with St. Bernard: 'In periculis, in angustiis, in rebus dubiis, Mariam cogita, Mariam invoces... Ipsam sequens, non devias; ipsam rogans, non desperas; ipsam cogitans, non erras; ipsa tenente, non corruis; ipsa protegente, non metuis; ipsa duce, non fatigaris, ipsa propitia, pervenis... 'Amid dangers, difficulties, and doubts, think of Mary, invoke Mary's aid.... If you follow her, you will not stray; if you entreat her, you will not lose hope; if you reflect upon her, you will not err; if she supports you, you will not fall; if she protects you, you will not fear; if she leads you, you will not grow weary; if she is propitious, you will reach your goal" (Second Homily on the *Missus est*).

(Source: sspx.org)



Devotion to Our Lady's Seven Sorrows



evotion to Our Lady of Sorrows became a standard devotion in the Church around the 14th century. It was revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373) that devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary's Seven Sorrows would bring great signal graces. The

devotion consists in praying seven Hail Mary's while meditating on the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Mary, in a unique way, willingly suffered alongside her Divine Son as he gave his life to save the world, and she felt the bitterness of his passion as only a mother can. This devotion is especially remembered during September, the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows (the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is on 15th September), and during the season of Lent.

The Seven Sorrows of Mary:

- 1. The Prophecy of Simeon;
- 2. The Flight into Egypt;
- 3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days;
- 4. The Carrying of the Cross;
- 5. The Crucifixion of Jesus;
- 6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross;
- 7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb.

Seven Promises to those who meditate on Our Lady's Seven Sorrows:

The Blessed Virgin Mary grants seven graces to the souls who honour her daily by meditating (i.e. mental prayer) on her seven sorrows (dolors). The Hail Mary is prayed seven times, once after each meditation.

- 1. "I will grant peace to their families."
- 2. "They will be enlightened about the Divine Mysteries."
- 3. "I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."
- 4. "I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."
- 5. "I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."
- 6. "I will visibly help them at the moment of their death. They will see the face of their Mother."
- 7. "I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors, will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy."

Pope Pius VII approved another series of prayers in honour of the Seven Sorrows for daily meditation in 1815:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

- I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the affliction of your tender heart at the prophecy of the holy and aged Simeon. Dear Mother, by your heart so afflicted, obtain for me the virtue of humility and the gift of the holy fear of God. Hail Mary...
- 2. I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the anguish of your most affectionate heart during the flight into Egypt and your sojourn there. Dear Mother, by your heart so troubled, obtain for me the virtue of generosity, especially toward the poor, and the gift of piety. Hail Mary...
- 3. I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in those anxieties which tried your troubled heart at the loss of your dear Jesus. Dear Mother, by your heart so full of anguish, obtain for me the virtue of chastity and the gift of knowledge. Hail Mary...
- 4. I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the consternation of your heart at meeting Jesus as He carried His Cross. Dear Mother, by your heart so troubled, obtain for me the virtue of patience and the gift of fortitude. Hail Mary...
- 5. I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the martyrdom which your generous heart endured in standing near Jesus in His agony. Dear Mother, by your afflicted heart obtain for me the virtue of temperance and the gift of counsel. Hail Mary...
- 6.I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the wounding of your compassionate heart, when the side of Jesus was struck by the lance before His Body was removed from the Cross. Dear Mother, by your heart thus transfixed, obtain for me the virtue of fraternal charity and the gift of understanding. Hail Mary...
- 7. I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, for the pangs that wrenched your most loving heart at the burial of Jesus. Dear Mother, by your heart sunk in the bitterness of desolation, obtain for me the virtue of diligence and the gift of wisdom. Hail Mary...

Let us pray:

Let intercession be made for us, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, now and at the hour of our death, before the throne of Thy mercy, by the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, whose most holy soul was pierced by a sword of sorrow in the hour of Thy bitter Passion. Through Thee, O Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth world without end. Amen.

The Secret of the Rosary

Twenty-Ninth Rose

Means of Salvation

aint Denis said that there is nothing more noble and more pleasing to God than to cooperate in the work of saving souls and to frustrate the devil's plans for ruining them. The Son of God came down to earth for no other reason than to save souls.



He upset Satan's empire by founding the Church, but the former rallied his strength and wreaked cruel violence on souls by the Albigensian heresy, by the hatred, dissensions, and abominable vices which he spread throughout the world in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries.

Only stringent measures could possibly cure such terrible disorders and repel Satan's forces. The Blessed Virgin, Protectress of the Church, has given us a most powerful means for appeasing her Son's anger, uprooting heresy and reforming Christian morals, in the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary. It has proved its worth for it has brought back charity and frequent reception of the Sacraments which flourished in the first golden centuries of the Church and it has reformed Christian morals.

Pope Leo X said in his Bull that this Confraternity had been founded in honour of God and of the Blessed Virgin as a wall to hold back the evils that were going to break upon the Church.

Gregory XIII said that the Rosary was given us from Heaven as a means of appeasing God's anger and of imploring Our Lady's intercession.

Jules III said that the Rosary was inspired by God in order that Heaven might be more easily opened to us through the favours of Our Lady.

Paul III and Saint Pius V stated that the Rosary was given to the faithful in order that they might have spiritual peace and consolation more easily. Surely everyone will want to join a confraternity which was founded for such noble purposes.

Father Dominic, the Carthusian, who was deeply devoted to the Holy Rosary, had this vision: Heaven was opened for him to see and the whole heavenly court



was assembled in magnificent array. He heard them sing the Rosary in an enchanting melody and each decade was in honour of a mystery of the life, passion or glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and of His Blessed Mother. Father Dominic noticed that whenever they said the sacred name of Mary they bowed their heads and at the name of Jesus they genuflected and gave thanks to God for the great good that He had wrought in Heaven and on earth through the Holy Rosary, which the Confraternity members say here on earth. He noticed too that they were praying for those who practise this devotion. He also saw beautiful crowns without number which were made of gorgeous perfumed flowers held in readiness for those who say the Holy Rosary devoutly. He learned that by every Rosary that they say they make a crown for themselves which they will be able to wear in Heaven.

This holy Carthusian's vision is very much like that which Saint John the Beloved Disciple had. He had a vision of a very great multitude of Angels and Saints who continually praised and blessed Our Saviour Jesus Christ for all that He had done and suffered on earth for our salvation. This is precisely what the devout members of the Rosary Confraternity do.

It must not be thought that the Rosary is only for women and for simple and ignorant people; it is also for men and for the greatest of men. As soon as Saint Dominic acquainted Pope Innocent III with the fact that he had received a command from Heaven to establish the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, the Holy Father gave it his full approval, urged Saint Dominic to preach it and said that he wished to become a member himself. Many Cardinals embraced the devotion with great fervour too, which prompted Lopez to say: "Neither sex nor age nor any other condition has kept anyone from devotion to the Holy Rosary."

Members of the Confraternity have always been from all walks of life: dukes, princes, kings, as well as prelates, cardinals and Sovereign Pontiffs; it would take too long to give all their names in this little book, which is but a summary. If you join the Confraternity, dear reader, you will share in the devotion of your fellow members and in the graces that they gain on earth as well as in their glory in Heaven. "Since you are united to them in their devotion you will share in their dignity."

Notices



Sung Mass at Manchester

The Choir at Manchester is recruiting!

We are aiming to improve our choir for the monthly Sung Mass and major feasts.
All new recruits are welcome to join the choir.

However, this demands to practise!

Here is how rehearsals should be planned:

- After Mass on 1st Saturday;
- After Mass on 3rd Sunday.

Saint Gregory the Great, pray for us. Saint Cecilia, pray for us.

Note that the rehearsals may vary depending on the needs, especially the liturgical feasts we are planning to sing for.

Sunday Mass Schedule and Locations

PRESTON: Our Lady of Victories' Church

East Cliff, off Winckley Square - PR1 3JH

Every Sunday: 9.30am — Confessions from 8.45am

MANCHESTER: Saint Pius X's Chapel

16 Deerpark Road, off Alexandra Road South - M16 8FR

Every Sunday: 9.30am — Confessions from 8.45am

LIVERPOOL: Saint Peter and Paul's Church

35 Upper Parliament Street - L8 7LA

Every Sunday: 1pm — Confessions from 12.30pm

RHOS-ON-SEA: Saint David's Chapel

Conwy Road (A547), Mochdre - LL28 5AA (North Wales)

Every Sunday: 5pm — Confessions from 4.30pm

BINGLEY: The Little House

Market Street - BD16 2HP

Every Sunday: 3pm — Confessions from 2.30pm

Ordinary Weekday Masses at Preston

(This schedule is subject to change; please check beforehand on the **outside notice board** or **http://fsspx.uk** — **Mass Times & Calendars**)

Monday: 11am Tuesday: 11am Wednesday: 11am Thursday: 11am Friday: 11am

Saturday: 12.15pm (Holy Hour at 11am)