****

**St Agnes Catholic Church**

**The Green, Eccleston, Chorley PR7 5PH**

**Parish Priest, Rev G Anders BA(Theol) STL**

**01257 451337** **stagneseccleston@rcaol.org.uk**[**www.stagneseccleston.co.uk**](http://www.stagneseccleston.co.uk)

**March 23rd 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Lent**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Masses and intentions for 23rd March – 30th March 2025**  |  |
| Sun 23rd Mar | 11.00a.m. | Parishioners | Wed 26th Mar | 6.00p.m. | Very Special Intention |  |
| Fri 28st Mar | 12.00noon | Father Michael O’Dowd R.I.P. | Sun 30th Mar | 11.00a.m. | In thanksgiving: love &marriage |  |

The church is open for private prayer on Thursday morning from 10.00a.m. – 12.00noon.

The church office is open on Thursday from 9.30a.m. until 12.30p.m.

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS**

There will be tea, coffee, and biscuits, after Mass today 23rd March. Please stay on for a cuppa if you can.

**FOOD BANK/UKRAINE COLLECTION**

Please keep your contributions coming. One day there may be a **society where everyone can afford the essentials, and no one needs to use a food bank. Meanwhile, let’s keep doing what we can to support cold and hungry people this winter.**

**PERIOD OF SILENCE BEFORE THE START OF SUNDAY MASS**

Thank you for your sensitive cooperation with the request for this period of silence. It is much appreciated.

**PARISH GIVING LAST WEEK**

The collection, including standing orders, amounted to £581.50. The Lenten Alms Box contained £74.38. Thank you.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Notes (26/2/25) are available from the porch. The next meeting will be 5th May. Please discuss with any PPC member any matters you would like to be included.

**FAMILIES OF PARISHES**

A meeting is arranged for our family members on 8th April at St Mary’s Euxton. Father Anders and Eileen will be attending, and will feedback to you all afterwards.

**RED MISSION BOXES**

Please pass on your red boxes to Alice Helme for her March collection. If you do not have a red box but would like one, please talk to Alice.

**FAMILY FAST ENVELOPES**

Please return these today if possible, or next Sunday. We will send our cheque in on 3rd April.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Thanks to everyone who took part in this special evening last week. As you know it provides an opportunity to do something extra for lent and involves prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Do join in if you are able to do so. They are every Wednesday up to 9th April, starting at 6.30p.m.

**JUBILEE 2025**

If you are interested in finding out more about the history of the jubilee and the plans for this one, the link below should help. And remember, we have little companion booklets about the jubilee available for you to purchase priced at £1.50. These contain useful ideas, information, reflections and prayers. <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/pastoral-development/jubilee>

The themes for Jubilee year are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| care for creation | Managing debt |
| Food poverty | Forgiveness |
| Modern slavery | Rest and worship |

**WE DARE TO HOPE**

The archdiocese has made available an interesting booklet “We dare to hope”, 52 pages of thoughts on the theme of hope – ideal stimulus material for the season of Lent in this Jubilee year. You can access it via the link on our website.

**ST AGNES WEBSITE**

Do make use of our website. It is regularly updated (at last once per week, usually more) and contains information, articles, and links to many resources and ideas. Thanks to all who contribute to this.

**SPECIAL DAYS THIS WEEK**

Tuesday 25th March: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. This solemnity commemorates the moment when the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive and bear the Son of God. It celebrates Our Lady’s assent to God’s plan, marking the Incarnation of Christ. Nine months before the Nativity, the Annunciation is a profound moment in salvation history, emphasising obedience, grace and God’s redemptive work in Christ.

Saturday 29th March: Father Michael O’Dowd anniversary

(Our Mass intention for Fri 28th Mar is Father Michael R.I.P.)

**PAPAL POSTSCRIPT**

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs.

Pope Francis 2024