



SOUTH RIBBLE FAMILY OF PARISHES

Incorporating Leyland, Longton, Penwortham and Tarleton

Frs Michael Barrett, Joseph Bibby, John Goddard, and Ian McParland.

Deacons Bill McMahon and John Sargent

September 2025

Family of Parishes Working Group:

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Synod and the resulting Pastoral Plan established local Families of Parishes and called for local reflection and discernment in each Family to grow in greater collaboration as we prepare for the future together.

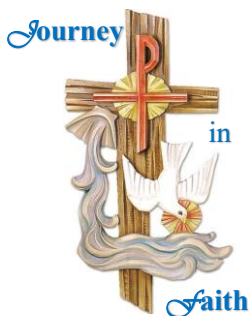
Members of our Family of Parishes (Tarleton, Longton, Leyland, & Penwortham) have been meeting over the last year. The Working Group consists of 2 lay representatives from each of the 4 parishes plus the 4 priests & 2 deacons.

We are sharing the one-page summary of our last meeting, and a member of the working group will speak at Mass the w/e 13th/14th September. Do you see yourself in this summary? Is there anything you would like to add?

We invite everyone to enter into this conversation and offer us any feedback, either by email to j.sargent@rcaol.org.uk or by handing back the sheet at church.

The Working Group will be meeting over the next 8-12 months with Fr Matthew Nunes as our facilitator. We will be discerning how we can work more closely together to prepare for the future. Across the whole Archdiocese, active membership of parishes has continued to fall. Our Family currently consists of 4 parishes, with 5 churches, 6 primary schools, 2 high schools, 5 parish halls/centres, 8 Sunday Masses (3 Saturday evening vigils & 5 Sunday morning), 4 priests, & 2 deacons. In 5 years' time, we might be lucky to have 2 priests. How do we prepare for the future so that our communities can be vibrant and outward looking in our calling to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in this area of South Ribble?

Please could we invite you over the next month to continue this conversation with each other – over a cuppa, or in one of your parish group meetings. If you have a parish council or an open parish meeting coming up, please do take that opportunity to continue the conversation.



Journey in Faith: *Do you know someone who would be interested in becoming a Catholic?*

As a Family of Parishes, we are delighted to confirm that we will again be offering a **Journey in Faith (RCIA) course** for anyone who may be interested in joining our Catholic family of faith.

Our first course leading up to Easter 2025, proved very helpful to the 15 adults who were baptised or received into the Church and then confirmed and made their first Communion.

This year's course, which begins on 12th November 2026, and which will be run at St Mary's Community Centre Leyland, is a wonderful opportunity for those who want to explore the Catholic faith to do so in an informal and welcoming environment.

A team of parishioners across our Family of Parishes will host the sessions and together with our clergy we will be following the excellent resources provided by the Sycamore course.

The sessions will run weekly (with breaks over holiday periods) until Easter 2026 and include topics such as The Search for Happiness, Who is Jesus? and the Power of Prayer.

There are information leaflets at the back of our churches, providing more details and contact information.

Please do reflect whether you might pass on a leaflet to someone you know who may just be looking for an invitation to take the next step on their Journey of Faith.



SEASON OF CREATION

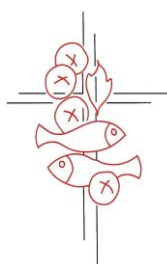
Season of Creation

The church celebrates the Season of Creation from the 1st September to the 4th October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi) each year. In St Mary's parish we were privileged to hear a challenging reflection on the Season of Creation by Sister Cecilia Snape SHCJ in which she reminded us of what Pope John Paul II said, we are "Co-creators with God". Our parish newsletter will contain weekly reflections throughout the Season of Creation.

Taizé Prayer to conclude the Season of Creation

On Thursday 2nd October at 7pm, we will gather in St Mary Magdalen's Church to conclude our Season of Creation. We will have the chants of Taizé, Scripture readings and prayers on the theme of creation and silence. Everyone is welcome!

(Location: Leyland Road, Penwortham PR1 9QD)



40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood: This year seven priests of the Archdiocese celebrate their Ruby Jubilee, and Fr Joe is one of them. He will celebrate a special Mass in St Mary's church at 12.00 noon on Saturday, 27th September followed by a buffet reception in St Mary's Community Centre. Archbishop John Sherrington will be joining us for the Mass. All are welcome. **Broadfield Walk, Leyland, PR25 1PD.**



Guild of St Stephen: On October 12th St Mary's, Leyland will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Altar Servers' Guild of St Stephen in the parish. At the 10.00 am Mass that day, our newest servers will join the procession, those from last year will receive their Guild medals, and there will be the presentation of an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Leo XIV. Members of the Archdiocesan Council of the Guild of St Stephen, and the National Director, will be joining us that day.

Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes



This year a small group of parishioners from St Mary's, Leyland travelled to Lourdes as part of the archdiocesan pilgrimage. They were able to participate in the programme of Masses and processions and even enjoyed a relaxing day at the beach!

They all returned safely, with a renewed sense of faith and what they described as a "glimpse of Heaven".

Sunday Masses in the Family of Parishes

Vigil/ Morning Mass	St Mary's, Leyland PR25 1PD	St Oswald's, Longton PR4 5EB	St Mary Magdalen's, Penwortham PR1 9QD	St Teresa's, Penwortham PR1 0DS	Our Lady's, Tarleton PR4 6BP
Saturday	18.00	17.00		18.00	
Sunday	10.00	08.30	11.00	09.30	10.00