

Fourth Sunday before Lent

Sunday 9th February to Saturday 15th February
St Andrew, St Paul & St Peter Blackley

Dear Friends

We are entering a time in our churches of what we call "Ordinary Time". It's a time where we are not celebrating any particular festivals or feasts, and where we change our liturgical colours to green for a few weeks. We will be changing again for Lent, when we enter that penitential period before Easter.

Our readings this week will be Isaiah 6.1-8,(9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; **Luke 5.1-11**, and we will be exploring that question from Jesus – "Whom shall I send?".

Jesus calls his first disciples, among them fishermen including Simon (later Peter). Simon and Jesus already knew each other, but, as a result of the miraculous catch of fish, Simon sees Jesus in a new light, and he is given a new task to do – to catch people.

Simon Peter is changed by an encounter with God's power and glory. We too need to have a fresh glimpse of God's majesty as he forgives us, cleanses us and equips us to go into the world for him.

Come and join us for worship at St Andrew's and St Peter's at 9.30am, and St Paul's at 11.30am.

With every blessing
Pam

NEXT WEEK:

Next Sunday is
The Third Sunday before Lent
Growing Deep Roots

Our readings will be

Jeremiah 17.5-10; **Psalm 1**; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those grieving

The families of
David Craighill (St Andrew's parish)
Brett Newton (St Peter's parish)
Brian Helire (St Mary's parish)
Joan Green (St Mary's parish)
whose funerals fall in the next couple of weeks.

Those exploring their faith

Myla, who will be baptised at St Paul's on 16th February, and those who are thinking about baptism in the future.

Confirmation Candidates

Alfie, Emilia, Favor, Favour, Henry, Israel, Lily, Louis, Margot, Noah, Oliver, Sally, Timmy, and Violet.

Those getting married

Amy and James 1st March at St Leonard's (Banns at St Andrew's)

Those caring

Chestnut House Care Home

Blackley residents and visitors

Northdale Road, Northridge Road and Norway Maple Avenue

Schools and Young People

All our children and staff at Co-op Academy North Manchester

Worldwide Church

The Anglican Church of Australia

NOTABLE CHRISTIANS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK

10th February

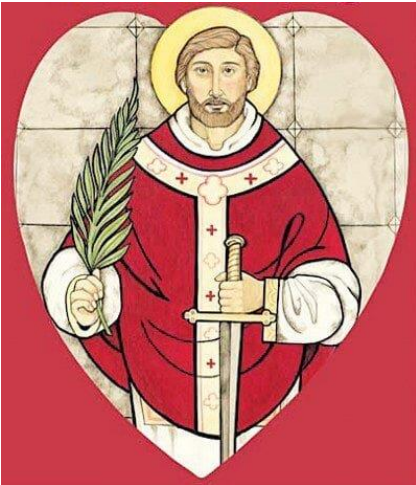
Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543

Scholastica is a more shadowy figure than her famous brother, Benedict. She too was born at Nursia, central Italy, around the year 480. At an early age she chose to consecrate herself to God, but probably continued to live at home. Only after Benedict moved to Monte Cassino did she settle at Plombariola nearby, joining or maybe founding a nunnery under his direction. As abbess she sought to follow his Rule, and met him each year at a house near his monastery where they would praise God together and discuss spiritual matters. She died in about the year 543. Benedict had a vision of her soul rising up to heaven and, collecting her body, he had her buried in the tomb prepared for himself. Scholastica soon became a figure for veneration by all nuns who followed Benedict's Rule.



14th February

Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269



Valentine was a priest or a bishop of Terni who was martyred at Rome under the Emperor Claudius in about 269.

The connection of this celebration with lovers seems to be either as the traditional day in mediæval belief when birds mated, or more likely as being linked with the pagan Lupercalia festival in Rome, which occurred on the Ides of February.

For Christians, this day marks an acknowledgement of an all-loving God who blesses those who love one another, as Jesus implored his own disciples to do.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, 9th February

- 9.30am St Andrew's Sunday Worship
9.30am St Peter's Sunday Worship
11.30am St Paul's Sunday Worship
4.30pm Confirmation Group – Children and Young People

Monday, 10th February

- 9.00am Stay and Play at St Paul's
4.00pm Worship Leaders' Think Tank
7.00pm Digital Giving meeting (Treasurers)

Wednesday, 12th February

- 9.00am Stay and Play at St Andrew's
10.45am Morning Service at St Andrew's
1.00pm Funeral of David Craighill, with burial at St Andrew's

Thursday, 13th February

- 12.00pm Community Café and Drop In at St Paul's
7.30pm Confirmation Group - Adults

Saturday, 15th February

- 10.00am Community Café at St Paul's

Sunday, 16th February

- 1.30pm Baptism of Myla at St Paul's



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH DATES

- 23rd February 2.30pm Confirmation Service
Venue will be confirmed closer to the date

PCC MEETINGS

- 18th February 7.00pm St Paul's *Parish Room*
4th March 7.00pm St Peter's *Parish Room*
25th March 7.30pm St Andrew's *Parish room*

DEANERY MEETINGS

- 25th February 7.00pm Deanery Synod at St Paul's
25th March 10.00am Deanery Chapter

WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

- 8th March 7.00pm St Andrew's Parish Room

LENT STUDY

Thursday Mornings in person
11.00am at the Hub
or

Thursday Evenings in person
7.30pm at St Andrew's
or

Sunday Evenings online

First sessions will be on Thursday 6th March and Sunday 9th March
Joint session together with the whole church for a service on Maundy Thursday, 19th April.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to contact anyone in church, please use the following methods:

Phone 0161 264 9982 **Email** clergy@blackleycofe.church **Website** <https://blackleycofe.church>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE SEND US A MESSAGE TO churchoffice@blackleycofe.church AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO OUR MAILING LIST

NEW WEBSITE

We have been working in the background for a couple of months to try to improve the way we communicate with our congregations, our worship team and in the parishes we serve, and are delighted to let you know that our new website is now up and running.



The screenshot shows the Blackley CofE website home page. At the top left is the Blackley CofE logo. To its right are navigation links: Home, Calendar, Documents, Search, and Global Office. Further right are two buttons: 'Contact us' and 'Team Login'. Below the navigation is a large blue banner with the text 'Welcome to the Blackley Churches'. The banner is divided into three sections: 1. A photograph of a church interior with stained glass windows. 2. A blue box with white text titled 'Join us for worship' containing a welcome message and service times for Sunday and midweek. 3. A photograph of a church exterior with a stone facade. Below the banner is another section with a photograph of a church building and a blue box titled 'Upcoming Events' listing an event on Saturday 8th February from 10:00am to 2:00pm for cleaning and grounds maintenance at St Peter's.

This is now your first port of call to find out what is going on with our Blackley churches – from calendar, to who is on the rota and what the readings are, to study materials and life event enquiries.

Give us a look and see for yourself. You will find the website at blackleycofe.church and as we get used to the new way of sharing information we ask that you are patient if you see any anomalies or if links don't work.

For those on the rota for leading, preaching, reading, praying etc, you will find details of your rota in advance by clicking on the “Documents” tab. You will still receive your reminder in the week before, but you can now check in advance when you are serving.

Worship Team members have a shortcut to Teams by clicking on the “Team Login” button at the top. This link won't work unless we have your email address logged in the system, so let us know if you need access.