



ST FAITH'S
GREAT CROSBY

The Third Sunday of Lent
Sunday 8th March 2026

Hymns

285 When I needed a neighbour
66 The Servant King
120 I love you, Lord
98 Water of life

Notices

The Blessed Sacrament lamp burns this week in memory of Rosie Walker, treasured wife of Rick, and a dearly loved mother and grandmother. Rosie will always be remembered for her organisational skills, particularly with regard to catering. We all enjoyed special fellowship at the many events and parties she organised. **R.I.P.**

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for March: 1st prize (£90) – Angela Woodley; 2nd prize (£45) – Bill and Barbara Dagnall; 3rd prize (£30) – Irene Taylor. We've had some new members recently so why not join them? For membership details, please ask David Jones or email him at david.jones@stfaithsgc.org.uk.

The Walsingham Group would like to thank everyone for their generous support of the Bring & Buy Sale. We are very pleased to announce that we raised a total of £153 for Church funds.

Charity Fundraising: Thank you for all your nominations. The organisations chosen for 2026 are Sefton Community Pantry, the Liverpool Seafarers Centre, the Marine Conservation Society and the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. These organisations will each receive an equal share of any monies raised throughout the year.

Events

Saturday 18th April, 10:30am to 12:30pm: St. Faith's Church Hall. 'Brew and Bake 'Combat Stress. (Organised by the forces prayer group).

Saturday 18th April: “Music for Medusa” Fundraising Night in the hall starting at **7:00pm until 10:00pm** to help Adam Noble’s local restaurant destroyed by a fire on Christmas Eve. To read all about what happened, see Liverpool Echo on 31st January 2026. Acts confirmed: Vinny and the Engineers, (singer/musical trio), and a Banjo Ukelele group. Tickets will cost £5.00. Please see Corinne Hedgecock or ring: 07510 219 705

Benefice Lent Courses

We are running two courses in the benefice during Lent:

'Hear my prayer': a **five-week course** on **Monday afternoons** at **2.30pm**, held at **St Mary's** - this will explore different approaches to prayer, and finish with an opportunity to write some prayers of our own for use at Easter. Week 1 - Introduction to Prayer; Week 2 - Collects; Week 3 - The Psalms; Week 4 - Intercessions; Week 5 - Composing Prayers for Easter.

'Draw Near': a **six-week course** on **Monday evenings** at **6.30pm**, held at **St Faith's** - this will explore how we can cultivate habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. Week 1 - Sharing in Prayer; Week 2 - Sharing the Scriptures; Week 3 - Sharing Communion; Week 4 - Sharing in Service; Week 5 - Sharing the Good News.

During Lent, we will also be offering a weekly meditative service of **Stations of the Cross** on **Wednesday evenings** at **6.30pm**, at **St Faith's**; this will be preceded by a weekly service of **Holy Communion** using the liturgy from the **Book of Common Prayer** at **5.30pm**, also at **St Faith's**.

Please see our new 'Upcoming Services and Events' section below for further information about dates and times - and please keep checking this new section as future worship and community occasions are announced (including our planned activities for Holy Week).

Upcoming Services and Events in the Benefice/Dates for your diary:

Sundays: 8th, 15th, 22nd March, 6pm, St Faith's – Compline.

Mondays: 9th, 16th, 23rd March, 2.30pm at St Mary's - Lent Course 'Hear my prayer'.

Mondays: 9th, 16th, 23rd March, 6.30pm at St Faith's - Lent Course 'Draw Near'.

Wednesdays: 11th, 18th, 25th March, 5.30pm at St Faith's - Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.

Wednesdays: 11th, 18th, 25th March, 6.30pm at St Faith's - Stations of the Cross.

This Week's Services

This Sunday 11:00am, Eucharist The Third Sunday of Lent	Fr. Louis Johnson Paula Lampard
This Sunday, 6:00pm Compline	Dr. Judith Aveling
Monday 9th March, 9:00am Morning Prayer (with Fit for Mission Clergy Leadership Team)	Fr. Louis Johnson
Wednesday 11th March, 10:30am Eucharist at St Mary's	Fr. Peter Walker
Wednesday 11th March, 5:30pm BCP Holy Communion	Fr. Louis Johnson
Wednesday 11th March, 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	Fr. Louis Johnson
Thursday 12th March, 12 noon Eucharist	Fr. Louis Johnson
Next Sunday, 11:00am, Eucharist Mothering Sunday	Rev. Denise McDougall <i>Readings: Exodus 2:1-10, Psalm 34:11-20, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:33-35</i>
Next Sunday, 6:00pm Compline	Dr. Judith Aveling

Contacts

Vicar: Fr. Louis Johnson 07947 752 399 / louis.johnson@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Assistant Clergy: Fr. Dennis Smith 0151 928 5065; Fr. Bill Matthews 0151 281 4879;
Fr. Peter Cowley CA Tel. 0151 426 5441, Fr. Steve Hall steve.hall@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Parish Reader: Mrs Paula Lampard

Church Wardens: Mr Rick Walker 0151 924 6267 / 07710 226 300; Mrs Maureen
Madden 0151 924 2154 / 07704 004 670

Administrator: Mrs Carolanne Leary 07913 873 697 / carolanne.leary@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mari Griffiths 07811591922 / mari.griffiths@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Please keep in your prayers

The Diocese: All Saints Southport, Emmanuel Southport, Larkfield Primary, Holy Trinity Southport, St Luke Southport, St Stephens Banks, St Philip and St Paul with Wesley Southport, St Simon and St Jude with All Souls Southport, St Cuthbert North Meols.

Parish: Mornington Avenue, Grosvenor Avenue, Marldon Avenue, Hatherley Avenue, Duddingston Avenue, Cranmore Avenue.

The World: For peace in all areas of conflict in the world. For those affected by fires, floods, famines and earthquakes. For emergency workers working in disaster areas. For refugees, asylum seekers and agencies that help them. For good stewardship of the earth and its resources. For all victims of cruelty, injustice and exploitation.

The Church: The unity of all Christians everywhere. Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Ruth, Ven Pete Spiers, our Archdeacon, Churches in the South Sefton Deanery, and local ecumenical partners.

Those who are sick: Joan McKortel, Alistair Byron, Angie Price, Susie Greenwood, Jill Deeprise, Holly Keira Barnes, Ken Welsby, Martin Goodwin, Evie Dunne, Jan Huyton.

Those who are to be remembered at this time: Sydney Wilson, Bessie Taylor, Harold Laurence Costin, Amy Williamson, Marjorie Prothero, Cambell Dean, Stanislaus Alexander Tudhope, Lauren Kelly, Celia Grieve, Kitty Roscoe, Mary Elizabeth Wadsworth, Flo Andrew, Martha Johnston, Joanna Thompson, Joseph Weeks (Priest), Emily Caroline Goodwin.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading, Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Psalm 95

Response (congregation):-

○ come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.

○ come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.

○ come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.
In his hands are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.

○ come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.

Come, let us worship and bow down
And kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his land.

○ come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.

○ that today you would listen to his voice:
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, on that day in Massah in the wilderness,
‘When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof,
Though they had seen my works.

○ come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.

‘Forty years long I detested that generation and said,
“This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways.”
‘So I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter into my rest.”
○ come let us worship and bow down and kneel before our Maker.

Second Reading, Romans 5.1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance

produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Lent Prose

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us;
for we have sinned against thee**

(The Choir or a solo voice sings the Versicle)

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us;
for we have sinned against thee.**

Gospel, John 4.5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when

the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.