

**THE RIBBLE VALLEY PARISHES OF
ST WILFRID, LONGRIDGE: ST MARY, CHIPPING:
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RIBCHESTER.**

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Dutton

Telephone: 01772 782641

Email: stwilfridslongridge@outlook.com

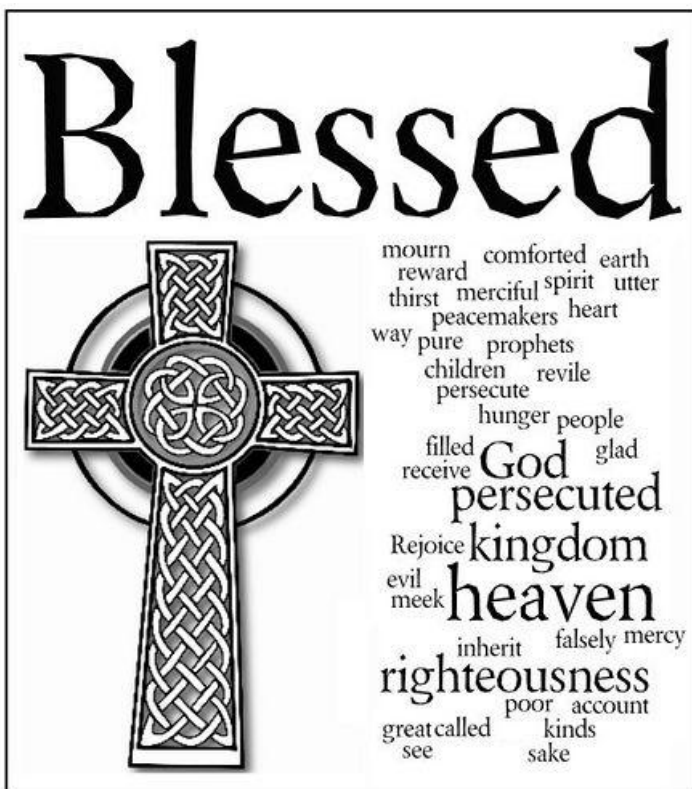
Website: <http://stwilfridsparish.org>

Emergency contact please phone Fr Doyle: Tel: 01772 782244

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Sunday 1st February 2026



<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 2nd February	Mass 10.00am		
Tuesday 3rd February	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Wednesday 4th February			10:00am
Thursday 5th February	Lectio Divina 7.00pm	Mass 9:30am	
Friday 6th February			
Saturday 7th February	Confessions 4.15pm – 4.45pm Mass 5.30pm		
Sunday 8th February		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am

Mass at Lee House

Fr Tony will celebrate the First Friday Mass at Lee House on Friday 6th February at the usual time of 7.30pm. All are most welcome.

Baptism at St Wilfrid's, St Mary's or SS Peter and Paul

Parents are required to attend a preparation meeting for the Sacrament of Baptism, taking the form of a half day retreat from 10am – 2pm at St Wilfrid's parish hall (lunch will be provided) Godparents are also urged to attend. The next two dates are Saturday 16th May 2026 and Saturday 19th September 2026. To register for more information, please contact us by phone or email using the details on the front page.

St Mary Chipping

Parish Notices

Sunday Missal Page 89

A reminder that we have a **coffee morning on Sunday 1st February**. Please note that the food bank is running short on toiletries and baby products.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again and for those whose anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

We remember especially: Betty Hogan, Adam Draper and Eileen Wells.

May they rest in peace.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 25th January: £211.00 Caritas Collection: £40.00

Thank you

Parish of St Peter and St Paul Ribchester**Parish Notices****The Faithful Departed**

We pray for the faithful departed and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again.

We remember especially:

Henry Watmough, Margaret Ellen Woods, William Seed, Bernard Charnley, Fr Ignatius Knowles, Carole White Thomas Hamilton, Austin Ward and Terrence Bowman.

May the Lord grant them a share in his resurrection.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 25th January: £231.00 Caritas Collection: £162.00

Thank you

Parish of St Wilfrid Longridge**Parish Notices****Sunday Missal – Page 89****Pie & Peas - Thank you**

A huge thank you to all who supported this enjoyable event on Thursday 29th January, especially those involved in preparing and serving the food. I would also like to thank Polly, Shelagh and Bernard for providing the afternoon's entertainment. The amount raised was £705.08.

Afternoon Tea

Our next fundraising event will be Afternoon Tea in the Parish Room. This will take place on Thursday 26th February at 12.30pm. Tickets cost £12.50 per head. Please see Denise Atkinson or Fr Tony if you would like to attend.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for the faithful departed and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again.

We remember especially:

Leo Francis Wells, Amelia Joan Rawcliffe, Ann Marie Farrer, Margaret Rigby, Veronica Winifred Shaw.

May they have the reward of their earthly goodness in heaven.

Ribble Valley Gateway Trust are recruiting a part-time Operations Manager (20 hrs/week, £16/hr) to help support the work of the Trust across the Ribble Valley. This varied role supports our Foodbank, Counselling Service, Art4All and Love Clitheroe projects, working closely with Trustees and Project Managers to keep things running smoothly. Ideal for an organised, values-driven person who enjoys supporting people, systems and community work. Find out more at www.rvgt.org.uk/vacancies.

A thought on the Gospel

Jesus warns us that, if we follow him, we too, can expect to be treated just like him. As it is sometimes said, there is cost in Pentecost, and following him means being prepared to take up the cross. Right from the beginning when Simeon took the child Jesus in his arms in the temple, he announced that he would be a sign of contradiction. Everything he said, everything he did, and everything he stood for, would be a sign of contradiction to this world and its values. Those with power, with prestige, and with control felt threatened by him. The religious leaders who ran the show, and who were the final arbiters as to what was right and what was wrong, were so threatened by him, that they planned and indeed succeeded in putting him to death.

But there is also a sense of cleansing in today's Gospel. It's about letting go of those things in our lives that are not life giving and about becoming wholesome and free. It is a programme for living, a blueprint for inner peace and for real happiness. Religion can sometimes run the risk of being about a set of rules and regulations and ultimately about exercising control. Spirituality is totally the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is about surrender. It's about letting go, knowing that, in death, we must let go of everything anyhow.

To live more fully, it is necessary to be as free from outside control as possible. If we have wealth, it shouldn't control us and drive us in a compulsive way towards accumulating more. When we forgive someone, we are setting ourselves free. Bitterness and resentment can imprison us.

If we take the message of Jesus seriously, and follow him and belong to his kingdom, then we can be quite sure and certain of meeting opposition. But much of that opposition can come from within us. Self-preservation is a fundamental human instinct. Following the Lord involves dying to self, sometimes to our creature comforts and indeed to our pride.

How often do we take time to reflect on how we live our lives. Sometimes, part of the weakness of our human condition is that it blinds us to the reality of who we are. I could be a bully and be the only one around who doesn't know that. I could be addicted to alcohol and not see it. It's the wife's fault, it's the stress of work, it's the only way I can unwind, these are only a handful of reasons we sometimes use to convince ourselves that what we are doing is right.

The beatitudes are certainly a list of qualities to be found in the Lord's disciples, but essentially, they are blessings given freely to us. However, in order that we might receive them, we must first be properly disposed by opening our hearts to God's Spirit.