

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

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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Sunday 8th February 2026



You are the salt of the earth.

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 9th February	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Tuesday 10th February	Mass 10.00am		
Wednesday 11th February			10:00am
Thursday 12th February	Lectio Divina 7.00pm	Mass 9:30am With the School	
Friday 13th February			
Saturday 14th February	Confessions 4.15pm – 4.45pm Mass 5.30pm		
Sunday 15th February		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am

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 16/5/26 and Saturday 19/9/26. To register for more information, please contact us by phone or email using the details on the front page.

St Mary Chipping

Parish Notices

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Family Mass

Fr Tony has been in discussion with Mrs Jones our headteacher about the introduction of a monthly "Family Mass" whereby we encourage our primary school children and their families to join us for Mass at least once a month. It was suggested that the first Sunday of each month would be a good time so that they could join us for tea and coffee afterwards.

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: Sharon Gornall and Robert Dewhurst

May they rest in peace.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 1st February: £342.10 Thank you

Parish of St Peter and St Paul Ribchester

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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:

William Holden, George Leo Nickson, Fr Tom O'Sullivan, Fr Patrick Bates, Francis Knowles, Helen Smith, Maureen Ryder and Mark Townley.

May the Lord grant them a share in his resurrection.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 1st February: £173.00

Thank you

Parish of St Wilfrid Longridge

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Welcome

We warmly welcome Atley Taylor and Elliott Stephen Bradshaw-Woodend into the family of the Church who have recently been baptised into the faith. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts and grow closer to Jesus Christ their Saviour and Redeemer.

Afternoon Tea

Our next parish fund raising event will be afternoon tea and will be served in the parish room at 12.30pm on Thursday 26th February. Tickets are £12.50 per head. Please let Denise Atkinson or Fr Tony know if you would like tickets.

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: Mary Nicholson, Elizabeth Mary Brewer and William Houghton.

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

The THOMAS drop-in centre is looking to recruit more volunteers to assist them in providing meals for the homeless and needy. The work they do in the community is greatly valued and appreciated. More detailed information is available at the back of church on sheets headed *Ribchester group @ Thomas*. Many thanks for all the donations received month by month. Without these, our continuing support for this project would not be possible. If anyone would like further information or would like to get involved practically, please contact Peter Rabbitts on 07592 893423 or at prabbitts@hotmail.com

Winckley Square Convent School Reunion

The annual reunion will take place on Saturday February 21st 2026 from 1.30pm - 4pm at Our Lady and St Edward's Parish Centre, Marlborough Drive, Fulwood, PR2 9UE.

All past pupils, family, carers and teaching staff are welcome to attend and bring along memorabilia and photographs to share.

A thought on the Gospel

Essentially, today's Gospel is about Christian witness. It is also about attracting, not promoting. And there is a subtle difference. The Gospel can take root and spread even if the Christian presence is just one person.

"You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world." Jesus is first of all, paying us a compliment. Not only is this a phrase coined by him, but it has also become part of our vocabulary. It is often employed in a complimentary way in referring to a genuinely good person.

However, as with so many things that Jesus said, after the praise comes the condition. *"But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing and must be thrown out and trampled underfoot."* As we know, salt is often regarded as a vital ingredient of food which adds flavour, and without it, food can become bland, and we may well lose our appetite for it. For centuries, it has also been used as a preservative.

For many other reasons too, salt was regarded as a precious commodity, and as such, it was even used as a unit of exchange in much the same way that we might use cash today. You may have heard expressions like, *"he's worth his salt,"* meaning worthy of his pay. In any case, the point is, that to be thought of as *"salt of the earth,"* is to be held in very high regard.

We continue to live in a darkened world. There is darkness in the suffering and in the poverty of many. There is darkness in the political world, and sometimes in the corridors of power where injustice and corruption abide, darkness in scandal and in crime, and we see it in the fears that envelop so many people in other ways. Light needs to shine in such places, and as disciples of Christ, we can be part of the light, a light that brings hope and peace. Through good works and through generous deeds, through voices that clamour for justice and peace, our light, as small as it might seem, can shine.

So let us pray today, that through all our endeavours, through utilising our gifts and our talents, our time and resources, our love for others may radiate warmth and friendship and add flavour and seasoning to all that life may bring.