

St Theodore's Way A Pilgrim Way for the Diocese of Salford

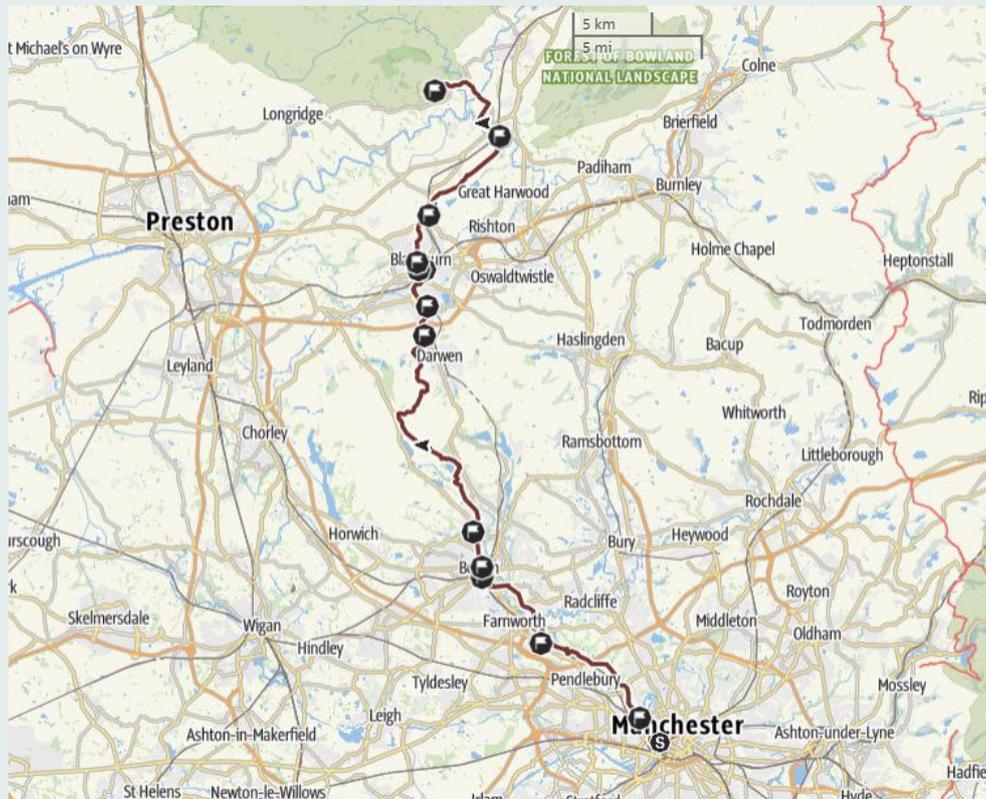
Overview

A Pilgrim Way for the Diocese of Salford from the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist in Salford to the Christian Heritage Centre, Theodore House, Stonyhurst College. Theodore of Tarsus was Archbishop of Canterbury from 668 to 690. He helped to unify the English Church after the Synod of Whitby and successfully promoted Anglo-Saxon scholarship.

The Way follows the River Irwell north out of Salford, diverting to the Church of St Sebastian in Charlestown. The route follows the Salford Trail, the Irwell Sculpture Trail and the towpath of the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal to reach the Schoenstatt Shrine in Kearsley. The route follows disused canals to Bolton. Here the Church of St Patrick and the former Ukrainian Catholic Church of All Saints are visited. The route continues north passing the Church of the Holy Infant & St Anthony in Astley Bridge, to Dimple, then follows the Wilton Weavers Way across moorland. The Way descends to the Church of the Sacred Heart in Darwen and then continues north passing near to the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Higher Croft. The Way traverses Blackburn passing Blackburn Anglican Cathedral, the Church of St Anne, the Polish Catholic Centre and the Church of the Holy Souls. The Way then crosses farmland to the former Cistercian Abbey and the Church of the English Martyrs at Whalley. Finally the Way crosses farmland to reach the Church of St Peter and Theodore House at Stonyhurst College.

The Outer Way

Total distance: 43.9 miles, Total walking hours: 18 hours



Total ascent: 2,549 ft, Route: Moderate



Stages: route, food & drink, accommodation and public transport

1: The Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Salford, to the Church of St Patrick, Bolton - 12.8 miles

The Cathedral can be reached by bus or foot from all the main Manchester rail and coach stations. The Way follows a green corridor out of Manchester beside the River Irwell and finally along a cycle path. It is mainly off road. There are plenty of pubs, cafés, restaurants and accommodation options in Manchester and Bolton. Along the route there is a café and toilets at Clifton Country Park and two pubs and a fish & chip shop at Stoneclough. The bus network can be accessed at Gerard Rd, Agecroft Rd, the A667, Hall Lane, Radcliffe Rd and Manchester Rd. There are railway and coach stations in Bolton.

2: The Church of St Patrick, Bolton to Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, Dimple – 5 miles

The Way is urban until it reaches Longworth Lane on the northern outskirts of Bolton. After this there is a delightful walk across quiet countryside to reach the charming Unitarian chapel at Dimple. There are several pubs along the first part of the route. The Bolton bus network can be accessed easily enroute before Longworth Lane and again at Dimple.

3: Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, Dimple, to the Church of the Sacred Heart, Darwen – 8.5 miles

The Way crosses remote moorland but the climbs are slow and the walking exhilarating. Finally the Way descends to Darwen and reaches the main road through a park. There are no facilities on this section until a pub is reached on the outskirts of Darwen at Sunnyhurst. There are shops, pubs and a café in Darwen. There is a car park on the moors near the route at Crookfield Rd. There is access to the bus network on the main road in Darwen.

4: The Church of the Sacred Heart, Darwen to the Church of St Anne, Blackburn – 4.8 miles

After some road walking the Way is through a park and then along a towpath into Blackburn, passing Blackburn Anglican Cathedral. There is a pub just after passing under the M65 and plenty of shops, cafés, pubs, restaurants and accommodation in Blackburn. The route passes close to Blackburn's railway and bus stations.

5: The Church of St Anne, Blackburn to the Church of the English Martyrs, Whalley – 8.1 miles

The route passes the Polish centre and climbs a hill to the site of the former Marist College. The Way is then downhill to reach the Church of the Holy Souls in Brownhill. **NB The next part of this section involves stepping-stones and can be avoided via a short detour.** The path then joins the Ribble Valley Jubilee trail and follows this to Whalley along paths and quiet lanes. There is a pub at Brownhill and a small supermarket. There is another pub at York

village. There are shops, cafés, pubs, restaurants and accommodation in Whalley. Whalley Abbey has a café and B&B accommodation. There is a railway station in Whalley as well as buses to Blackburn and Clitheroe.

6: The Church of the English Martyrs, Whalley, to Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe – 4.5 miles

The route starts across farmland and then follows quiet lanes to Stonyhurst. There are hotels and pubs at Great Mitton. Theodore House offers B&B accommodation and there is a pub and hotel at the nearby village of Hurst Green. There are buses to Whalley and Clitheroe from where Knowles Brow reaches the B6234 and from the Shireburn Arms in Hurst Green.

Public transport links

Trains: <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>
Coaches: <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en>
Buses: <https://www.traveline.info/>
<https://bustimes.org/areas/83>

The Inner Way

NB Many churches are closed during daylight hours. If you would like to visit the churches and shrines it is best to check the parish website first. You can also email or phone the parish office to see if someone would be willing to open the church. Please be aware that many priests cover more than one church and so may live many miles away.

The Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Salford

This is said to be the first Catholic church since the Reformation built on a cruciform plan, and one of the largest, most ambitious and impressive Catholic churches of its day. The building was inaugurated in 1844 and 6000 people are said to have attended the laying of the foundation stone. When it was opened in 1848 the service was attended by Catholics from all over the country, including eight English bishops. The various fixtures and fittings included a magnificent reredos and sanctuary furnishings. At the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in 1850 the Diocese of Salford was created, and the church elevated to cathedral status. In 1972 a new sanctuary with an altar was formed in the crossing of the nave. In 1983 another reordering involved the high altar, pulpit, side altars and other furnishings and in 1990 the reredos was reduced to its base. During the 2020s the building will be restored, re-roofed, and some of the Victorian heritage reinstated.

The Church of St Sebastian, Charleston

During the C19 the area was dominated by industry and poor housing. A community of Catholics formed, and Mass was first said in a school on Church Street in 1858. In 1897 the Dominicans took over the mission and a church, dedicated to St Sebastian, was consecrated in 1901. It was demolished in 1971 and the present church built in 1972-3. Inside, there is a Sacred Heart sculpture from the previous church and paintings of local interest. It is now part of the Three Martyrs Parish, served by the Spiritan Fathers.

The Church of St John Fisher and the Schoenstatt Shrine, Kearsley

The parish of St John Fisher was established in the early 1960s in anticipation of a large housing expansion into what was an area of coal mining and textile works. The current church was built in 1967-68. Closure of the pits and mills in the 1970s and 80s left the parish with a small population. Around this time the Apostolic Movement of Schoenstatt was looking for a site in the Bolton area to build a shrine, and the Rt Rev. Terence John Brain, Bishop of Salford, offered land at St John Fisher's for this purpose.

The Schoenstatt Movement is a Catholic Marian movement founded in Germany in 1914 by Fr Joseph Kentenich. The movement is named after the small locality of Schönstatt (which means "beautiful place") near Koblenz, in Germany. Schoenstatt works to revitalize the Church and society in the spirit of the Gospel. Its members seek to connect faith with daily life, especially through a deep love for Mary, who helps, educates and guides them in becoming better followers of Christ. The shrine was opened on 1 October 2000. Like all 200 Schoenstatt shrines it is an exact replica of the original shrine. Since that time a retreat and pastoral centre has been established by the Movement.

The Church of St Patrick, Bolton

The church was opened in 1861 and dedicated to St Patrick. A school was started around the same time. They were built to serve a largely Irish community who escaped the Great Irish Famine and sought jobs in the textile mills. The church is a landmark within the area and is more architecturally ambitious than other Catholic churches built in the town around this time. The parish is merged with St Edmunds.

The Church of the Holy Infant & St Anthony, Astley Bridge

A mission was created in 1877, when the first church was built. The present church dates from 1902 and was designed to seat 600. It is an attractive small church in a late Victorian Gothic style. The interior has a hammerbeam roof, original carved timber furnishings and vibrant 1960s semi-abstract stained glass. A porch incorporating a baptistery was added in 1969. The parish is in the care of the Salesians.

The Church of the Sacred Heart, Darwen

The mission in Lower Darwen was established in 1872 on land given by Edward Petre of Dunkenhalgh. The church was opened in 1883. It was built in a simple Early English Gothic style to seat 400. In 1884 a wooden statue of the Sacred Heart was added and later a war memorial. In 1961 the church was extended at the west end and much altered. The parish is now united with the Church of St Joseph and the Church of St Edward, Darwen.

The Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Higher Croft

The parish was established, and the church and presbytery built in 1955 to a plain design. The church is part of the Holy Family parish, served from St Joseph's, Blackburn.

The Church of St Anne, Blackburn

The mission was established 1848-9, when a small church and school were built. The present church was built in Lombard Romanesque style in 1925-6 to seat 800. It has 16 imported Italian marble pillars supporting the nave arcading. The Sacred Heart altar is a parish war memorial. The high altar dates from 1932 (brought forward after the Second Vatican Council). In 2002 the church was gutted in an arson attack. Demolition was considered but instead it was rebuilt to seat 200 and the surroundings landscaped. Today it is served from Sacred Heart, Blackburn

The Church of the Holy Souls, Brownhill, Blackburn

The parish was founded in 1924, the congregation worshipping in a temporary church next to Blackburn General Cemetery. A new site was acquired before WWII, but the church was not opened until 1959. Heavy spending on the foundations meant that the design had to be modified, and a projecting low tower was not built. Inside there is a modern sculpture of St Joseph with the Christ Child and older mosaic Stations of the Cross. Outside there is a crucifixion on the presbytery wall. The church is part of the St Alban parish.

Whalley Abbey, Whalley

In 1296 Cistercian monks from Stanlow Abbey moved to Whalley, and at least part of the site was consecrated in 1306. The church was completed in 1380 but the remainder of the abbey was not finished until the 1440s. The abbey was forced to close in 1537 as part of the suppression of the monasteries. Abbot John Paslew was executed for high treason in connection with the Pilgrimage of Grace of the previous year. The site was sold, the abbey largely demolished, and a country house built on the site. In 1922 the house was sold, and it has been developed as an Anglican Retreat and Conference House. The abbey ruins are designated a Grade I listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are guided tours of the ruins during the summer. A set of vestments attributed to the abbey are held in the collection of Towneley Hall and the Burrell Collection.

The Church of the English Martyrs, Whalley

In 1922 when most of the former abbey site was acquired by the Anglican Church the western part of the site, including the west range of the medieval abbey, was acquired by the Catholic Diocese of Salford with the intention of establishing a new parish on the ancient site. It was planned that the west range of the abbey should be converted to serve as the church. A temporary chapel was opened in 1926 and it remains in use today as the Catholic parish church. Outside there are ceramic Stations of the Cross and well-tended gardens.

Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe

Stonyhurst was a local centre of Catholic observance during the penal years. The college was founded in 1593 by Fr Robert Persons SJ at St Omer, at a time when penal laws prohibited Catholic education in England. After moving to Bruges in 1762 and Liège in 1773, the college was saved by the generosity of an old boy, Thomas Weld of Lulworth, who gave the Stonyhurst estate to the college in 1794 allowing it to be established in England. Today Stonyhurst College is a co-educational Catholic independent school in the Jesuit tradition,

providing boarding and day education to approximately 450 boys and girls aged 13–18. Its nearby preparatory school, St Mary's Hall, provides education for boys and girls aged 3–13.

The Church of St Peter, Stonyhurst

Between 1794 and 1797, the chapel within the college was attended by local Catholics. The present church was erected in 1832-35, in the Gothic Revival style and loosely based on King's College, Cambridge. It was one of the earliest prominent churches to be built after the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. In the 1850s the interior was decorated in the Nazarene style with frescoes in the chapels. The building remains in its original configuration although various re-orderings and redecorations have taken place, including the addition of a marble high altar. The parish includes the Church of St Joseph in nearby Hurst Green.

Theodore House, Stonyhurst

Theodore House is a Grade II listed building previously known as the Old Mill. In the 1840s a corn mill was built by the Jesuits to generate income for the school. The mill was powered by water from the two canal ponds by the College's main driveway. The site has been renovated by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst as a study, retreat and conference venue. Theodore House provides B&B accommodation, as well as facilities for conferences, events, launches, seminars and business meetings.

Please use the QR code below to access www.pilgrimways.org.uk



St Theodore's Way
A Pilgrim Way for the Diocese of Salford

Key

Dundry	Place name in bold	DUNDRY	Signs in capitals
L	Left	R	Right
TL	Turn left	TR	Turn right
LHS	Left hand side	RHS	Right hand side
FPS	Public foot path sign	PBS	Public Bridleway Sign
X-roads	Cross-roads		

Stage 1: The Cathedral of St John the Evangelist to the Church of St Patrick, Bolton - 11.8 miles

NB Walkers do so at their own risk. Every effort has been made to make the directions accurate. Please let the Project Lead know of any changes. Please read and follow the [Countryside Code](#), preparation tips from the [Long Distance Walkers' Association](#) and the [Ramblers' Association safety advice](#). Check public transport timetables and opening times before setting off.

MOST IMPORTANTLY TAKE GREAT CARE WHEN CROSSING ROADS AND FIELDS WITH CATTLE.

Distance from start	Direction
0	After visiting the Cathedral TR following the main road on LHS. Pass a meander of the River Irwell on RHS and TR through gates into Peel Park . Keep the river on RHS, passing 2 footbridges. On reaching a road, cross this at a pedestrian crossing and TR over the river. On the far side TL on an enclosed path with the river on LHS. At a junction TL to recross the river and walk along Gerard Rd . Pass a bakery on RHS and continue ahead at a roundabout.
1.8	Reach the Church of St Sebastian . TR onto Norfolk St , soon TL keeping the school on LHS and then TR to walk on a green between houses towards the riverbank. TL and join the riverside path on RHS when convenient. Pass a bridge on RHS and carry on as the wide track become as a narrow path. Eventually the path rises to Agecroft Rd . Cross this and continue with HMP Forest Bank on LHS. In an open area reach FPS to CLIFTON COUNTRY PARK and follow this delightful path with the

	river on RHS. Pass a green bridge on RHS and keep on. At metal barriers and keep ahead along the towpath of the former Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal . Pass through a gully with recycling works on LHS. Pass concrete bollards and walk on.
4.8	Cross the canal aqueduct and keep on with industrial buildings on LHS and the river on RHS. Pass under the M60 . Ignore L turns and continue along the Salford Trail . The path diverts L across the former canal and reaches a broad track on which TR. At a path junction keep on through a metal gate, soon passing a pond on RHS. With a river viewing area on RHS veer L, passing a play area on RHS to reach a car park, with Clifton Country Park visitor centre, café and toilets ahead.
6.3	Outside the centre TL for 50 yds and then TR on the private road towards farm buildings. Follow the FP as it curves R and then go ahead on a path beneath a pylon. In woodland dogleg L down steps to rejoin the riverside path. The path leaves the riverside to climb up a gully between PRIVATE LAND signs. Pass a pylon on RHS and TR on a wide track with a railway line on LHS. Cross a lane and keep on along Kearsley Green . Where this bends R keep ahead along a footpath with a green metal fence on LHS. The path ascends, descends and a path joins from R. After 50 yds TL uphill to pass under the railway line. The path veers L and becomes enclosed before bending sharp R. Emerge on the bend of a drive. Walk uphill to Manchester Rd and TL. Pass a corner shop and soon TR to reach the Church of St John Fisher and the Schoenstatt Shrine .
8.0	Retrace your steps to the main path. Here TL between commercial buildings to Europa Way and TL uphill. At a TJ with Market St TR, passing 2 pubs on LHS. Cross the road at lights, TL and after a few yds TR on Bridge St . Pass Holy Trinity Church on RHS and immediately TR on a path. As another path joins from R, TL between metal bollards. Keep the school playground on LHS to reach steps. Climb these to the towpath of the disused canal (bench on RHS). TL with the canal on RHS.
9.6	Cross a viaduct to reach a canal basin. Keep ahead on a gravel track over a former canal bridge and at a X-path go ahead on a narrow path with a metal fence on LHS. This is soon joined by a wider track from RHS. Keep on through woodland with a metal fence on LHS. The path descends to the river and then ascends. Just after a path joins from RHS keep L with the river below. Where the path forks take the L. Pass an open area with picnic benches on LHS. In a second open area veer L passing a bench on RHS. Reach Hall La . Cross this and walk on through a metal gate on a broad track. At a X-path with a sign warning about land contamination take the centre track veering R slightly uphill. At the top of the rise TL to walk with the disused canal on RHS, following the line of former canal coping stones, ignoring turns to R&L.
10.4	Arrive at the gates to Moses Gate Country Park and walk up to Radcliffe Rd . The name Moses Gate is derived from <i>mosses</i> meaning peaty or marshy lands and the Old English <i>gata</i> meaning a way. So, a path across a boggy area, and nothing to do with the eponymous Law Giver! Cross Radcliffe Rd and keep ahead with a post box on RHS. Where the path forks take the R uphill. Follow this along Shanklin Walk , with housing on RHS. TR into a cul de sac and after a few yds veer L at FPS between houses and garages. At the top of steps TL and follow the cycle path signs over a bridge following signs to BOLTON TOWN CENTRE. After the 2 nd

	enclosed bridge TR on the cycle path. Where the cycle path forks take the L uphill to reach a road. Here TR and almost immediately TL with Bolton police station on LHS. Reach Manchester Rd and TR. Cross the road at traffic lights and keep on towards central Bolton , ignoring turns to R&L until you TL on Great Moor St .
12.9	Arrive at the Church of St Patrick on LHS.

Stage 2: The Church of St Patrick, Bolton to Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, Dimple – 5 miles

12.9	Retrace your steps to Manchester Rd and TL. Walk on to the junction with Deansgate with a war memorial and parish church on RHS. Here TL and almost immediately TR down Crown St . With a car park on LHS cross at the pedestrian crossing and keep ahead up All Saints St , passing the former Ukrainian Catholic Church of All Saints on RHS.
	The Church of All Saints was built in 1869 in an Early English Gothic style. It has been in the main church for Ukrainian Catholics in Bolton for over 50 years but has fallen into disrepair.
	TL on Bow St and cross this to walk up Higher Bridge St . Continue along this for 1.3 miles as it becomes Blackburn Rd ignoring all turns to R&L. Pass a supermarket on LHS and at the junction with a dual carriage way cross at the lights. On the far side TL and then take the 4 th R. TL onto Warwick St and then TR onto Baxendale St .
14.9	Reach the Church of the Holy Infant & St Anthony, Astley Bridge . Pass the church on LHS and soon TL to pass the car park and then the school on LHS. At the top of Mitre St , TL along an alley to reach Broad O' Th' Lane and TR. At the junction with Belmont Rd cross this to continue along Bar Lane to Blackburn Rd and TL. Pass the impressive Astley Bridge Mill on RHS.
	Astley Bridge Mill is a former cotton mill, built in 1926 as the last cotton mill to be built in Bolton. Cotton spinning ended in 1965 and today it has been converted (sympathetically) into apartments.
	Continue up Blackburn Rd steadily uphill as it curves L and then descends to pass FPS on LHS.
16.1	Take a L fork on the wide gravel Longworth La . Pass a X-road and soon take a R fork to continue this un-made lane. Pass a club house on LHS and walk on with a golf course on RHS. At a fork with house ahead take the R downhill to a stone bridge. Cross this and TR on a broad track. After a wooden gate TL on a narrow path to climb a bank to cross a stile. Walk ahead with a fence on LHS. The path becomes enclosed but follow it to a stile and keep on across the next field with the fence on RHS. Join a short gravel drive with a house on RHS and TL on a lane. At the corner of a stone wall on RHS TR onto an enclosed path below Delph Reservoir . Cross a bridge over the reservoir outflow and keep on uphill on the enclosed path.
17.9	Arrive at Walmsley Unitarian Chapel on LHS. For the main Blackburn Rd bus stops at Dimple TR onto the chapel drive and then TL at the main road.

	Between 1662-88 local Presbyterian non-conformists worshiped secretly at night on the moors. This chapel was built in 1713. In 1750 the chapel appointed a new minister deemed a heretic by other Presbyterians, and a breakaway group set up their own church, becoming Egerton United Reformed Church. The term 'Unitarian' was adopted in the 1800s. Unitarians deny the doctrine of the Trinity and so the divinity of Christ. The well-kept chapel garden is a peaceful place to rest.
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Stage 3: Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, Dimple, to the Church of the Sacred Heart, Darwen – 8.5 miles

17.9	<p>Pass the chapel on LHS and the drive and car park on RHS. Pass through a kissing gate and follow an enclosed drive between houses that bends L as a lane joins from RHS. At a T junction with a wide track (bench nearby) TL to follow the Witton Weavers' Way (WWW) passing through 2 gates. Follow a wide track which soon bends R with woodland on LHS.</p> <p>The Witton Weavers' Way commemorates the many handloom cotton weavers who lived in the nearby settlements.</p> <p>Pass through a gate with woodland now to R&L and walk on downhill. After another gate follow a narrow meandering track downhill to cross a brook and then uphill towards a lane. TL onto a path with the lane on RHS to reach a X-roads. Here TR, cross the lane, and head uphill at a PBS. The path curves L with forestry on RHS. The path bends R, and after wooden and metal gates, do not go ahead but follow the WWW as it bends L onto the moor. Carry on along the WWW across the moor ignoring FPSs on R&L. Pass Higher Pasture House below on LHS and continue along a wide sandy track. Pass Lower Pasture Barn Farm on RHS and walk on with a drystone wall on RHS and then through a gate with Crookfield Rd ahead.</p>
21.6	<p>At a path junction with a metal FPS TR on a wide track meandering uphill. Climb a stile on LHS of a gate and walk on, passing ruined farm buildings on RHS and then following a brook on RHS. The path crosses the brook and reaches the top of Darwen Moor. Pass through a gate and follow a track ahead with the remains of a drystone wall on RHS. Where the wall peters out and with PFS on LHS TL and follow the track across the moor. Ignore a path joining from LHS and keep on reaching a path junction. Here veer L on the main track downhill. This wide track curves R above a gully and Duckshaw Brook. At a T-junction TR downhill with the gully on RHS. Pass over a tributary and immediately take a narrow path uphill on LHS which curves L. (NB the line of this path is a little higher than the right of way shown on OS maps).</p>
23.3	<p>Reach the WWW again and TL with a drystone wall on RHS. Follow this delightful path with regular benches and the Jubilee Tower in the distance. At FPS keep ahead following the contours, do not descend. At a fork with a bench take the R fork and follow it as it snakes across the moor towards the tower on Darwen Hill.</p> <p>The Jubilee Tower was built in 1898 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and to celebrate the victory of local people in the battle for the right of access the moor. The tower dome was blown off in 2010 and a replacement winched into place by helicopter. Further restoration was finished in time for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.</p>

24.3	From the tower head R downhill on the spur of the hill towards the town. With a drystone wall ahead the path bends L, still downhill. At a metal gate continue downhill, ignoring turns to R&L. The path enters a gully and leads to a road with a pub ahead. TL here and soon TR into Sunnyhurst Wood , still following the WWW . At the bottom on the valley TR and walk with a brook on LHS. Pass a Visitors' Centre on LHS and a continue with the brook on LHS. At a fork TL to cross the brook and walk with a fence on RHS. The track passes a pond on RHS to reach the park gates. Go ahead to reach the Blackburn Rd and TL.
26.4	Arrive at the Church of Sacred Heart, Darwen , set back from the road on LHS.

Stage 4: The Church of the Sacred Heart, Darwen to the Church of St Anne, Blackburn – 4.8 miles

26.4	Outside the church TL and continue along Blackburn Rd . Cross at a pedestrian crossing and walk under the M65 . With a pub on LHS TR into Sandy Lane . Follow this passing a URC/Methodist church on LHS. Follow the lane as it curves R to reach a roundabout. Here TR to cross a bridge over the River Darwen and almost immediately TL to follow a cycle path sign to BLACKBURN TOWN CENTRE. Pass a metal barrier and follow the cycle track as it curves L. At a fork under telephone wires take the L and follow this as it curves R. Reach the bottom of steps on RHS.
	To visit the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Higher Croft (NB often closed) TR up the steps. At the top TL to cross a railway bridge, ignore a R fork and keep ahead on a path passing a school on LHS and houses on RHS. Reach the church on LHS. To return to the route retrace your path to the bottom of the steps and TR.
	To continue the route follow the cycle path ignoring footpaths to R&L. Pass through a play area and leave the park through a metal barrier. Follow Kirby Rd as it bends L to meet Bolton Rd . TR and cross the road at an island and just before a railway bridge TL and follow this minor road as it bends R to cross the Leeds & Liverpool Canal . TR to descend to the towpath.
29.0	TL to walk with the canal on RHS, soon passing a lock. At Bridge 99 rise to cross Bolton Rd and then continue on along the towpath passing canal buildings on LHS and locks on RHS. Keep on along the towpath. Pass under a footbridge and with the buildings of Eanam Wharf ahead TL down steps following a sign to TOWN CENTRE.
30.5	Pass a carpark on LHS and on reaching the main road TL, passing a supermarket on LHS and bus station on RHS. With a pedestrian area ahead TL into Railway Rd . Cross at a pedestrian crossing and walk across Cathedral Green passing Blackburn Cathedral on LHS.
	There has been a church on the site of the Cathedral of Saint Mary the Virgin with St Paul for over 1,000 years. The early church was demolished in 1819-20 and the current one built in 1826. When the Anglican Diocese of Blackburn was created in 1926 it was raised to cathedral status. Work to enlarge the cathedral was interrupted by the war but resumed afterwards. The

	lantern tower was completed in 1967. The cathedral was completed in 1977. The north transept contains eight C15 misericords believed to have originated in Whalley Abbey.
	After visiting the Cathedral walk ahead to Darwen St , TR, cross at a pedestrian crossing and then TL to walk along Fleming Square . Pass the Exchange Arcade on LHS and unusual benches on RHS. Cross Kings St at a pedestrian crossing and TL. Pass an outdoors shop on RHS. TR into France St and at a T-junction TL.
31.2	Reach the side entrance of the Church of St Anne, Blackburn . The main entrance is a little further down the street on RHS.

Stage 5: The Church of St Anne, Blackburn to the Church of the English Martyrs, Whalley – 8.1 miles

31.2	After visiting the church TL to retrace your steps but keep on along Paradise St . At the end TL. Cross 2 roads and pass gardens on LHS. At a T-junction TR on St Pauls St , then soon TL on Alma St and soon after veer R along Simmons St and follow it as it meanders. At a major junction TL sharply onto Preston New Rd . Cross Barbara Castle Way by traffic lights.
	Barbara Castle was the Labour MP for Blackburn from 1945 to 1979. She held important Cabinet roles and oversaw the passage of the Equal Pay Act. She was a fierce opponent of Britain's membership of the EEC (later the EU) but after retiring from Parliament in 1979 she was elected to the European Parliament and reversed her position. She became a life member of the House of Lords in 1990 and stayed active in politics until her death in 2002 at the age of 91.
	Go ahead on Preston New Rd if you wish to visit the Polish Centre . Otherwise TR and soon TL onto Limbrick and walk uphill as this becomes Shear Brow . At the top of the hill pass the former St Mary's College on RHS.
	The college was founded by the Marist Fathers in 1925 and became St Mary's College RC Grammar School. In 2005 it became a 6 th Form College, and the Finley-Stokes Centre was built. A new science block was added in 2007, a new performing arts complex in 2008 and then an Enterprise Centre. In 2017 allegations of sexual abuse were made against a former college principal. The College closed in 2022.
	At a major junction TR down Pleckgate Rd . Follow this as it curves L then R, passing a pub and playing fields on RHS. Reach Ramsgreave Dr with a pub on RHS. Cross the dual carriage at the lights and continue along Pleckgate Rd . Follow this as it bends L with fields on LHS. Cross over a railway bridge, and with a pub on LHS, TL on Whalley New Rd .
33.9	Arrive at the Church of the Holy Souls, Brownhill, Blackburn on LHS. After visiting the church TL and continue along Whalley New Rd to reach traffic lights.
	NB the next section involves stepping-stones across a fast-running brook. To avoid these continue ahead up the road. Soon after the road bends L TR on a footpath (the Ribble Valley Jubilee Trail) and follow this to rejoin the route in Hollowhead Ave .

	To continue the route TR at the traffic lights into Parsonage Rd . Soon TL into Walden Rd and follow this to R. In the corner TL onto an enclosed path which bends L and then downhill to a brook. Cross a footbridge, then stepping-stones. On the far side ascend through woods with the brook on RHS, veering L towards a pylon. Emerge into a field and bear L with a drystone wall on LHS. With a metal gate on LHS veer R along a slight ridge to a kissing gate. Pass through to walk down Hollowhead Ave .
34.7	At FPS on LHS the Ribble Valley Jubilee Trail crosses the Avenue . TR here (straight on if following the diversion) and walk on an enclosed path between houses. At an open area soon take the R fork and follow the path to a bench by a fence. TL here with the fence on RHS to reach an enclosed path. Follow this to Hollowhead La . TR, cross the road and over a stone stile into a golf course. Following the safety instructions on the noticeboard, walk ahead following FPS. Ignore a sign to CLUB HOUSE but veer R to follow the FPS along a line of firtrees. With a white hut ahead veer R to a bench by a kissing gate. Go through this and veer slightly L, following the contours, keeping the turbines on LHS. Pass through a wooden kissing gate at the next fence and keep a ditch on LHS. Keep on through more kissing gates and with a drystone wall on LHS. The path becomes enclosed.
35.8	Arrive at Little Snodworth farm and keep on between its buildings to walk up the farm drive. Cross the lane and follow FPSs across Fish Moor . Pass metal sculptures on LHS and enter a gully leading to a stile in the hedge. On the lane TL. At York and with a pub on LHS, TR uphill and follow this quiet lane as it bends L. Pass Whittle Hall on RHS and keep on.
37.9	At a T junction TL downhill. Shortly after the 2 nd FPS on LHS, and before the lane starts to descend steeply, veer R at FPS onto a drive and walk with the house on LHS to a kissing gate. Follow the footpath on the same contour with a low drystone wall on RHS. In the next field gradually descend to join a track below at a cattle grid. Cross this and immediately TL to follow a narrow path downhill with woods on RHS. At a sunken lane TL and follow this downhill. Pass a bench and keep on to Moor La .
38.7	Descend to the main road and TR to cross a bridge over the River Calder . TL into Abbey Mews and follow this between houses to a parking area where veer R to reach a path with wooden fence on RHS and follow this. The path bends R to pass between allotments and arrives at the Anglican Church of St Mary & All Saints on RHS. The church probably dates from Anglo-Saxon times and there are 3 Anglo-Saxon crosses in the churchyard. Most of the church was built in the C13. At the east end of the north aisle there is a chantry chapel to St Nicholas which contains the likely remnants of a piscina and a Medieval altar stone. The chancel stalls are from c1430 and came from the Abbey church. After visiting the church return to the enclosed path and TR. At the end of the path TL onto the Sands , keeping the school on LHS. Arrive at the gate house to Whalley Abbey . There is an Anglican chapel, retreat house, and tearoom. It is possible to view the ruins of the Cistercian abbey between 9am-5pm. After visiting the abbey return to the Sands and TL.
39.2	Arrive at the Catholic Church of the English Martyrs on LHS.

Stage 6: The Church of the English Martyrs, Whalley, to Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe – 4.5 miles

39.2	Outside the church TL and walk along the lane, through the gatehouse, under the railway and the A59 . Just after the road bridge pass through a kissing gate and veer R across the field, soon with a brook on RHS, heading for a stile. Cross this and follow a path with the brook now on LHS. Pass through another kissing gate and veer away from the brook to reach a stile with a metal gate on LHS. Cross this, ignore an enclosed footpath on RHS, and keep ahead with metal railings on RHS. Pass the River Calder below on LHS and a bench on RHS. At a wooden gate and kissing gate veer R along this wide gravel track with railings on RHS. The track bends R, passing fields, houses and woodland.
40.9	<p>Arrive at the B6246 and TL following the pavement. Pass a hotel on LHS and a pub on RHS. Cross the bridge with great care (no pavement). At the top of the hill pass another hotel. You may wish to TR to visit the Church of All Hallows, Great Mitton.</p> <p>The church dates from the late C13. The tower was added in the early C15th century, and the north chapel in the C16. The chapel contains memorials to the Shireburn family. The Baronetcy was created in 1686 for Nicholas Shireburn. On his death in 1717 the estates passed to his daughter, the wife of the 8th Duke of Norfolk. They later passed to the recusant Weld family of Lulworth. In 1794 Thomas Weld gave the Stonyhurst estate to the English Jesuits, and it became the site of the College.</p> <p>Continue along the road on a wide verge, passing a pub on LHS. At a T-junction TL. Cross a bridge over the River Calder and follow the pavement. Ignore 1st FPS on RHS but with an iron barrier on LHS cross the road into a small gully and climb to a wooden gate and then into the field with a brook on LHS. At the top of the field climb through a gap in the hedge.</p>
43.0	Reach Knowles Brow and TR passing a farm on RHS and follow the pavement on LHS as the lane curves L. With a letter box ahead TL along a drive passing St Mary's School on RHS. Keep ahead between farm buildings. At a X-roads TR between hedges and follow this with the buildings of Stonyhurst College on RHS and playing fields on LHS. At a stone wall ahead TR.
43.8	The Church of St Peter is ahead on RHS and Theodore House down a short drive on LHS.