

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH, PONTEFRACT

Incorporating the Churches of St. Michael, Knottingley & St. Joseph, Tanshelf

Registered Charity No. 249404

St Joseph's Presbytery

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Parish Secretary:

Christine Harrison

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Follow us on:

Facebook ([parishofstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/parishofstjoseph)) and

Twitter ([@ParishofStJ](https://twitter.com/ParishofStJ))

Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday evening.

Parish Priest: Fr. Simon Lodge
Pastor Emeritus Fr. Bernard Funnell



OUR SCHOOLS

St Joseph:

Headteacher: Michaela Tomlin

01977 701493

email: admin@sjp.bkcat.co.uk

Holy Family & St Michael:

Headteacher: Claire Cade

01977 798303

email:

admin@hfsm.bkcat.co.uk

St Wilfrid's High School

Tel: 01977 691000

Headteacher: Helen Gilroy

Email:

admin@st-wilfrids.bkcat.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Julie Birch: 01977 277083 & Christine Harrison: 07739
841124

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers

Tom Moran: 07973 285260, email -
tommoran333@btinternet.com

Health & Safety Representatives

St Joseph's - James Jarman: 07970 333905
St Michael's - Richard Spyrka

Hall Hires

St Joseph's School Hall, Christine Wilson: 07810 105742
St Michael's Church Hall, Paula Saul: 07305 318683 or
Duncan Saul; 07827 357838

SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass Times

St Michael's.....09:00

St Joseph's.....11:30 & 18:00

Mass in Polish

St Joseph's: 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month...16:15

Syro Malabar Knanaya Mission Mass

St Michael's: 2nd Sunday of each month...15:00

Rosary:

St Joseph'safter weekday Mass

St Michael's.....30 mins before weekday Mass

Divine Mercy chaplet:

30 minutes before Friday Mass

Confessions

Scheduled Confession

St. Michael's: Saturdays.....10:45 to 11:20

St Joseph's: Sundays.....10:45 to 11:15

Or by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

St Joseph's: Wednesdays10:00 to 10:50

St Michael's: Saturdays10:45 to 11:20

Childrens' Liturgy Groups

St Joseph's.....Sundays at 11.30am Mass
during school term time.

St Michael's.....Sundays at 9am Mass
throughout the year.

3rd Week of Lent – Year C

This Week's Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sunday	24/03	St Michael's St Joseph's St Joseph's St Joseph's	09:00 11:30 16:00 18:00	Doris McLane Canon William Daly Stations & Benediction People of the Parish
Monday	25/03	St Joseph's	09:15	Service of Word & Communion <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>
Tuesday	26/03	St Michael's	19:00	November Dead List
Wednesday	27/03	St Joseph's	11:00	Veronica McVeigh
Thursday	28/03	St Michael's HFSM	08:45 09:30	G L Robinson (Yorks. Brethren) Stations & Benediction
Friday	29/03	St Joseph's St Joseph's	07.30 09:30	Anne Blackburn Stations & Benediction. (School in Attendance)
Saturday	30/03	St Michael's	11:30	Sister Catherine
Sunday	31/03	St Michael's St Joseph's St Joseph's	09:00 11:30 18:00	Shinu James Patricia Hinds People of the Parish

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for Anne Bolderson and all who have died recently.

May they rest in peace and may all who mourn them be comforted.

OUR LADY'S LAMP INTENTIONS

St Joseph's Lady's Lamp Intention for this coming week:

Joan Roebuck

St Michael's Lady's Lamp Intention for this coming week:-

Remembering the People of Christchurch N.Z.

If you wish to have a lamp burning night and day for an in front of the statues of Our Lady in either of churches then please take an envelope from the back of church, write on your intention and hand it to the priest. Please provide a minimum donation of £5 per envelope.

Last Week

Mass Count: **656**
Envelopes **£629** Loose **£502**

This Week's Draws

St Michael's
Pool No.89 John Carey - £20
St Joseph's
Pool No.31 Olivia - £20

MEETINGS

UCM – Wednesday, 17th April, 7 pm in St Michael's Hall
CAFOD – tba
SVP – tba

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADULT PRAYER GROUP

Held in the loft, every Wednesday at 8.30am.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ADULT PRAYER GROUP

Held on Wednesday's at 8.30am.

CHURCH CLEANING:

St Joseph's:
M Gilbertson, B Smith

St Michael's:
First Monday of each month at 9:30 am
Help always welcome

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK – Please take careful note of the Mass times this week and in particular Thursday and Friday. During Lent, Mass on Friday morning in St Joseph's will be at 7.30am to give the opportunity for 'the workers' to attend Mass during Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – The Stations will be prayed after each weekday Mass in St Joseph's and before weekday Mass in St Michael's. **STATIONS AND BENEDICTION** will take place today, (Sunday) in St Joseph's at 4pm. Please Note there will be no Stations & Benediction on Sunday 31st March due to it being Mothering Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Stations when they are being prayed by our schools. The children will take a few Stations at a time before coming together at the end of the terms to conclude the Stations.

CONFESSIONS/EASTER DUTIES – Fr Simon will be hearing Confessions after all the Sunday Masses as well as the usual scheduled times. You are reminded that as a Catholic you are obliged to make your Confession at least once a year. Just in case any of us think that we're somehow 'beyond' sin and have graduated to the Elysium slopes of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, Fr Simon has left some examinations of conscience at the back of church to remind us of a few home truths, all of which can be roundly dealt with in the "Tribunal of Mercy",

otherwise known as the Confession Box !!

CHILDREN'S FIRST CONFESSIONS – There will be a **Parents' meeting on Thursday 28th March at 7pm in St Joseph's** church because from next weekend and over the following Sundays up until Palm Sunday, children in our parish will be making their First Confessions. These will take place at the usual scheduled times (from Saturday 30th March) as well as after each Sunday Mass (see previous note about Easter duties). There will be an additional slot from 5-6pm on Saturday 13th April at St Joseph's which is open to anyone in the parish wishing to make their Easter duties. This slot will be combined with quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for Holy Week.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT: Our children are growing up with a reasonable understanding of the fasting requirements of other faiths (Ramadam, for example), but perhaps have little awareness of the rules that apply to Catholics during Lent. Maybe there are a few adults who need reminding too?! Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence (from meat) for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of our Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of our Church from age 14 onwards. These laws

are only suspended for people who are ill and for pregnant mothers. Young people up to the age of 18 and adults over the age of 59, whilst not required to observe the fasts, are nevertheless encouraged to do if their health and circumstances permit. This would seem like a good opportunity to remind parents of children preparing for their First Holy Communion that everyone receiving Holy Communion is required to fast from food and liquids for at least one hour prior to receiving. And no, that law did not “go out with Vatican II”!

MASS FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND – The Lenten Mass for the sick will take place in St Michael’s on Tuesday, 16th April at 12 noon. Ministers of Holy Communion are asked to canvas the people they visit to see if they are able to attend. There will be opportunity for Confessions after that Mass.

APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE - The Annual Appeal for Catholic Care will take place next Sunday, 31st March. Catholic Care is dependent on voluntary income to undertake its charitable work in the community, so please give as generously as you can.

CAFOD

FAIRTRADE STALL – Both churches this Sunday.

FAMILY SOUP DAY – St. Joseph’s on Sunday, 7th April

FAMILY FAST DAY – Please return your envelopes ASAP.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS - Schedules have been placed at the rear of each of our churches showing the times and locations of Services over the Easter period and indicating the requirements for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers on each occasion. It would be good to have the schedules completed as soon as possible so that we can identify any outstanding requirements well in front of the start of Holy Week. Please add your name to the schedules, if possible and appropriate, at your earliest convenience.

Please remember, if you are unable to fulfil your ministry, it is your responsibility to find someone who can stand in for you.

LENTEN APPEAL: This year’s appeal will support the work of the charity “Mary’s Meals” Please be as generous as you can be as you remember that this is one of the central actions of the Lenten season. White boxes are available at the back of church for you to take away and ‘top up’ during the next few weeks. Please return them at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. You can find out more about “Mary’s Meals” on the back page of this bulletin or at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/> In short, Mary’s Meals now feeds 1,425,013 of the world’s poorest children every day they attend school, serving children across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and South America. The charity’s aims are: (1) To provide a daily meal, in a place of education, for children in the world’s poorest communities; (2) To provide relief for those suffering, in any part of the world, as a result of humanitarian crises or poverty; to help people escape poverty; and to provide care for orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children; (3) To raise awareness in the UK and worldwide of poverty issues through education.

RED BOXES - If you have a Red Box will you please bring it into church for emptying. After emptying, they are left at the back of church for you to collect.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – Envelopes for use from April are now available for collection from the back of our churches. Boxes will be at St Michael’s again this week unless you have indicated your preference to collect at St Joseph’s, which is where they can be collected.

ST MICHAEL’S TOMBOLA STALL – Donations of Easter Eggs welcome for the Tombola Stall. Also if you have any Large

Jewellery cases of a size that would hold necklaces, donations would be appreciated.

WEEKLY DRAWS, ST MICHAEL’S POOL & ST JOSEPH’S 100 CLUB – If you would like to join the Pool Draw at St Michael’s or the 100 Club at St Joseph’s there are spare numbers available. Assignment of new numbers and payment is taken after each Mass on Sunday at St Michael’s and St Joseph’s.

ST. JOSEPH’S NURSERY PONTEFRAC - Applications, for a September start, are now being taken for children who will be aged three years by 31st August. Parents are asked to obtain an application form from the school office (entrance off Love Lane). The completed form and any relevant documentation (baptism certificate and birth certificate) should be **returned to school by 3.30pm Friday 29th March**. Please note failure to provide any necessary additional documents by the closing date will delay the correct categorisation of the application.

It should be noted that an offer of a place in the nursery does not guarantee a place in school, for which a separate application must be made.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING DBS RENEWALS - Instructions from the Diocese means the renewal of current volunteers’ DBS checks must now take place every 3 years. As a result there are 30+ renewals due within our parish. To facilitate an easier completion of these renewals Fr Simon has agreed that the Safeguarding Reps can hold 2 Saturday morning sessions on March 23rd & 30th in St Joseph’s Parish Room, 8.30am – 11.30am. If your DBS is due for renewal you will be contacted in the weeks prior to the above dates at which time you will be asked if you wish to complete a renewal either online or a paper copy.

Renewal online - You will need to provide your email address after which you will receive a link to the online application which will need completing before one of the open sessions. You will then need to bring along, to one of those sessions, the 3 original identity documents that you chose to submit online.

Paper application - This will need completing at one of the 2 open sessions. Again you will need to bring along 3 original identity documents (see list below).

Whichever route you choose there are additional paper forms to complete and documents to read which are requirements of the Diocese.

Each renewal volunteer will need to provide 3 identity documents as well as photocopies. (It would be helpful if these are brought along too. However, photocopying will be available at the Saturday sessions.)

Identity documents - Where possible please use 3 from the following list:

- current passport
- current driving licence (paper or photocard)
- birth/marriage certificate (this is essential for married women or if there has been any other name changes)
- a recent utility bill (issued within the last 3 months and not printed from the internet)
- Credit card/bank/building society statement - (issued within the last 3 months and not printed from the internet)

Anyone unable to provide 3 documents from the above list please contact Julie Birch for alternatives. In addition all renewal applicants will need to provide their NI number.

Thank you. Parish Safeguarding Team

O BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.

By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more.

Plead for us thy children, whom though didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother

Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the chief Shepherd the Vicar of thy Son.

Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God together with thee, in our heavenly home. Amen

Our Lady of Walsingham,
pray for us.

A Word From Your Pastor

Once again, we have been confronted by a unspeakable wickedness, an act of mass murder by a human being against other human beings. The atrocity of last weekend in Christchurch, New Zealand, would be hideous enough, but there's something even more appalling about it all when it involves children and the elderly, and them at prayer. What chance did they stand? The same question arises when we consider the Catholics blown up in their own church in central Nigeria around this time last year (2 priests and 17 of the faithful) or in the Philippines in January of this year when 20 people died in their Cathedral. What has struck me as somewhat galling this time, though, is the extent of the media coverage of the Christchurch massacre compared to the coverage of the deaths in Nigeria or The Philippines. Admittedly, this is an extremely rare event for New Zealand and it's precisely because it was so rare that you would expect it to get a little more air-time. But look at what I've just written again and ask yourself: what are we really saying here? Have we fallen into the trap of saying something along the lines of "Well, you'd expect it of somewhere like Nigeria, but not of New Zealand."

This is a profoundly racist statement. It is not something I believe in, not one bit. Neither – if you are to take the current mania of accusing everyone and anyone of racism – should the majority of journalists. And yet, there is this nagging feeling that the output evidence, and its intense quality, points to a 'devil' laying hidden in clear sight. Why is it that the innocents in a mosque in Christchurch should receive more attention than the innocents in a church in the Phillipines? You could make an argument that this is something to do with 'favoured' religions, and I'd agree that there's some legs to that argument (legs that are provided by the so-called liberal media, not the religious people themselves). But I think it points to something that we must all be aware of, because we are living in a culture whereby groups of people are pitted against each other in spurious arguments that are concocted by those who wish to watch a sort of 'dog-fight' of humanity whereby we rip one another to pieces. If nothing else, it makes good headlines and sells news-time, doesn't it?

Our Lenten disciplines should drive us deep inside ourselves so that we can weed out those small and great prejudices that we harbour towards different peoples for a myriad of different reasons which usually find their origin in our own personal fears and ignorance. Lent is our time of preparation for the renewal of our baptismal promises when we pledge our allegiance once again to the God-made-flesh-in-Jesus who comes to unite all peoples, to drive out evil, to bring peace and justice for every nation. The greatest rebuff I/you can give to the horrors that have been unleashed on innocents is not to fall for a petty gimic of never mentioning the murderer's name, or trying to impose a lowest common denominator on all religions, but to be determined that I/you shall be a person of peace and reconciliation who is prepared to root out all that impedes Jesus' work of salvation.

Fr Simon

Lenten Inspiration:

"God shapes the world by prayer. The more prayer there is in the world, the better the world will be and the mightier the forces against evil ..." - E.M. Bounds