

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH, PONTEFRACT

Incorporating the Churches of St. Michael, Knottingley & St. Joseph, Tanshelf
Parish Priest: Canon Tim Wiley Pastor Emeritus: Fr. Bernard Funnell

Registered Charity No. 249404



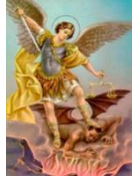
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Follow us on: Facebook (parishofstjoseph) and Twitter (@ParishofStJ)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Julie Birch: 01977 277083



Our Churches will be open 15 minutes before the start of Mass

Sunday	18/07	St Michael's	9:15am	Yorkshire Brethren
		St Joseph's	11:15am	People of the Parish
Dedication of the Cathedral				
Monday	19/07	St Joseph's	10:15am	Rita Keys (RIP)
Tuesday	20/07	St Michael's	7:15pm	George Cowan (Sick)
Wednesday	21/07	St Joseph's	11:15am	Margaret Wilson
Thursday	22/07			Dead List St Mary Magdalene
Friday	23/07	St Joseph's	6:15pm	William Ryan (Anniversary) St Bridget of Sweden
Saturday	24/07	St Michael's	11:15am	Aleyamma Mathew (Anniversary)
Sunday	25/07	St Michael's	9:15am	People of the Parish
		St Joseph's	11:15am	Jack Gallagher
17th Sunday of Ordinary Time				

All full at St Joseph's, some spaces available at St Michael's for Masses on Sunday, so if you haven't booked then we cannot guarantee that you will get a seat and may be turned away. A good number of seats available at St Michael's on Saturday. Booking has not been required for seats at all Masses from Monday to Friday and will therefore be allocated on arrival.

CONFESSIONS - Before Mass on the Sanctuary at St Joseph's, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and by Our Lady's Statue at St Michael's on Saturday.

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for

Margaret Gerrard

and all those who have died recently.

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for:

John Carney, Connie Clamp, Francis Keane, Joan Belanger, Kathleen Bourke, Alberta Burns,

And all those affected by the Coronavirus.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED THIS WEEK.

Jim Cowan (Anniversary), Shawn Holland (Intention), Intention of Cath Manchester, Doris and Bill McLane (Anniversary), CaroleAnn Clifford (RIP), Margaret Geraghty (RIP), Margaret Gerrard (Lately Dead), In Thanksgiving, Private Intention

FOR MASS INTENTIONS

- Hand to Canon Tim after Mass
- Post in the letterbox on the door into the Parish Rooms at St Joseph's.
- Send via post to the Presbytery
- Please state the name and Intention (e.g. Sick, Anniversary, RIP, Birthday etc).
- If you wish a particular day, please mention.
- Note - Mass on Sunday is said for The People of the Parish.

COVID-19 STEP 4 – Bishop Marcus has asked that I share with you a “Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England” which relates to *Sunday – It Is Our Day*, to coincide with the lifting and easing of Coronavirus restriction in England on Monday, 19th July. So, it is included in this week’s Bulletin and a copy will be on the Parish Website.

Further detailed guidance has also been received to help us with our approach towards a return to more familiar use of our churches for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. The guidance presents options and recommendations we need to consider and reminds us not to abandon the general principles of continuing to create a safe environment in our places of worship and to always consider the local prevailing conditions for the virus. We also need to consider the layout of our churches and how we can continue to ensure that they are places where people feel safe to gather to worship.

After careful consideration of the guidance, we will progress in to Step 4 as follows:

- The lifting of the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass will not be introduced any earlier than the 1st Sunday of Advent, but in order to provide more capacity at Sunday Masses in our Parish the evening Mass on Sunday will return and start at 6pm on August 1st.
- The requirement to book places in advance at Masses on Saturday and Sunday via the telephone line will remain. This will continue to help us manage the capacity at our churches and avoid where possible the need to turn people away at the door.
- Congregational singing will be permitted, provided mask are being worn by the congregation, and will be phased in gently over the summer months at the morning Masses at St Michael’s and St Joseph’s.
- Stewards will continue to be in attendance to provide help and guidance but only on Saturdays and Sundays. Visitors are therefore asked to respect others and avoid getting too close in church when attending Mass on weekdays.
- Holy Communion will continue to be distributed by the priest while everyone remains in their place.
- Hand sanitisers will be available on entry and exit to both churches and the requirement to wear face coverings will remain (unless they are children under the age of 11 or exempt from doing so for medical reasons).
- The seating layout at St Joseph’s will not change. At St Michael’s we will move the pews a little closer together so that the pews close to the altar can be moved within the body of the church.
- Scheduled periods for Confession will return at both churches. Details to follow.
- Restriction on attendance at Sacraments such as Baptism, Marriage and at Funerals are being lifted but will need to be in recognition of the safe capacity of the church.

The above changes are some way off a complete lifting of restrictions, but it is a start. It has been a long time since we could just come and go to church without any of these restrictions in place, but a more cautious approach is the way to build the confidence of everyone wanting to return to normality. Further lifting of restrictions will be considered in the light of our experiences as we learn from these changes and where restrictions can be lifted whilst retaining our churches as a safe, welcoming environment then they will be implemented.

Canon Tim

TO BOOK A PLACE FOR MASS ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY - Phone 07709 091786

Bookings can only be made by calling:

Thursday - 10:30am & 12:30pm, 6:30pm & 7:30pm Friday - 10:30am & 11:30pm

Bookings can be made for yourself, your Household, on behalf of another Individual or another Household. The seating plans for our Churches set out below are now also on the Home Page of the Parish Website

<https://parishofstjoseph.co.uk/>

NHS COVID-19 APP and QR CODE - In the porch of each of our Churches there are now posters with a QR code which those who have downloaded the NHS COVID-19 App can use to scan and check in.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England

Sunday – it is our Day¹

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.

¹ St Jerome, *In Die Dominica Paschae II*

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold God's dwelling with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself with them will be their God.

COLLECT

O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING - 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30

In the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord and, stretching out his hands towards heaven, said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, not in heaven above nor on earth beneath is there such a God as you, true to your covenant and your kindness towards your servants when they walk wholeheartedly in your way. Yet will God really live with men on the earth? Why, the heavens and their own heavens cannot contain you. How much less this house that I have built! Listen to the prayer and entreaty of your servant, O Lord my God; listen to the cry and to the prayer your servant makes to you today. Day and night let your eyes watch over this house, over this place of which you have said, "My name shall be there." Listen to the prayer that your servant will offer in this place. 'Hear the entreaty of your servant and of Israel your people as they pray in this place. From heaven where your dwelling is, hear; and, as you hear, forgive.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 83(84):3-5,10-11

How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home and the swallow a nest for her brood; she lays her young by your altars, Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. The threshold of the house of God I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

SECOND READING - 1 Pet 2:4-9

Jesus Christ is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man

who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

In my house, says the Lord, the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him Alleluia!

GOSPEL - Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance: he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody, I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we pray, O Lord, the offering made here and grant that by it those who seek your favour may receive in this place the grace of the Sacraments and an answer to their prayers.

Communion Antiphon

My house shall be a house of prayer, says the Lord: in that house, everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Prayer after Communion

O God, who chose to foreshadow for us the heavenly Jerusalem through the sign of your Church on earth, grant, we pray, that, by our partaking of this Sacrament, we may be made the temple of your grace and may enter the dwelling place of your glory.