



# Catholic Parishes of ST. JOSEPH SACRED HEART ST. PATRICK

Stanley

Byermoor

Dipton

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**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**27<sup>th</sup> March**

## **Listen to the Word 4th Sunday of Lent**

**Joshua 5: 9-12 Psalm 33 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32**

Today is Laetare Sunday, the midpoint of the Lenten Season and a day of rejoicing in the midst of the season of fasting and abstinence. It is a day when the strict rules of Lent are relaxed; a day of favour to those following the Lenten journey. The scriptures reflect this day. In the first reading Joshua leads the people of Israel into the promised land and they celebrate the passover, feasting on the produce of the land of Canaan, all their shame wiped away. The psalm calls to us "Taste and See", let your eyes be open to God's blessings, let your lips tell that the Lord has answered your pleas and set you free. Paul speaks of a "new creation" a rebirth through the sacrifice of Christ. He calls on us to be "Ambassadors for Christ" seeking for the reconciliation of all people to God. Finally, in Luke, we have the parable of the Prodigal Son, a reminder to us that God's promise of forgiveness is always there when we turn to him in our hour of need.

Today's Gospel speaks to us on many different levels, we may be indignant at the callous way the younger son treats his father, perhaps we cheer when the son wastes his money and is reduced to envy of the pigs' and their dinner, we may be incredulous of the thought that he has the audacity to seek employment as a labourer on his father's farm and then we are astonished when the father, who has looked daily for his son's return, welcomes him back, without any thought of punishment, without anger, with total forgiveness. Would we do the same or do we stand with the older son who refuses to forgive despite his father's pleas?

Jesus aims his words at the pharisees and scribes who are appalled that he seeks the company of sinners and not the God-fearing people they see themselves as being. The question we must ask ourselves is where do we stand? Forgiveness can be a fearful thing; sometimes it goes against everything we believe in. Reconciliation is difficult when we are deeply hurt by another's actions. We need to keep faith in a loving God who helps us to surmount the pain that we can experience when we are sinned against for, in forgiving others, we know that we ourselves are forgiven.

*David Frank*

### **PRAY FOR THOSE THAT NEED HEALING IN OUR PARISHES:**

Anne Kennedy, Margaret Convey, Martin Bryce, Maureen Dixon, Danny Fagan and Mark Pinkerton

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March <b>4th Sunday Of Lent</b>	St Patrick's Church St Joseph's Church St Patrick's Church	9:00am 11:00am 5:00pm	Mass: MONA HERDMAN Mass: WILLIAM HURRY Stations Of The Cross and Benediction
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March			
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph Church	9:30am	Mass: MURRAY
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph's Church	9:30am	Mass: TERRY REED
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	St Joseph's Church	9:30am	Mass: ERIC RHODES Followed by Exposition Of The Blessed Sacrament
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	PRIVATE		Mass: ARTHUR PROUD & FAMILY
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: CARMEL DONNELLY
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April <b>5th Sunday Of Lent</b>	St Patrick's Church St Joseph's Church St Patrick's Church	9:00am 11:00am 5:00pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Mass: TOM DUFFY Stations of the Cross and Benediction

**Opportunities for Confession are as follows:**

CHURCH	DATE	TIME
Sacred Heart Church	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	3:30pm-4:30pm
St Patrick's Church	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	5pm
St Joseph's Church	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	After 9:30am Mass

**WAIT A MINUTE** Make the journey of Lent special this year by checking out the daily YMT 'Wait A Minute" short reflections. Visit our Facebook page every day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday! journey with us!

**FAITH WITNESS AGAINST HASSOCKFIELD** A monthly faith witness against Hassockfield is held at the barrier to Hassockfield on the first Sunday of each month at 3:30pm.

**Offertory Envelopes** If you have been unable to collect your envelopes for the coming year, or if you are a UK tax payer and would like to join the Gift Aid scheme, could you please contact the Parish Office so that a suitable time for pick-up can be arranged.

**DIOCESAN COURSES** Forthcoming liturgical training courses: Welcomers Course (at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Gateshead), New Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion Course (at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Gateshead) and Sacristans Course (at St Bede's Hall, St John's Terrace, Jarrow). Please contact the Parish Office if you require more information or would like booked onto one of the courses (there are posters displayed on our Church noticeboards).

**GOOD PRACTICE** The following points are suggested by the Diocese as methods of good practice against the transmission of the virus in our churches:

- sanitise Hands entering Church.
- The necessity for social distancing is removed so churches should operate up to their normal capacity figures.
- Face coverings are recommended during the celebration of Mass.
- Holy Communion is to be distributed to the faithful under one kind only i.e. the Sacred Host.
- Those who distribute Holy Communion should wear a face covering and sanitise their hands before doing so.
- There is a general encouragement for the congregation to wear face coverings while singing. However, it is recognised that not everyone will feel able to do this.

Parish Collections	Offertory totals 13/03/22	Offertory totals 20/03/22	Weekly Standing Order	Family Fast 13/03/22	Lenten Alms 13/03/22	Lenten Alms 20/03/22
St Joseph's	£450.90	£428.15	£197.25	£187.00	£100.00	£33.50
St Patrick's	£82.00	£67.60	£131.30	£64.40	£30.00	£47.60
Sacred Heart	£131.70	£146.04	£50.77	£42.90	-----	£50.00