



Catholic Parishes of ST. JOSEPH SACRED HEART ST. PATRICK

Stanley

Byermoor

Dipton

Pontop Partnership Dean: **Father Dermott Donnelly**
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3rd April

Listen to the Word 5th Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43: 16-21 Psalm 125 Philipians 3: 8-14 John 8: 1-11

There is a line from Isaiah which speaks to me of the power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation “No need to recall the past, no need to think about what has gone before”. It reminds me that the forgiveness that our loving Father pours into our lives when we seek Him in reconciliation makes of the past a distant country, one where we need never to walk again. In another line Isaiah prophesies “I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wild”; each time we seek reconciliation a new road is built that will keep us in God’s love if we choose to follow Him. We have God’s promise that he will provide a light, that all we need to do is open our eyes to see it. He will take us from the wilderness of our lives and create a new way for us to follow if we allow him into our lives.

Paul knew these roads, these paths; he is a reminder to us that God’s forgiveness is for everyone no matter our past lives. Paul, a devoted follower of the law, has a new path, one which may cause him pain and suffering but one he will gladly follow if he can win the prize he is racing for. His life, like ours, will take many twists and turns, it will be far from easy, but he sees the finish, when he can find his rest in Christ Jesus.

There is a certain tension in the Gospel passage from John. Once again Jesus is tested by the scribes and pharisees, once again they seek to undermine his authority, to question his teaching. The woman caught in adultery is their victim, condemned for an act of sin, the punishment for which is death by stoning. They call on Jesus to confirm this law, a verdict without forgiveness, without sympathy, just the certainty of a brutal, painful execution by the mob. By a single sentence Jesus silences them, opening their eyes to their own faults. One by one they turn away chained by their own sins.

It can be difficult to accept that God’s love can free us from even the most dreadful of sins, but if we have faith, and we trust in God then we too can walk the road of forgiveness and leave our sins behind us in the dust of the road.

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 2 nd April	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: CARMEL DONNELLY
Sunday 3 rd April 5th Sunday Of Lent	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
Monday 4 th April			
Tuesday 5 th April	St Joseph Church	9:30am	Mass: BETTY BRADLEY
Wednesday 6 th April	St Joseph's Church	9:30am	Mass: MURRAY
Thursday 7 th April	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church	9:30am 6:00pm	Mass: ROBERT & ANNE SEAWARD Lenten Reflection & Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 8 th April	Sacred Heart Church	10:00am	Requiem Mass: MARY HESLIN
Saturday 9 th April	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: MARY HESLIN
Sunday 10 th April Palm Sunday Of The Passion Of The Lord	St Patrick's Church St Joseph's Church St Patrick's Church	9:00am 11:00am 5:00pm	Mass: MARK BROWN Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Opportunities for Confession are as follows:

CHURCH	DATE	TIME
Sacred Heart Church	Saturday 9 th April	3:30pm-4:30pm
St Patrick's Church	Tuesday 12 th April	5pm
St Joseph's Church	Wednesday 13 th 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. Please do not use old Offertory Envelopes after 31 March as numbers have changed.

SACRED HEART CHURCH GROUNDS We have been asked to remind people that cars should not be driven around the Church grounds. Only authorised vehicles are allowed in the grounds.

SVP-SACRED HEART CHURCH There will now be a SVP collection box at the back of Sacred Heart Church.

KATHLEEN BRADLEY We would like to extend thanks and appreciation on behalf of Father Dermott and all of our parishioners to Kathleen Bradley, who has recently announced her retirement as Organist at St Joseph's Church after 65 years of dedicated service. We wish both Kathleen and Michael many blessings for the years ahead and assure them both of our prayers and best wishes.

EASTER FLOWERS DONATION St Joseph's Church. Many thanks to our anonymous donor who has most generously donated to pay for Easter flowers. It is much appreciated.

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 27/03/22	Weekly Standing Order	Lenten Alms 27/03/22
St Joseph's	£287.11	£197.25	£22.00
St Patrick's	£57.10	£131.30	£10.00
Sacred Heart	£167.00	£50.77	-----