

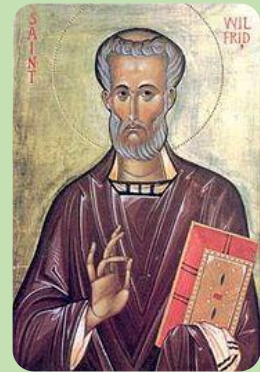
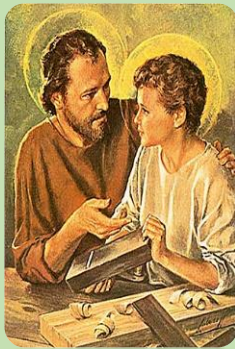
Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic

4<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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*Our Lady of the Rosary*  
*Saint of the Day for October 7*

Saint Pius V established this feast in 1573. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary. Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716.

Today is Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

(OF) Readings for today are: -

First Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 79
Second Reading	Philippians 4: 6-9
Gospel	Matthew 21: 33-43

Today is the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

EF readings for today are: -

Introit	Ecclus. 36, 18
Epistle	1 Corinthians. 1, 4-8
Gradual	Psalm 121.1 7
Gospel	Matthew 9, 1-8

#### October, the month of the ROSARY

The Rosary is widely recognised even today as a Catholic thing. When the media in films or dramas wishes to have a Catholic side to the story a rosary will be in shot at some stage. There is something about the rosary that people like as it is a tangible type of prayers. When in danger or sickness it's good just to be able to hold a set of rosary beads as a reminder of God's presence. A friend of mine studied for a while at an Evangelical Anglican clergy training college. I always remember him saying they'd had a talk by a leading Evangelical preacher who had worked in Africa. He said he envied the Catholics because of the rosary which offered something simple and tangible and a means of praying through the events of the Gospel. My friend must have been impressed as he is now a Catholic.

The origins of the Rosary are lost in time. The tradition is that our Lady appeared to St Dominic and presented him with the rosary as an aid in his struggle with the Cathar heresy in the south of France. Problem is that this account cannot be found before the fifteenth century. Nonetheless the Dominicans take a special responsibility for promoting the rosary to this day. Thus, the order in the Church which prides itself pursuing the intellectual life also has the task of promoting this simplest of devotions which is accessible to children. It is likely that the origins of the rosary lie in the substituting the Our Father and later adding the Hail Mary for the 150 psalms said in the monastic office for those unable to read, such as the lay-brothers of a monastery. Prayer beads are found in most the major religions. Wikipedia offers this information:

*The Desert Fathers of the 3rd to 5th centuries, used pebbles or knotted ropes to count prayers, typically the Jesus Prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner"). The invention is attributed to Anthony the Great or his associate Pachomius the Great in the 4th century.*

*The Catholic Encyclopedia mentions strings of beads, presumably for prayer, found in the tombs of Saint Gertrude of Nivelles (7th century) and Saint Norbert and Saint Rosalia (12th century). A more explicit reference is that in 1125 William of Malmesbury mentioned a string of gems that Lady Godiva used to count prayers. These strings of beads were known as "paternosters" and were presumably used to count repetitions of the Lord's Prayer.*

However, it came to be from the later middle ages the rosary was a feature of Catholic life. The Dominican pope, St Pius V, called on Catholics to pray the rosary for the victory of the Christian navy over the invading Ottoman fleet in October 1571. The Christian victory, despite the odds, at the battle of Lepanto on October 7<sup>th</sup> was attributed by the pope to Our Lady of Victory, later renamed Our Lady of the Rosary and is the origin of this week's feast.

So, with this boost, the rosary became an important feature of normal Catholic life promoted by many popes. Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) devoted 12 encyclicals to promoting the rosary. More recently Popes Paul VI and John Paul II wrote encyclicals on the rosary. Some here may have been alive in 1952 when an Irish priest, Fr Peyton, brought his rosary rallies to England. The Catholic Herald of 13<sup>th</sup> June 1952 reported:

*SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND tickets have been distributed to Catholics and non-Catholics for Fr. Patrick Peyton's Family Rosary Crusade rally on Sunday at Villa Park, Birmingham, and 40,000 or more other people are expected to gather at an overflow meeting in the public park opposite.*

*This will be the culmination of a series of rallies which Fr. Peyton is conducting in the Birmingham diocese, the first of which, on Sunday afternoon at Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, brought about 15,000 people to the old Port Vale football ground.*

*Coventry had its rally on Wednesday and there will be another big gathering at Oxford tomorrow (Saturday). Twenty-eight thousand parish representatives have been organised to visit every Catholic household to collect Family Rosary pledges.*

*The response of priests and laity to Fr. Peyton's appeals has already been outstanding. and he himself says he is delighted at it.*

*"Even if every family said the Family Rosary together only once, all my efforts would be worthwhile," he says.*

*"It would be a wonderful thing if even one night a whole diocese should turn its attention to God."*

A different world from today. I doubt you could get 68,000 Catholics together today for a rosary rally. In all 833,500 attended Fr Peyton's rosary rallies in England. His catch phrases were: *The family that prays together stays together* and *A world that prays is a world at peace*. The cause has been going for quite a while for his canonisation.

Mgr Ronnie Knox explained the pull of the rosary as follows:

*Partly, I think, because it is pure Gospel, until we get on to the last two, all the mysteries (that is human events charged with divine meaning) follow the Bible from the beginning of Luke to the beginning of Acts. Partly because it corresponds to our natural moods- joy shot with sorrow, sorrow crowned with glory. But most because it is meant for simple minds and it does us no harm, even at the cost of putting force on ourselves, to achieve simplicity. You go back to the nursery, to the ages of faith to find Bethlehem, and Calvary and heaven.*

So, if you've not felt the pull of the rosary recently that is what October is for. Our Lady made it known at Lourdes and Fatima that we should pray the rosary. This month is a reminder lest we have drifted away to use this great engine of prayer to lift our hearts and souls to Almighty God.

## *We are delighted to announce the Re-Opening of St Wilfrid's for Weekly Mass*

*From tomorrow Fr Jan will be saying Mass in Polish at 9.30am and 11am and from Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> Canon Michael will resume saying Mass in the Ordinary form at 5pm*

### *One or Two things you need to know*

- There are 40 spaces which will be allocated on a first come first served basis
- Please sanitize your hands when entering church
- Follow the directions of the stewards
- The church will have signs for you to follow and read
- You are asked to give your contact details in compliance with Trace and Track

## St Wilfrid's

### BONUS BALL

WILL NOT return when the Church reopens as the restricted numbers will mean it is financially unviable. This will be reviewed in the new year. For similar reasons there will be NO Tombola either.

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Sadly, despite its popularity, will NOT take place this year. If you wish to kindly donate money in lieu of raffle tickets, please give your donation to Steve/Richard/Sandra or Rachel and mark it 'Raffle ticket donation'.

### PIETY STALL

We are unable to open, but items can still be bought, please see Rachel if you would like anything. Christmas stock has arrived including Cards, diaries, calendars etc.

### NOVEMBER CANDLES

As we are awaiting clarification from the diocese, please watch this space!

## St Joseph's

A MISSAL was left behind after 10 am Mass last week, if anyone has any information as to its whereabouts please let Canon Michael know, the missal has great sentimental value to its owner

### November Candles

In remembrance of deceased family and friends, these will be lit during November. The candles are £1 for each dedication. If you would like to dedicate a candle, please put the names of your loved ones in an envelope along with the correct amount of money. A box will be at the back of church each Sunday until 25<sup>th</sup> October for the envelopes.

### Lourdes Garden

We are continuing to raise money for the improvement of the 'Lourdes Garden' at St Joseph's, if you would like to help please use the reference 'Lourdes Garden'

### Help for Our Local Homeless and Hungry

Throughout the initial lockdown between March and July, the homeless were housed in vacant hotels and kept off the streets to ensure theirs and others safety, since the restrictions began to lift and the hospitality industry opened its doors once again to the affluent holiday makers, we have seen a steady rise in the number of people calling at the presbytery for food or money. It has been the policy of the Diocese for some time now, not to hand out cash to those calling at the Priest's door, we do not want to add to any addictions present in the homeless, but we do not want to turn them away empty handed either. Here at St Joseph's we have been able to provide help through Joe's place, but sadly this has yet to be given permission to reopen. We have also, in the past been able to provide Greggs food vouchers which have enabled many hungry mouths to be fed. Please consider buying a voucher and donating it to our poor via the collection plate on a Sunday.

### Choir Loft/Gallery

We have an open fund for the improvements of the choir loft, if you would like to donate towards this please mark your donation 'choir loft'

### Piety Stall

We have a limited stock of items as the piety stall has been unmanned for some time now. A few Christmas items are available by contacting either Shauna Devitt or Canon Michael.

Special Mass Collections

Today -Peter's Pence

World Mission Sunday - weekend of October 18<sup>th</sup>

Donations

Thank you to all those who have continued throughout the pandemic to give so generously to the church.

If you would like to continue giving through direct debit, standing order or bank transfer, the details are below.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
St Wilfrid's  
Sort Code 40-34-20  
Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
St Joseph's  
Sort Code 40-34-20  
Account Number 31164066

To donate via cheque please make out to  
'DHN St Wilfrid's Gateshead' or 'DHN St Joseph's Gateshead'  
These can be posted to the parish address

Please use the reference "Weekly Contribution"

Mass Intentions

*Mass is offered Daily at approximately 10.00am in private, if you have any intentions please put these in an envelope and pop through the letter box, or place them on the collection plate at the end of Sunday's Mass.*

The Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> - September

**Sunday 10am:** Bell and Cantwell Families      **Midday:** People of the Parish

**Monday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Tuesday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Wednesday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Thursday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Friday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Saturday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Sunday 10am:** Martin and Melia families      **Midday:** People of the Parish



Please pray for Fr Jonathon Bowes who was ordained into Holy Priesthood for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle by Bishop Robert yesterday morning at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of the parish and all those who have recently died and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**"Doors Wide Open" We have to keep doors fully open during Mass, for the circulation of air. You may need warm clothing if sitting near the back of church, especially as we move into Autumn!!**

#### Keeping Up to Date

Keeping us updated with your contact information If you are reading this and realise that you have not updated a recent change of address, telephone number or email address, please send an email to the parish with your updated information. If you have recently moved into the parish and have not yet given us your details, please let us know your details by email.

Follow us On Facebook and online at <http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk> and take a peek at the new Blog at <https://stjosephstwilfridsgatesheadnewsblog.wordpress.com>

Please forward this newsletter to anybody you think may enjoy reading it.

If you know of someone who is not on the mailing list but would like to be please ask them to contact us via one of the above emails.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a slim downed, edited paper version of the newsletter please let me know.

## Is God calling You?



The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Priestly Vocations Team invite you to a **six-week online Vocations Discernment** course for men thinking about becoming a Priest. Beginning Monday 12 October at 7.00pm.

## It Is Up to You!!



The re-opening of St Joseph's for Mass on Sundays continues to be a great success. There is still no need to pre-book a place.

**Trace and Track App** Look out for the **NHS QR code** which will soon be available to scan as you come into church.

Thank you to everyone already giving up time to steward and clean St Joseph's church so that it remains open for Sunday Mass. Currently we have just enough to cover Sundays so it is unlikely that the church will open for weekday Mass until more volunteers come forward.

Apart from the Covid cleaning that must be done on Sundays, the church still needs its floors, glass and carpets cleaned regularly. We have a small rota of people to undertake this every 3<sup>rd</sup> week. Please think of giving time on Sundays or adding your name to the normal Church cleaning rota.

If interested please give your name to Canon Michael, Shauna Devitt, or Pat Macgregor.

### Toilet Facilities

These are now re-opened thanks to the willingness of volunteers who are willing to clean and disinfect them before and after each Mass. You can do your part to help by only using the toilets if absolutely necessary, sanitising your hands before and after use and remembering to shut the toilet lid prior to flushing. Also, we ask that you please use the disinfectant wipes provided to wipe down any place you have touched - flush handle, door handles, taps, sink etc.

### St Joseph's Hall

The hall has been given the go-ahead to open once again to groups who use its rooms. We need volunteers to help clean the hall on a Wednesday in order to maintain a COVID free environment and enable the hall to remain open. Please give your name and contact details to Canon Brown, Shauna Devitt, or Alan Telford if you can help.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and patience