

Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic

11<sup>th</sup> October 2020

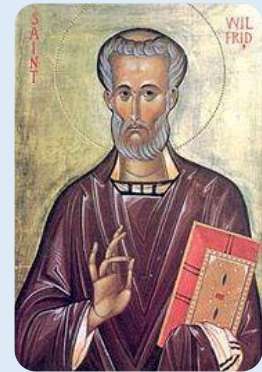
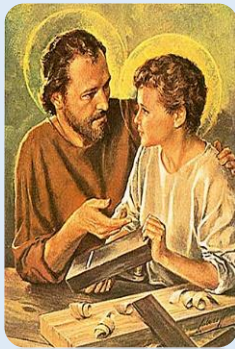
Joint Parishes of St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Gateshead

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*St. Callistus I*

*Saint of the Day for October 14*



Imagine that your biography was written by an enemy of yours, and that its information was all anyone would have not only for the rest of your life but for centuries to come. You would never be able to refute it -- and even if you could no one would believe you because your accuser was a saint.

That is the problem we face with Pope Callistus I who died about 222. The only story of his life we have is from someone who hated him and what he stood for, an author identified as Saint Hippolytus, a rival candidate for the chair of Peter. What had made Hippolytus so angry? Hippolytus was extremely strict and rigid in his adherence to rules and regulations. The early Church had been very rough on those who committed sins of adultery, murder, and

fornication. Hippolytus was enraged by the mercy that Callistus showed to these repentant sinners, allowing them back into communion of the Church after they had performed public penance. Callistus' mercy was also matched by his desire for equality among Church members, manifested by his acceptance of marriages between free people and slaves. Hippolytus saw all of this as a degradation of the Church, a submission to lust and licentiousness that reflected not mercy and holiness in Callistus but perversion and fraud.

Trying to weed out the venom to find the facts of Callistus' life in Hippolytus' account, we learn that Callistus himself was a slave (something that probably did not endear him to class-conscious Hippolytus). His master, Carporphorus made him manager of a bank in the Publica Piscina sector of Rome where Callistus took in the money of other Christians. The bank failed -- according to Hippolytus because Callistus spent the money on his own pleasure-seeking. It seems unlikely that Carporphorus would trust his good name and his fellow Christians' savings to someone that unreliable.

Pope Callistus is listed as a martyr but we have no record of how he was martyred or by whom. There were no official persecutions at the time, but he may well have been killed in riots against Christians.

As sad as it is to realize that the only story we have of his life is by an enemy, it is glorious to see in it the fact that the Church is large enough not only to embrace sinners and saints, but to proclaim two people saints who hold such wildly opposing views and to elect a slave and an alleged ex-convict to guide the whole Church. There's hope for all of us then!

*Today is Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*(OF) Readings for today are: -*

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Isaiah 25:6-10</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalm 22</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>

*Today is Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*EF readings for today are: -*

<i>Introit</i>	<i>Psalm 77:1</i>
<i>Epistle</i>	<i>Ephesians 4:23-28</i>
<i>Gradual</i>	<i>Psalm 140:2</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>

*"Many are called but few are chosen"*

As we see in the readings today, one of the images used for eternal life in the Scriptures is that of a banquet. Sometimes we may feel Christianity is a bit vague about what heaven will be like compared to other religions. Whereas for the Muslim it appears like an oasis in the desert, a garden, for the Christian we are told it is a city, the new Jerusalem and tonight it is compared to a banquet. Not any banquet but one with fine wines. Not just one nice wine but a different wine for each course!

In the Gospel, the people who have been invited to the banquet turn it down. They reject the banquet of God. Crazy you may think but they make excuses. They even are so opposed to going that they kill the messengers who bring the invitations. In frustration the king rejects them all and invited the outsiders, anyone who will come to the wedding feast of his son. The message was fairly clear: God has been preparing his people for generations, calling them to Himself to share his joy at His banquet but they had shown they preferred their own way. They rejected His messengers, the prophets. We know from last week; they reject the Son too and so the gates are thrown wide to those who will come.

The Mass is our sacred banquet where the Lord Himself comes to us under the forms of bread and wine so that we may share his life: He may be so close to us that He feeds us with His own body and blood. This is at the heart of our Catholic faith. This is why it is the Mass that matters, and past generations made great efforts to be at Mass, to construct churches as worthy places for this great mystery. That is why it is a joy to be able to have Mass again at St Wilfrid`s tonight, to gather once more before the altar of God and to know He is here with us strengthening our faith and trust.

However, you will have noticed the discordant element to the story. The man without the wedding garment. He comes to the banquet but refuses to dress in the garment provided for the feast. He wants to come to the banquet but on his own terms. We may be surprised at how harsh his treatment is. Yet he has had everything offered to him but wants to do it his way: he thinks he knows better than the king and keeps his old clothes. He spoils the banquet. If we are called to the banquet, we are asked to make a new start, sharing the Lord`s life. Our old ways are left behind at the door. So, we can be called but rejected if we think we want to do it My Way. Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We are called to do things His way if we would keep our place at the banquet. We have to trust Him in the difficult times just His mother Mary, never gave up hope. God is good. He is full of mercy and compassion. He calls us to live His life and one day to share in the eternal banquet of Heaven. Mass tonight is a foretaste of the joys of heaven. Let us never lose sight of the Mass as the gate of Heaven and the closest we come to our God while we journey towards Him on earth.

## *Such a Joy to celebrate Mass at St Wilfrid's once again*

### 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 mean it is financially unviable. This will be reviewed in the new year. For similar reasons there will be NO Tombola.

#### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Sadly, despite its popularity, will NOT take place this year. If you wish to 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

**Please see Sandra or please hand in envelopes with names of deceased family of friends and £1 per candle.**

### St Joseph's

Missing Missal Thank you for your concern and search for the missal, the owner was delighted to be reunited with it when he found it at home!

#### November Candles

**In remembrance of deceased family and friends. The candles are £1 each. 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

If you would like to help please put money in an envelope marked 'for the poor' or place Greggs food vouchers on the collection plate, or make a bank transfer, reference 'poor of the parish'.

#### 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'.

### Special Mass Collections

£31.90 was raised last week for Peter's Pence – thank you  
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 40-34-18  
Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
St Joseph's  
Sort Code 40-34-18  
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" for collection money  
"Loft Fund" for donations to improving choir loft  
"Lourdes Garden" for contributions to the garden  
"Parish Poor" for donations to help feed our homeless and hungry

### 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:** Martin and Melia 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:** No Mass

**Saturday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall      **5pm:** Dot Adams (sick)

**Sunday 10am:** People of the Parish

**Midday:** Les Taylder

Please remember in your prayers; Trina McConnell, whose funeral service is to be held at St Wilfrid's on Friday morning at 9.45  
the sick of the parish and all those who have recently died and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Rosary Whirlwind British Isles

October 2020 for Faith, Life and Peace

Join daily online Rosary at 8pm

13<sup>th</sup> October Rosary Whirlwind British Isles

31<sup>st</sup> October National Rosary Relay Rally (9am-9pm)

1<sup>st</sup> November -online Rosary led by Bishop John Keenan at 8pm

More information at [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

#### Confirmations

The decision has been taken to postpone these until we can safely resume meetings. We appreciate your understanding and apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment. If you have any questions, please contact Canon Michael.

#### At University? Interested in Serving at the Traditional Mass?

If you are male and new to the parish of St Joseph's you may be interested in serving at the traditional Latin Mass at midday each Sunday, please speak to canon Michael.

#### 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.**

#### 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/>

"Doors Wide Open" We have to keep doors fully open during Mass, in order to maintain proper ventilation to ward off any transmission of COVID. This will remain the case throughout the Autumn and Winter months. Please bear with us and remain patient and understanding, it is all for everybody's safety. We advise that you wear extra layers of clothing as the weather begins to cool down. Thank you.

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.

## 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