

Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic

25th October 2020

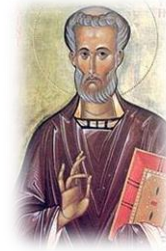
Joint Parishes of St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Gateshead

Parish Priest Canon Michael Brown, resident at St Joseph's Presbytery

High West Street Gateshead NE8 1LX

Telephone 01914771631

Email:- gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk or shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk



Today is Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(OF) Readings for today are: -

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Exodus 22:20-26</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalms 18;2-3,3-4,47,51</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 22: 34-40</i>

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind and heart, and your neighbour as yourself.
On these two Commandments depend the Law and the Prophets."

The Jewish Law is the first 5 books in the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy: with over 600 religious rules and observances. **The Prophets are** the next 16 books. They teach justice for the poor. **Jesus** insisted that Religion must not get in the way of Love, and He taught that religious observance, and going to the synagogue, are empty without love.

He also taught that to love ones neighbour is THE TEST of our love of God. "What you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me." He went further still "Love one another AS I HAVE LOVED YOU." and He loved to the very end, total self-sacrifice.

He insisted that without love there is NO religion.

St Vincent de Paul in the 17th century encouraged his followers to leave contemplation and prayer and instead go out into the streets to serve the poor and lonely, he said "leave God for God", meaning it is in our actions of love towards others that true service to God is shown.

It is much easier to be in Church than at the bedside of the sick. The heart of the Gospel is LOVE. The Law and the Prophets presuppose it.

LOVE, however, can easily be smothered by religion. That is why Bishops and Popes throughout

history have held General Councils of the Church: to cut out the excess of religion and rediscover the meaning of LOVE. For example, a mother must not feel guilty if she misses Sunday Mass because her child is ill. Church rules give way.

The Crucifix has two beams: The **Vertical** pointing to heaven: The Love of God; and the **Horizontal**, the outstretched arms of Jesus embracing the world. Love is not a matter of romantic feelings. It is action, doing something for our neighbour, **for** his/her health and happiness.

Think of the countless acts of love done by parents each day: cooking, shopping, washing, minding a sick child, listening to someone's troubles, caring for the elderly. Not much romance here, but a wonderful harvest of good deeds. At Mass we bring them all to God and unite them to the Self Giving of Jesus.

It is vitally important, especially for those in authority, not to be obsessed with imposing rules on people. Yes, society needs laws, and the workplace needs rules. We are all subject to them. But laws are made primarily for the **COMMON GOOD**. We must never judge the individual. A sensitive approach is always needed before authority imposes a penalty for an infringement of the law.

This is the element of mercy which must guide all those in authority.

Pope Francis is leading us all towards a kinder attitude both in our teaching of law, and in our imposition of law.

In his homily to the Synod on the Family he asked why the Doctors of the Law, who criticised Jesus so fiercely in his lifetime had failed to read the signs of the times. They were closed within their own legal systems. They were safe there. But Jesus kept springing surprises that did not fit into this tidy rule bound world. He said, "The Sabbath was made for man: not man for the Sabbath." The Law was made for man: not man for the Law.

Some years ago, on Desert Island discs, Lord Hailsham, the Attorney General after choosing his favourite records was asked. "You are now retired, after a life in the courts, judging some of the most serious criminals in the Land..... How will you plead when life is over, and you stand before the great judge at death.?"

Lord Hailsham paused for a moment and answered. "I shall throw myself on the Mercy of the Court"

"Blessed be the merciful, they shall have mercy shown them"

On love depends the whole Law: and the Prophets also: the Pope and Bishops of the Church.



Today is the Feast of Christ the King
EF readings for today are: -

<i>Introit</i>	<i>Apocalypse 5: 12; 1</i>
<i>Epistle</i>	<i>Colossians 1: 12-20</i>
<i>Gradual</i>	<i>Psalms 71: 8, 11</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>John 18: 33-37</i>

We must thank God for the many blessings, many graces you receive by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, by the Sacrament of Holy Communion, by the Sacrament of Penance! We must thank God.

Today is the Feast of Jesus Christ, the King. He is really King. In 1925 Pope Pius XI wrote a magnificent encyclical letter, *Quas Primas*, on Christ the King.

It is true that Jesus Christ is a King. He is King by nature because He is true God and by reason of the union of the divine nature with the human nature. Jesus Christ is King. He is also King by conquest, by His Cross. By His sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus Christ became King of all souls. He gave His life and blood to save all souls. Therefore, He is King of all souls. But you know, now, in our time, many refuse to acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is King of all countries, of all men; so, we must remain in, and profess this Catholic Faith. And we are incredibly happy to celebrate this great Feast of Jesus Christ, the King, because we have this Catholic belief in the Kingship of Jesus Christ over the whole world, the universal, social Kingship of Jesus Christ. We need to do everything possible to extend this Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our souls, in our bodies, in our families, in our countries. We must extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our minds by the practice of the Catholic Faith. The Catholic Faith is the obedience to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our souls. We must extend this Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our wills, by following the laws of Jesus Christ, and in our families, so that He rules all the Catholic faithful.

We must recognize the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and we must also labour to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our countries. The teaching of the Catholic Church is that we must do all in our power to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, the social Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Sadly, many Catholic countries are abandoning the law of Jesus Christ Christian law. The law permitting abortion and contraception is a law opposed to Catholic families. We must pray and ask God, by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that the Kingdom of Jesus Christ will return, will come back in our cities, in our countries.

In heaven, Jesus Christ is King, and we pray in the Our father that “Thy kingdom come.”

With the grace of God, we remain Catholics. We keep all the articles of the Creed, all the seven Sacraments, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. That is the will of God, of Jesus Christ. That is the true Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our souls, in our families.

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.

Saturday 5pm Moira Rath

Sunday 10am: People of Parish **Midday:** Holy Souls in Purgatory

Monday: No Mass

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

5pm: Ann Hay (sick)

Sunday 10am: People of Parish **Midday:** Private Intention

Please keep in your prayers the sick of the parish, 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

31st October National Rosary Relay Rally(9am-9pm)

1st November -online Rosary led by Bishop John Keenan at 8pm

More information at 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.

Donations

Apologies for the incorrect sorting code on previous newsletters, the correct information is below

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

"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.



Christmas Masses



At present Mass will be celebrated in English on Christmas Eve at 5pm at both St Wilfrid's and St Joseph's. The 10am Christmas Day Mass in English at St Joseph's has been poorly attended in the past and this year may be said in Latin.

We need to know how everyone feels so that if extra Masses are needed or a booking system is required, we have plenty of time to set things in motion.

Next week there will be a paper vote for all those who are attending weekly Mass at present
The options will be: -

St Wilfrid's

- Do you intend to come to 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve?
- If an extra Mass is required due to number limitations what time/day would be your preference? 7pm Christmas Eve, 8.30am Christmas morning

St Joseph's

- Do you intend to come to a Christmas Mass at St Joseph's?
- Would you prefer Latin or English or are you happy to attend either?
- Which of the following is your preference?
 - a) 5pm Christmas Eve English b) 8pm Christmas Eve English
 - c) 8pm Christmas Eve Latin d) 11pm Christmas Eve Latin
 - e) Midnight Latin f) Midnight English
 - g) 10 am Christmas Day English h) 10 am Christmas Day Latin

the poll on the new Blog is now closed

<https://stjosephstwilfridsgatesheadnewsblog.wordpress.com/>

We are also asking that people submit their preferences in other ways too - Facebook, email, phone, letter, website, word of mouth

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/>

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.

St Wilfrid's

- 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

Bonus Ball and Tombola

Restricted numbers makes these financially unviable so they will be suspended until further notice

Christmas Raffle

will not take place this year, if you wish to donate money in lieu of raffle tickets please put your donation in an envelope marked "Raffle Ticket Donation" and put it on the collection plate.

Piety Stall

we are unable to open, but items can still be bought. Please see Rachel if you would like anything.

November Candles

in memory of deceased family and friends are available at a cost of £1 each. Please put the name of your loved one, along with the correct money, into an envelope and hand it to Sandra.

St Joseph's

November Candles

in memory of deceased family and friends are available at a cost of £1 each, please put the names of your loved ones, along with the correct money, into an envelope and place in the box at the back of church or on the collection plate.

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'.

Trace and Track App the NHS QR code is available to scan as you come into church.

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.