

# St Joseph's Catholic Church



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 Webpage: [St Joseph's, Retford - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BASSETLAW \(weebly.com\)](http://StJosephs,Retford-CATHOLIC-PARISHES-OF-BASSETLAW.weebly.com)

## Parish Weekly Liturgy

2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) <b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Nicola Crompton and Family People of the Parish
ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY) <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>(Transferred from 25<sup>th</sup> March)</i>	Mass @ 9.30 am	The Crompton Family
EASTER WEEKDAY <b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Mass @ 9.30 am	Priest's Intention
EASTER WEEKDAY <b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
ST STANISLAUS <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
EASTER WEEKDAY <b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Mass @ 9.30 am	Priest's Intention
3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) <b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	People of the Parish Priest's Intention



Please pray for all those who have passed away recently and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time; our **sick** (Eileen Hannah, Christine Rigby, Delia Davies, Nina Wakelin, Rachel Harvey, M Whitlam, Brigida Lembo, Barbara & Peter Bainbridge, Norah Langley, Fr Bill Bergin, Angela Brown) and housebound parishioners; for peace in the world, for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, families preparing for Sacraments (Baptism, First Holy Communion & Confirmation) and the neophytes, special prayers for the Crompton family. **Special Collections April:** 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Priest's Training Fund, 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Parish Building Maintenance Fund.

*\*\*If you would like to add a person to our sick list, please ensure that the person or their family members have given permission to have their names published in our newsletter/website. This is to comply with GDPR legislation.\*\**

### Ways of Supporting the Parish

- A) By online banking (Diocese of Hallam St Josephs Retford Sort Code 40-41-07 A/C 51106686) please state what it is for in the reference.
- B) By debit/credit card on our **Stewardship donation page** which you may access via St Joseph's Retford's page on the deanery website ([www.worksopcatholicchurches.weebly.com/supporting-the-parish.html](http://www.worksopcatholicchurches.weebly.com/supporting-the-parish.html)) or directly from the Stewardship website ([www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)) under causes search for Diocese of Hallam - St Josephs Retford.
- C) By cheque made out to 'Diocese of Hallam St Josephs Retford'.
- D) Through easyfundraising: Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for **St Joseph's RC Church, Retford**.

THE COMMUNITY  
OF BELIEVERS



**Solemnity of the Annunciation** will be celebrated on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April this year as the actual feast day fell during Holy Week. There will be Mass @ 9.30 am.

**Mass and Meeting to discuss parish future.** This will take place on **Thursday 18 April. Mass will be at 6.30 pm.** The discussion about the parish future will take place after the Mass. If you have any thoughts and suggestions before the meeting feel free to email Fr John (email on top front page of newsletter). Reflect on Bishop's Ralph's message (earlier this month—newsletter/diocesan stats are still on our parish webpage) and pray to the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance on the way forward to re-vitalise our parish community.

**Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse** - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.00 pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, in Wombwell (Barnsley Deanery). This is a service (not a mass) for everybody to come together to pray for survivors of abuse and display compassion and unity as a church to survivors. All survivors welcome to attend too.

**First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation.** Our parish webpage has a section for [Sacramental Preparation](#) with the programme outline for easy reference for parents. There will not be any lessons until Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. In the meantime, parents are asked to go through Chapters 16, 29 and 30 and also revise any of the previous work done in the classes during the school holidays. Children and their families are also encouraged to attend Mass when there are no lessons scheduled.

#### Hallam Bridge

You can subscribe to Hallam Bridge (it's free) on <http://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/> Hallam Bridge would like to dedicate a page in each issue to a parish in the diocese. If someone would be willing to write up something about our parish they would be very happy to include it. The article would need to be submitted as a Word document and be either 300 or 600 words in length which equates to 1 column or 1 page. If possible, it should include a photograph (including appropriate permissions) within the document and an additional copy as an attachment with the article. The name of the author should also be included. The article should be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the Month for consideration in the next edition of the Hallam Bridge

**Children's Liturgy.** Open to all children 4 years and older who have not made their First Holy Communion. Sessions are on every alternate Sunday unless it's a school holiday.



**Support our Bassetlaw Foodbank donations this Lent** (collection stand at the back of church). Shortage list for this week: *long life milk, rice, tinned meat (chicken in white sauce, meatballs, corned beef etc), tinned tomatoes, curry sauce, tinned veg, other fish in tins (not tuna), sugar, pet food, deodorant (male and female).*



**Parish Repository.** We have rosaries, religious books, Saints Candles and more ... on sale at the back of church. ***New! First Communion Gifts/cards. All profits from the sale go towards the fundraising efforts of our parish.*** Please lend your support.

**Places of Welcome: Every Wednesday at St Joseph's Church Hall, from 1.30 - 3.30pm.** We are a very friendly group. We drink tea or coffee, eat biscuits, chat and enjoy ourselves. If transport is a problem we can help. Come and see what you think. Talk to Sally on 07772563499

**Parish newsletter** - limited copies of the weekly newsletter are printed for the benefit of visitors and parishioners who do not have access to the internet. If you have access to the internet please consider receiving an electronic copy of the **parish newsletter** weekly by email or downloading a copy from our parish webpage from the deanery website: [St Joseph's, Retford - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BASSETLAW](http://St Joseph's, Retford - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BASSETLAW) (weebly.com). Email the parish office to subscribe to our electronic newsletter (you can unsubscribe anytime). Going electronic will help the parish to keep its printing costs down and be more environmental friendly. **If you do take a copy of the newsletter please take it home do not put it back on the fresh pile. Thank you.**

## THE FAITH OF THOMAS AND THE REST OF US



Dear Easter People,

An important figure in today's gospel passage is the Apostle called **Thomas**. He has lots of lessons to teach us. He did not believe them when they told him the Lord had risen and appeared to them. He needed evidence; not his face, not his voice, not his clothes, all he needed was to see and touch the wounds. Jesus came back the next Sunday. When Thomas saw the wounds, the sight was enough for him to believe. How powerful those wounds of Jesus. I would have advised him to have them cleaned them up so as not to traumatize the disciples. I would have advised him to have healed himself of those wounds since he had the power to rise from the dead, at least so that his enemies would not laugh at him. But he knew better, he knew that the wounds would serve as testimony that he came, he saw, and he conquered. He knew that it was by the wounds that his disciples would recognize him, and so he kept them. There is power in the scars. They tell the story of a Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep, the Lord who loved unto death.

There are things about our past we wish never happened. There are mistakes we made in the past we wish to erase from our memories. Some of us are ashamed to talk about our family of origin. We don't want people to know the name of the school we attended. But we are who we are today either because of our backgrounds or in spite of our backgrounds.

Dear friends of Jesus, what scars are you carrying today? What forms of betrayal have you experienced? What persecutions have you endured for his sake? What weaknesses are you battling against? Don't be in a haste to wipe out your past. All that happened to you happened for a reason. After his resurrection, the apostles recognized him as the Lord by his wounds; **Thomas recognized him as God by his wounds**. On the last day, when we appear before him, we will recognize him when he shows us his wounds. He may also ask you on that day, "Who are you?" What marks will you show him as a sign that you fought a good fight and conquered? What scars will you show him as evidence of your discipleship? Scripture says, **"By his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5)**. May our wounds be united with the wounds of Jesus Christ to bring us healing in this life.

A further lesson from Thomas was the big mistake that he made by cutting himself off from the community when the crisis came. Some of us still make the same mistake today. The consequences were alienation, doubt and grief. In his doubt and grief, Thomas worked alone and outside the community of believers. He was thoroughly wounded and in need of healing. It was only when he re-joined the community that he encountered the risen Lord. It is then that he found his faith and his wounds were healed. When Thomas was told that Jesus had risen he said unless I see the wounds the nails have made and unless I touch his side I refuse to believe. When he re-joined the group, Jesus once again appeared to them and he turned to Thomas and said, Thomas put your finger here, look, here are my hands, doubt no longer but believe and Thomas exclaimed **"My Lord and My God."** Jesus responded **"you believe because you can see me, happy are those who have not seen and yet believed" (John 20:29)**.

Thomas' demand sounds reasonable and logical but while being guided by reason we must also listen to our hearts. We must pay attention to our imaginations and give room for insights from deep within us. There are layers and dimensions of reality which elude physical senses but which are nevertheless real. At the encounter with the risen Lord, Thomas soon discovered the foolishness of the conditions that he laid out. He discovered that he could not impose his own limited categories on God. He had lost one whole week joyful life in his doubts, grief and isolation. On meeting Jesus, he cried out in worship "My Lord and My God." **Thomas' cry of faith became the most powerful proclamation of the identity of Christ**. In one instant, he moved from earthly scene to spiritual believing. The resurrection of Jesus was reassuring for the weak, frightened and disillusioned disciples. When Thomas finally met Jesus, his own fears vanished; his doubts disappeared. He was healed of his blindness. A new fire was lit within him and he was immediately energised to go on and spread the good news. Yes on meeting Jesus Thomas suddenly recognised his need to be filled by **the surprising ways of God** rather than insist that God meets his own conditions. That is why he made that powerful act of faith.

Like the doubting Thomas, many of us are often not there when Jesus comes. But we all need to be part of the communities where our faiths will blossom, where our hopes will be sustained and where our love will grow. We need communities of shared faiths and possessions, of shared fortunes and misfortunes and of shared joys and sorrows. Like Thomas, many of us insist that God must behave only in ways that fit our own expectations. We often refuse to go deeper to savour the mysterious ways of God. So like Thomas, many of us often lose our joy and peace and live most of our lives in loneliness, doubt and despair.

**Faith is the basis of the Christian life.** Believing defines the Christian as service defines the servant. Faith according to letter to the Hebrews **"...is the assurance of blessings hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"** (Heb 11:1). Faith is waiting on God knowing that he is trustworthy and reliable. Faith is openness to the God who does the impossible. By faith a virgin conceived the only begotten son of God. By faith the crucified one came back to life. By faith the early Christians were transformed from frightened disciples into bold and courageous martyrs of the faith and they went far beyond where their human capabilities could not carry them. By faith, the mighty could be pulled down and the lowly raised. By faith five loaves can be multiplied to feed five thousand. By faith desperate situations could be overturned and dead ends opened. By faith good will overcome evil and love overcome hate. By faith the stone can be rolled away and sinners can rise from the ashes of shame to newness of life. Faith takes us where our senses cannot go. Faith enables us to see beyond physical sights. The apostles had the privilege of seeing Jesus physically, but they have no significant advantage over those who know Jesus through believing. Letter to the Hebrews assures us again: **"... without faith it is impossible to please God"** (Heb 11:6).



**DIVINE  
MERCY**

Music by Jennifer Naisio

Fr John Nwadike CM

(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year B, 2024 - Divine Mercy Sunday)



St Vincent  
de Paul Society  
England and Wales  
Turning Concern into Action

**SVP School Uniform Project** To help provide free school uniforms to families in need. For more information contact SVP volunteers: 07867 631834 or see SVP Retford or SVP School Uniform Project Facebook pages. **Retiring collection for the SVP after the weekend Masses.** The SVP has a collection box and if you are able to drop in any loose change as you leave it will be deeply appreciated.

### The Pope's Prayer Intention for April 2024 - For the Role of Women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

### April Devotion - The Blessed Sacrament

O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament divine,  
all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

### Online Parish Family Rosary Devotion

Every Wednesday @ 7.00 pm.

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME TO JOIN IN!**

The link to join can be found on our webpage on the deanery website:

<http://worksopcatholicchurches.weebly.com/st-josephs-retford.html>

Those **without internet** can join in via their telephone using the following information.



Every Wednesday

**Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm**

Call this number: **0207 660 8149** and when prompted

give the meeting number: **163 380 8136** and password: **424 562 79**

All the prayers are on power point to make it easier for those who are not familiar with praying the rosary.

**Pray the Rosary for Peace in the World and end of war - Our Lady of Fatima**