

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 ND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) Saturday 24th February Sunday 25th February <i>Collection for Parish Building Maintenance Fund</i>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	People of the Parish Patrick Harlow Snr (Anniversary)
LENTEN WEEKDAY Monday 26th February		
LENTEN WEEKDAY Tuesday 27th February	Mass @ 9.30 am	Roger Avill (Health & Wellbeing)
LENTEN WEEKDAY Wednesday 28th February	Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
LENTEN WEEKDAY Thursday 29th February		
ST DAVID, PATRON OF WALES Friday 1st March	Stations of the Cross @ 11.45 am Mass @ 12.15 pm	James Poulton (Happy Repose)
3 RD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) Saturday 2nd March Sunday 3rd March	Baptism @ 10.00 am Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Priest's Intention People of the Parish



Please pray for all those who have passed away recently (**Carmela (Melina) Buclaw**) 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 newly confirmed. **Special Collections February: 24th/25th 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

- 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.
- 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) or directly from the Stewardship website (www.stewardship.org.uk) under causes search for Diocese of Hallam - St Josephs Retford.
- By cheque made out to 'Diocese of Hallam St Josephs Retford'.
- Through easyfundraising: Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for **St Joseph's RC Church, Retford.**

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their children's preparation by going over the work done in the preparation classes and also helping their children with the relevant activities in their workbooks. Our parish webpage has a section for [Sacramental Preparation](#) with the programme outline for easy reference. Lessons resume this Sunday. We will be covering Chapter 20: Making up for our offenses.

Prayer Partners for First Communion candidates. We have seventeen candidates this year and each of them has a card with their name on it. These can be found at the back of church. Parishioners are encouraged to **sign and pledge their prayerful support** for our young people during this time of their preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion (and Baptism for one of them). Support as many of the young people as you like with your prayers. These cards will be given to the candidates on the day of their First Communion as a reminder that they are part of our parish family and the parish will always be there to support and encourage them in their journey of faith. **Prayer** is one of the three pillars of Lent, so let us make it our mission this Lent to **pray for all the young people in our parish**, even though we may not always be able to see the effects of our prayers, it will make a difference in their lives.

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. Next sessions: 18th February, 3rd March, 17th March



Lenten Devotion - Stations of the Cross every Friday at 11.45 am during the Season of Lent.

World Day of Prayer on Friday 1st March 2.00 pm at **Hallcroft Methodist Church**.

Lenten Penitential Service - tbc

St Joseph's Mini-Vinnies will be holding a fair trade Big Brew in the school hall on **Friday 8th March** from 3pm. Everyone invited to come for fair trade tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits and a chat with old and new friends .



Almsgiving - Support our Bassetlaw Foodbank donations this Lent (collection stand at the back of church). Shortage list for this week: *long life milk, soup, tinned mackerel or salmon, tinned meat, toothpaste, laundry pods, deodorant, bleach.*

CAFOD Lenten Appeal - part of our Lenten Almsgiving. Please take a CAFOD envelope home with you and return it latest by Palm Sunday. Completed envelopes can be returned anytime during Lent by posting it into the white post box at the back of church.



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

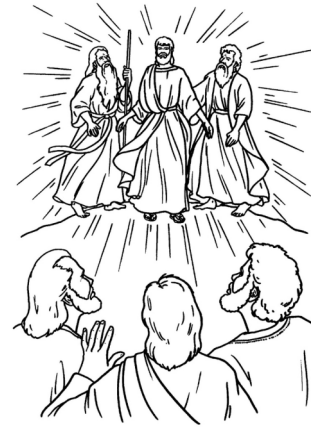
Places of Welcome: Every Wednesday at St Joseph's Church Hall, from 1.30 - 3.30pm. We are a very friendly group. We drink tea or coffee, eat biscuits, chat and enjoy ourselves. If transport is a problem we can help. Come and see what you think. Talk to Sally on 07772563499

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](#) (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.**

GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Today's readings bring to mind the age-long question of **"Where is God when bad things happen to good people?"** In the first reading, we have the story of the sacrifice of Abraham. Going through the story, one might be wondering why God should even contemplate not to talk of permitting such evil. Considering how long Abraham and Sarah waited to have a son, it sounds absolutely incredible to think of God as demanding for the life of the little boy, Isaac. Imagine how tensed-up one might be until the point of Abraham lifting his knife to cut the boy's throat. Someone might scream, "God! Where are you?" When you watch a replay of a football match that you have seen before, you would usually watch with very little or no tension in mind, reason being that you have seen it before. God, on His part (using human terms) would be on His rocking chair like someone watching a replay of a football match, on a Television screen, saying, "Relax, I have seen it before, I know how it ended, the boy will not be killed, a ram will be provided to take his place." Paul, in our second reading, reminds us clearly that **God's love has no limits.**



God has given the greatest gift of all to the world in the handing over of Jesus his beloved son. Can anyone doubt that God would not give every other lesser gift as well, including a ram for the Abrahamic sacrifice? Indeed, when compared to the gift God gives in Jesus, all else faints into insignificance. Nevertheless, Paul's words offer encouragement to believers, who may be burdened with worries, difficult times or other struggles inherent in the human experience. In a sense, Paul is saying, look at the bigger picture; gain some perspective and be at peace because God has seen it all and **He is in control.**

In the Gospel passage, we have the story of the **Transfiguration of Jesus**. This came as a preparation for the difficult days ahead. This came as a preview of what will come after the cross. When Jesus faced his agony at Gethsemane, he prayed for the cup to pass him by, but his Father must have assured him, "Relax, my Son, I have seen it before, I know how it ended, remember the preview at the Transfiguration." Then Jesus said, **"...not my will, but your will be done."** When he got to the cross, he felt abandoned by his Father and he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" His Father must have reminded him of the preview from the Transfiguration and said, "Relax, I have seen it before, I know how it ended, after the cross comes the glory", then he commended his spirit into the hands of his Father. Indeed, we now know how the story ended.

My dearly beloved in Christ, as we enter the **second week of Lent**, I have no idea what your story has been like. Perhaps, you are a victim of constant persecution. Maybe the truth you stand for is winning you a lot of enemies. Maybe those in authority or those who are close to the corridors of power are using you to flex their muscles. Maybe you have been sincerely battling some temptations. Maybe your prayers seem to be falling on deaf ears. It is even possible that today is the ultimatum you have given to God. Maybe you have asked many times, "God, where are you? Why me? Why now?" Before you give up on God and yourself; before you submit to the philosophy of "If you can't beat them, join them", God is saying to you, "Relax, my child. I have seen it before. I know the end from the beginning. I have the final victory waiting for you at the end of the game, so do not run away before the game is over." Like He said to Jeremiah (cf. 1:5ff), **He knew you before you were born and has made provisions for you to the end.** Remember, sometimes God calms the storm, other times He lets the storm and calms His child. Looking at the second reading once again, St. Paul assures us that if God is for us, no one, nothing can be against us. In the midst of afflictions, God says to us, **"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46: 10).** The transfiguration was a joyful experience for the apostles who had followed Jesus right up to the mountain. We are invited today to do the same as individuals and as a worshipping community. We are being called through this biblical and historic event, to follow Jesus through our effective daily prayers and weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharistic event. The voice that called at the Transfiguration event was the voice of truth. Today the world yearns desperately for the voice of truth. There are countless conflicting voices competing for our attention today. One of such voices is the social media. The internet space is filled with all manner of weird ideas that sink people deeper into depression and forlornness. We need to shift attention to the voice of Jesus which is the only authentic voice of truth. Within this special season of Lent, let us strive to encounter Jesus at the high mountain like those three disciples, where we will hear his voice of truth and learn to follow him so that we **"... may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).**

Fr John Nwadike CM

(The 2nd Sunday in Lent Year B, 2024)

Churches Together in Retford (CTiR).

- 1) Bi-monthly CTiR prayer meetings have been held at The Well and St Michael's on Sunday evenings. February venue tbc.
- 2) First Thursday of the month 12.30 pm at The Well – everyone invited to come along for informal prayer and fellowship (bring lunch, drinks provided).
- 3) Places of Welcome continue to be held on Tuesdays (St Michael's 10-12 coffee, 12-2pm lunches of soup/toast, 2-4pm craft circle) and Wednesdays (All Hallows 10-12, followed by 2-4pm craft circle; people can drop in at any time. St Joseph's on Wednesdays 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm (more details inside the newsletter)
- 4) Food Hubs are being hosted by The Grove in school holidays. Rhubarb Farm have recently provided a Communita for 40 people at £1 per person.
- 5) Christian Aid lunches at **St Saviour's Church Hall**, hosted in turn by the different churches in Retford on Fridays during Lent. Next Lunches will be 1st March, 15th March and 22nd March. No lunch on 8th March.



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 February 2024 - For The Terminally Ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

February Devotion - The Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you!
Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all.

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