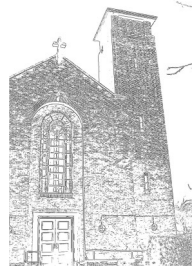


St Joseph's Catholic Church



Parish Priest: Fr John Nwadike CM
 Address: The Presbytery, Babworth Road, Retford, DN22 7BP
 Telephone: 01777 703373
 Office email: saintjosephretford@gmail.com
 Fr John's email: parishpriestsaintjoseph@gmail.com
 Parish Hall Bookings email: bart.hoga@hotmail.co.uk contact: 0780 721 0863
 Parish Safeguarding Reps: Gerard & Grisalda Buffham email: safeguarding.sjret@hallam-diocese.com
 Webpage: [St Joseph's, Retford - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BASSETLAW \(weebly.com\)](http://StJosephs,Retford-CATHOLIC-PARISHES-OF-BASSETLAW.weebly.com)

Parish Weekly Liturgy

3 RD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) Saturday 2nd March Sunday 3rd March	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Priest's Intention People of the Parish
ST CASIMIR Monday 4th March		
LENTEN WEEKDAY Tuesday 5th March	Baptism @ 10.30 am	Chacko Thomas Family
LENTEN WEEKDAY Wednesday 6th March	Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
ST PERPETUA AND ST FELICITY Thursday 7th March		
ST JOHN OF GOD Friday 8th March	Stations of the Cross @ 11.45 am Mass @ 12.15 pm	John O'Reagan (Personal Intention)
4 TH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) LAETARE SUNDAY Saturday 9th March Sunday 10th March	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Michael McGarry (Birthday - Happy Repose) People of the Parish

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

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 newly confirmed. **Special Collections March:** 16th/17th Hallam Support For Life, 23rd/24th Parish Building Maintenance Fund, 29th Holy Places in Palestine (Good Friday).

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. For the lesson this Sunday we will be covering Chapter 21: The Good Shepherd.

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: 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, **Chrism Mass at St Marie's Cathedral** - Wednesday 27th March

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, tinned carrots, tinned sweetcorn, sugar, tinned meats, tinned mackerel/sardines, soup, laundry pods, nappies size 6, dog food.*

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.**

RALPH
BISHOP OF HALLAM
Pastoral Letter

To be read at all Masses on the weekend of 2/3 March 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, I wish to speak with you about something that is important and affects us all.

When we think of parishes we naturally tend to think of people, priests, and a parish church; a building that contains memories of our lives. A sense of place is of foremost importance, but it is the community of Christ's faithful, together with a parish priest, that makes up a parish. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of life in the Church, and the Mass of Sunday, an obligation in love, will always be at the heart of parish life.

To say that we live in difficult times is a gross understatement. Life today has its challenges for the world at large and for our communities. Among other things, families and individuals must cope with increases in the cost of living. This includes our parishes as they face increased running costs, maintenance costs and finding resources for both communion and mission. This, combined with the reduction in the number of priests and the size of our parish communities now presents us with both challenges and opportunities.

The many changes and challenges of the past few years and, indeed, what is still to come, are indicators that leaving things as they are will not serve us well as the People of God or help us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the wider community.

Pope Francis has set the theme of the Jubilee Year of 2025 as "Pilgrims of Hope". In this spirit we need to fan the flame of hope for each other and look to the future with an open heart, a trusting spirit, and a vision of the future.

Today, at the end of Mass, you will be given a copy of Diocesan Statistics that have been prepared by the Council of Priests. This information marks the beginning of a reflection and conversation in the Spirit, about how we develop the vision we need for the Church in Hallam.

It is important that we all engage with this venture prayerfully, humbly and with generosity of mind and heart and be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

I hope that your Lenten journey has begun well as you look forward to celebrating the great Feast of Easter and the Resurrection of the Lord, and that the Lord will continue to bless you as you continue on your way through Lent.

May Our Lady of Perpetual Help be our intercessor.

Yours sincerely in Christ, the Redeemer

+ Ralph



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 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 March 2024 - For New Martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

March Devotion - St Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen .

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 10th of the Month for consideration in the next edition of the Hallam Bridge

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