

# 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](mailto:saintjosephretford@gmail.com)  
 Fr John's email: [parishpriestsaintjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriestsaintjoseph@gmail.com)  
 Parish Hall Bookings email: [bart.hoga@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bart.hoga@hotmail.co.uk) contact: 0780 721 0863  
 Parish Safeguarding Reps: Gerard & Grisalda Buffham email: [safeguarding.sjret@hallam-diocese.com](mailto: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

4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) LAETARE SUNDAY <b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Michael McGarry (Birthday – Happy Repose) People of the Parish
LENTEN WEEKDAY <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
LENTEN WEEKDAY <b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
LENTEN WEEKDAY <b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
LENTEN WEEKDAY <b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Mass @ 9.30 am	Cynthia Gery Waas
BLESSED JOHN ANNE (AMIAS), PRIEST AND MARTYR <b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Stations of the Cross @ 11.45 am Mass @ 12.15 pm	Nicholas Hart (Happy Repose)
5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) <b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Collection for Hallam Support For Life</i>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Mr & Mrs Dorrin (Happy Repose/Birthday) People of the Parish <i>Coffee/Tea in the church hall after Mass. Come for some fellowship after Mass. Everyone welcome.</i>

**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:** 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Hallam Support For Life, 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Parish Building Maintenance Fund, 29<sup>th</sup> 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](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.
- By cheque made out to 'Diocese of Hallam St Josephs Retford'.
- Through easyfundraising: Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for **St Joseph's RC Church, Retford**.

**Wishing all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers in our parish a Happy and Blessed Mothers' Day.** Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you as we celebrate Mothering Sunday; a chance to express thankfulness and joy as we remember our own mothers or carers, who have, or still are, serving their families. We also remember and pray for those for whom today will be difficult and sad. We ask that your unfailing love will surround them and that they will feel your presence in their lives. Amen. .

**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 22: The Last Supper. Next Sunday's lesson will take place in church.

**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 session: 17<sup>th</sup> March



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

**Lenten Penitential Service** - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March @ 7.00 pm. Several priests available to listen to Confessions.

**Chrism Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield** - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Christian Aid Lunches** at St Saviour's Church Hall on Fridays during Lent from 12.00 pm to 1.30 pm. Next lunches: 15<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.



**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. **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](#) (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.**

## A LIGHT THAT ENLIGHTENS THE NATIONS

Beloved of the Lord,



We are now in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of our Lenten journey. Let's refresh our mind on the journey so far, following the footsteps of Jesus. On the 1<sup>st</sup> **Sunday of Lent** God's Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert where he was tested. Jesus overcame. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Sunday of Lent** Jesus, together with Peter, James and John, ascended a high mountain, and there he was transfigured. This was a very special occasion meant to reinforce the ailing faith of the Apostles. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Sunday of Lent**, Jesus entered the Temple precinct and drove out those selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters. This act of cleansing of the temple was also meant to extend to the cleansing of our hearts and lives, to make us fitting dwelling places for God. On this 4<sup>th</sup> **Sunday of Lent** Jesus meets one of the Pharisees named Nicodemus and tells him that **"The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."** This 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as *Laetare Sunday*, and it is one of two Sundays in the year on which the priest may wear *rose-coloured vestments* in place of the more sombre purple. The other Sunday is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*. The opening words to the entrance antiphon of today's Mass, *Laetare Jerusalem* - Rejoice Jerusalem - are summons to joy, anticipating the feast of Easter which is drawing near. In his book *The Liturgical Year* Adolf Adam tells us that the wearing of rose-coloured vestments was first mentioned in the sixteenth century and probably originated in the papal custom of blessing the "Golden Rose" on this day. This blessing was associated with a popular Roman custom, originating from at least the tenth century, which celebrated the victory of spring over winter by the wearing of flowers. From the eleventh century onwards, the Pope presented a costly, artificial rose (rather than a natural flower), firstly to his officials, and later to eminent people outside Rome. Let's return to the readings. The scholarly consensus is that Mark wrote the first of the four gospels sometime between 65 and 75 AD. But Mark begins his gospel with the adult ministry of Jesus. He tells us nothing about the birth or childhood of Jesus. The gospels of Matthew and Luke, written about twenty years later, both have infancy narratives. John's gospel from which today's periscope is drawn, was written at the end of the first century and it begins, not with an infancy narrative, but with a Prologue. The infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke, and the Prologue of John's gospel function in much the same way as an overture. Just as a musical overture anticipates themes or ideas from the opera or oratorio, the infancy narratives and prologue do precisely that in the gospel. They sound notes that will resonate throughout the scriptures, in a manner that anticipates the endpoint from the beginning. The Prologue of John's Gospel is the key for the interpretation of the entire gospel. Two outstanding notes from this Prologue are the **imagery of darkness and light** and the **imagery of salvation**.

In the season of Lent, even as we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus, the Church prepares us for the resurrection. For example, two Sundays ago (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent), with the reading on the Transfiguration, besides resuscitating the faith of the Apostles in Jesus, the Church was reminding us that the suffering and death of Jesus will lead to his resurrection and glorification. Today's Gospel passage focussing on the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, the Church prepares us for the resurrection by reminding us of the incarnation: **God became a human being that we may be reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

In Jesus Christ, the light of God has been brought to us, but this requires a response from us if we are to have a share in the resurrection of Jesus. The birth, earthly ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ happened once upon a time in history. But his redemptive work is for the benefit of all human beings of every race and of every age. In order that we who were not at the foot of the cross when it happened in history, may have a full share in the fruit of his passion, death and resurrection, Jesus has given us the **Sacraments** as means of connecting us to the merits of what he did at a point in time. It is like any of the news media for instance, the signal from BBC is on air, but we need to get a television and tune to the right channel to partake of what is being sent from the studio.

Many times unfortunately, we are like the 98-year old lady who would not use her hearing aid because she thinks it is a nuisance to her. God has given us many hearing aids to enable us hear him, loud and clear, and connect to his grace, but we put them away because we think they make us uneasy. He has given us **conscience** as a kind of hearing aid; he has given us the **scripture** as his word; he has given us the **Church** and the **Sacraments**. But come to think of it, when we are faced with difficult decisions to make in life, do we not sometimes push aside these divinely prepared hearing aids because we feel they make us ill at ease? Do we not sometimes say that the Bible is outdated or that the Church is old fashioned?

God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. The onus is now on us to bring ourselves to him to benefit from the merits of his salvific works. The season of Lent calls us to examine ourselves to see how we have been making the best of the hearing aids God has put in place for us. For the times we have failed, let us find consolation in the abundance of God's mercy, but then, what He simply asks of us is that we should acknowledge our weakness and our need of Him and let Him do His work in us. Let us once again return to John's Prologue: we read in the Prologue that "...**the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**" And "**The light shines in the darkness and the darkness could not overpower it.**" (cf John 1:4-5). But in today's gospel passage from chapter 3, we read that "**though the light has come into the world people have shown that they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.**" (cf John 3:19). Friends in Christ, the choice is now yours. It is a choice between light and darkness.

Fr John Nwadike CM

(Laetare Sunday - The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Year B, 2024)



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 10<sup>th</sup> 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**