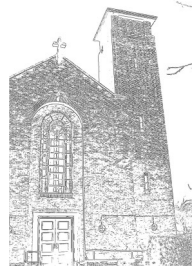




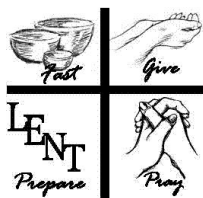
# St Joseph's Catholic Church



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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

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>
ST CYRIL OF JERUSALEM <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF MARY <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Parish Feast Day</i>	 <b>School Mass @ 9.30 am in church</b>	Fr Anthony Hayne (Happy Repose)  <i>Everyone welcome to join in with the school community!</i>
LENTEN WEEKDAY <b>Wednesday 20<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 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Penitential Service @ 7.00pm</b>	Several priests available to hear confessions. Everyone encouraged to attend.
LENTEN WEEKDAY <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Stations of the Cross @ 11.45 am Mass @ 12.15 pm	Peter Harvey (22 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B) <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Collection Parish Building Maintenance Fund</i>	 Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Mr & Mrs Hurst (Happy Repose/Birthday) Patrick Harlow Jnr (Anniversary)  <i>Last weekend to bring back your CAFOD envelopes!</i>



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 those who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter. **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**.



**Palm Sunday** - 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> - Mass @ 6.00 pm (Sat Vigil)/9.00 am. **Wednesday in Holy Week** - 27<sup>th</sup> March - Chrism Mass at St Marie's Cathedral Sheffield @ 11.00 am. **Easter Triduum Schedule:**  
**Holy Thursday** - 28<sup>th</sup> March - Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7.00 pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.45 pm. **Good Friday** (*day of Fasting and Abstinence*) - 29<sup>th</sup> March - Stations of the Cross @ 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion @ 3.00 pm. **Holy Saturday** - 30<sup>th</sup> March - Blessing of Easter Food (Polish Tradition) @ 10.00 am. The Easter Vigil @ 7.15 pm. **Easter Sunday** - 31<sup>st</sup> March - Mass of the Lord's Resurrection @ 9.00 am.

**Special Prayers.** This year our parish has a candidate who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for our candidate, Mark Freeman, leading up to his reception.

**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 classes and helping them with the relevant activities in their workbooks. Our parish webpage has a section for [Sacramental Preparation](#) with the programme outline for easy reference. This Sunday we will be covering Chapter 23: Jesus Dies for Us. The lesson will take place in church. There will not be any lessons next Sunday and during the Easter School Holidays. Preparation lessons will resume on 21 April. In the meantime, parents are expected to cover Chapters 16, 29 and 30 and also fulfil their Sunday obligations by attending Mass (either Saturday Vigil or Sunday) with their children on the weekends when there are no lessons.



**Volunteers needed for Holy Thursday 1. Washing of Feet.** We need some volunteers to have their feet wash at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Please put your name down on the list at the back. **2. Volunteers for Watching.** We need volunteers for the watching period. There must be at least one person present in church while the Blessed Sacrament is on the Altar of Repose. Each slot is 45 minutes. Sign up list at the back of church.

**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. Last session for this term: 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.

**Christian Aid Lunch** at St Saviour's Church Hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 12.00 pm to 1.30 pm.



**Almsgiving - Support our Bassetlaw Foodbank donations this Lent** (collection stand at the back of church). Shortage list for this week: *long life milk, chopped tomatoes, tinned sweetcorn, curry sauce, tinned meat, tea bags, custard, rice pudding, porridge, laundry pods (non bio), pet food.*

**CAFOD Lenten Appeal** - Please bring back all CAFOD envelopes **by next weekend (Palm Sunday)**. Your Lenten Alms can be posted into the white postbox. If you are a UK taxpayer please fill in the Gift Aid declaration on the CAFOD envelope.



**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.

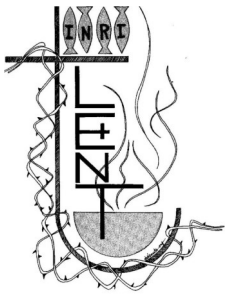
**Places of Welcome: Every Wednesday at St Joseph's Church Hall, from 1.30 - 3.30pm.** We are a very friendly group. We drink tea or coffee, eat biscuits, chat and enjoy ourselves. If transport is a problem we can help. Come and see what you think. Talk to Sally on 07772563499

**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.**

## HIS LIFE GIVING DEATH

Dear God's Good People,

On the Sundays of Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgy, the first reading is usually chosen because, in one way or another, it complements the theme of the gospel. The second reading, habitually taken from one of the New Testament letters, is on a cycle of its own, and it is purely coincidental if it happens to reflect the same theme as the gospel and first reading. However, during Lent the lectionary arranges the readings topically or ideologically. In Year B, for instance, the first readings for Lent focus on the theme of covenant. The second readings are about the identity of Christ and our identity in Christ, while the gospel readings are on the theme of salvation.



Let's see how the first readings for each Sunday of Lent are on the theme of God's covenant with his people. On the **First Sunday of Lent** we had an account of the covenant that God entered into after the Flood. The covenant was made with Noah, with Noah's descendants, with all the living creatures that were in the ark, and finally, it was a covenant with the earth itself. The rainbow was to be a sign of this covenant. On the **Second Sunday of Lent** we had the story of the testing of Abraham, recorded in the book of Genesis. The name Abraham means "father of a multitude", but how will Abraham fulfil his destiny if he sacrifices his only son, Isaac? This is a test, and because Abraham obeys the voice of God he will be blessed, and God makes a covenant with him: *"I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore"* (Gen 22:17). On the **Third Sunday of Lent** we heard the account of God giving the Law to Moses. The Ten Commandments include the basic conditions for covenant membership. Last Sunday's (**Fourth Sunday of Lent**) first reading from the second book of Chronicles told the story of the destruction of the temple by the Babylonians, and the exile of the people by the rivers of Babylon. But the reading ends on a note of hope. God rouses Cyrus, the pagan Persian king who had conquered the Babylonians, to order the rebuilding of the Temple. The second book of Chronicles tells us that the destruction of the Temple was the resultant effect of the people's sinfulness. Not only did the people ignore the prophets that God sent to them, they actively derided them. The destruction of the Temple and the deportation of the people were the inevitable consequences of their infidelity to the covenant. But, through the graciousness of God, the process of rebuilding the Temple begins through the instrumentality of a foreign king. **Today's first reading** from the prophet Jeremiah **promises a new covenant** for the House of Israel, who because of their infidelities, had been chastened for a time. Whereas the old covenant had been written on stone tablets, the law of the new covenant will be written on the heart. The essence of this covenant is this: **"I will be your God and you shall be my people."**

Closely linked with the theme of Covenant is the theme of salvation of which the gospel readings, as mentioned earlier have orchestrated. During last Sunday's gospel, Jesus told Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert. Moses' lifting up of the bronze snake in the desert foreshadows the "lifting up" of Jesus on the Cross. Just as the bronze serpent was a life-giving antidote to the deadly venom of a snake, whoever "looks" at the Crucified Christ in faith receives something far beyond ordinary life; they receive a share in the eternal life of God. Humanity as a whole has been smitten with a deadly disease of sin. The lifting-up of Jesus on the Cross is our salvation. In **today's gospel**, Jesus tells us that his hour has come. He tells us that **"unless a wheat grain falls into the earth and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit"** (John 12:24). Therefore, salvation is about losing our life so that we will keep it for eternal life.

Recall that earlier in the gospel of John, John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God. (cf John 1:29ff). To understand what calling Jesus **"the Lamb of God"** means, we need to jump over to the Passion Narrative in Chapter 19. John's references to the Passover come to a climax in the passion narrative, where Jesus' crucifixion takes place on the day before the Passover. John tells us that it was the day of preparation. This was the day on which the Passover lambs were slaughtered, something that could be carried out only in the Temple. So, as thousands and thousands of lambs are being slaughtered in the Temple, Jesus dies on Golgotha, just outside the walled city of Jerusalem. The book of Exodus tells us that the Jews were saved by the blood of the Passover lamb, sprinkled on their door posts. John is subtly telling us that we are saved by the blood of another Passover lamb, Jesus himself. But unlike the slaughter of the Paschal lambs in the Temple, a ritual repeated annually, the death of Jesus is the one, perfect sacrifice that never needs to be repeated. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: **"Jesus dies at the moment when the Passover lambs are being slaughtered in the Temple. Jesus dies as the real lamb, merely prefigured by those slain in the Temple."**



As we approach the **Passion Week (Holy Week)**, the question that readily comes to mind is why would Jesus have to die in order to work our salvation? Jesus answers partially in today's gospel: He uses the image of a seed falling on the ground. The seed is Jesus himself, who by dying will give life to humanity. Just as a seed must die to its life as a single seed before it can yield an abundant harvest, **Jesus will bring life in abundance through his death on the Cross**. But then, you do not need to have an answer regarding why Jesus had to die, before the Cross can have its effects in your life. An English scholar, Tom Wright once theorized that you don't have to understand cooking before you can enjoy a good meal; neither do you have to understand the details of musical theories or acoustics to be moved by a wonderful violin solo. In the same way, you don't have to have a theory about why the Cross is so powerful before you can be moved and changed, before you can know yourself loved and forgiven, because of Jesus' death on the Cross. For us his followers he has asked us to do one thing and that is, to die before we die, so that when we die, we won't die.

Fr John Nwadike CM

(The 5<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**