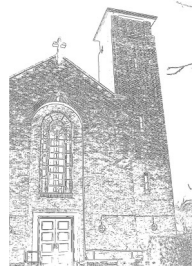



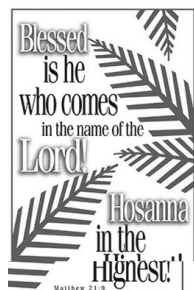
St Joseph's Catholic Church



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 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

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B) Saturday 23rd March Sunday 24th March <i>Collection for 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>
MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK Monday 25th March			
TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK Tuesday 26th March		Mass @ 9.30 am	Elizabeth Mulvey (Birthday/Anniversary)
WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK Wednesday 27th March		Chrism Mass @ 11.00 am Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
HOLY THURSDAY Thursday 28th March		Mass @ 7.00 pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.45 pm	Priest Intention <i>Feel free to drop into church for prayer anytime between 8.30 pm to 10.45 pm. 'Watching' will end at 10.45 pm with Compline.</i>
GOOD FRIDAY Friday 29th March <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i> <i>Collection for Holy Places in Palestine</i>		Stations of the Cross @ 2.30 pm The Lord's Passion @ 3.00 pm	
HOLY SATURDAY (YEAR B) Saturday 30th March EASTER SUNDAY Sunday 31st March		Blessing of Food @ 10.00 am The Easter Vigil @ 7.15 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Blessing of Easter Food (Polish Tradition) Priest Intention People of the Parish



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: 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**.

Palm Sunday - 23rd/24th - Mass @ 6.00 pm (Sat Vigil)/9.00 am.

Wednesday in Holy Week - 27th March - Christ Mass at St Marie's Cathedral Sheffield @ 11.00 am.

Easter Triduum Schedule:

Holy Thursday - 28th 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*) - 29th March

Stations of the Cross @ 2.30 pm.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion @ 3.00 pm.

Holy Saturday - 30th March

Blessing of Easter Food (Polish Tradition) @ 10.00 am.

The Easter Vigil @ 7.15 pm.

Easter Sunday - 31st March

Mass of the Lord's Resurrection @ 9.00 am.



Holy Week

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.



Volunteers needed for Holy Thursday - Washing of Feet. Thank you to all those who have volunteered so far for feet washing and for watching. We still need a few more for feet washing. Put your name on the list at the back.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation. Our parish webpage has a section for [Sacramental Preparation](#) with the programme outline for easy reference. There will not be any lessons until Sunday 21st April. In the meantime, parents are expected to cover Chapters 16, 29 and 30 and also go over any of the previous work done in the classes. Children and their families are encouraged to take part in our parish Holy Week Liturgies..



COULD YOU WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?

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, chopped tomatoes, tinned sweetcorn, curry sauce, tinned meat, tea bags, custard, rice pudding, porridge, laundry pods (non bio), pet food.*



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.**

THE TWO PROCESSIONS TO JERUSALEM



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today begins our Holy Week when we commemorate the great events surrounding the arrests, torture, crucifixion and the death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The gospel for the commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem comes from the **Gospel of St Mark**. Also, the gospel for this Sunday is the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. This is the final week in the life of Jesus. It begins with Jesus approaching Jerusalem on the day that we traditionally call **Palm Sunday**, and it concludes with his resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. In year B of the liturgical cycle we listen to Mark's account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, as well as Mark's account of the Lord's Passion. Recall that there are sixteen chapters in Mark's gospel. And six of those sixteen chapters are devoted to what Jesus did and said during his final week in Jerusalem. So, almost 40 per cent of Mark's gospel is devoted to **a day-by-day account of this final week in the life of Jesus**. Mark has gone out of his way to indicate the transition from one day to the next, thereby offering us a daily meditation for each day of the Holy Week. According to Mark's chronology Jesus enters Jerusalem on the day that we now call Palm Sunday and in company of his disciple, Jesus goes to the Temple, and afterwards he and the Twelve retire to Bethany for the night. The distance from Jerusalem to Bethany is approximately 1.5 miles. On Monday Jesus and the disciples leave Bethany and return to Jerusalem. They again leave the city in the evening. On Tuesday morning they return to Jerusalem once more. Mark indicates that it's now Wednesday by telling us that "it was two days before the Passover" when the chief priests and the scribes were now out to arrest him and have him put to death (cf The Passion narrative, Year B). Holy Thursday is the first day of the Unleavened bread. That evening, following a final meal with his disciples, Jesus is arrested. The following morning is the day that we traditionally call Good Friday, the day on which Jesus is crucified. The Sabbath is Holy Saturday. Jesus has been taken down from the Cross and laid in the tomb. Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection, is the first day of the week.

The tempo of Mark's narration slows down as we enter this final week. Before now, Mark gives a sense of urgency and immediacy to the actions of Jesus because **"the Kingdom of God is at hand"**. But the tempo slows down during this final week, and the story unfolds day-by-day. Then on Friday the tempo slows further down to an hour-by-hour account: Morning - mid-morning - noon - mid-afternoon, and evening. Because the whole of Mark's narrative moves towards Jerusalem, and towards his death and resurrection, the gradual slowing down of the tempo intensifies the events of the crucifixion.

The Passover feast was one of the three pilgrimage festivals each year, and Jerusalem was usually crowded with pilgrims from far and near. The estimated population, at the pilgrimage festivals was somewhere around 500,000, especially for the feast of Passover. With such large crowd parading the streets around the Holy City, the Roman authorities were on high alert. Jesus entered Jerusalem on the Sunday before Passover, greeted by enthusiastic crowds. Coming from Bethany Jesus entered the city from the East. But this was not the only procession to enter Jerusalem at this time. On the opposite side of the city, from the west, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, also entered Jerusalem as the head of government escorted by a column of cavalry and foot soldiers.

Pilate normally resided, not in Jerusalem, but in Caesarea Maritima, that is, Caesarea-on-the-Sea, which is over 59 miles to the north-west of Jerusalem. Roman governors found life in Caesarea Maritima far more pleasant than Jerusalem, which was inland and insular, provincial and partisan, and often hostile. But for the major Jewish festivals, with so many pilgrims in the city, Pilate, like his predecessors, travelled to Jerusalem. So, we have **two processions entering Jerusalem**. Pilate's military procession was a demonstration of Roman imperial power. During the festival of Passover these troops reinforced the Roman garrison permanently stationed at Pilate's judgement courtyard overlooking the Jewish temple Mount and its courts. Imagine the Roman soldiers marching into the city with cavalry and stern-looking foot soldiers holding their armour, helmets, weapons, banners, and the standard bearer holding aloft a golden eagle, with the sounds of martial music and feet pounding the ground in unison, amidst the neighing of horses. Their message was crystal-clear: don't mess with us! Meanwhile, from the eastern side, Jesus rides on a lowly donkey, proclaiming the kingdom of God. From the west, Roman soldiers enter the city, proclaiming the power and grandeur of Rome. The crowd welcomes Jesus with palms, a symbol of Maccabean nationalism. They're hoping that Jesus is the one they have been waiting for - a new David, another Maccabean warrior. Here, they hoped, is the one who will overthrow the might of imperial Rome. But Jesus was the direct opposite of the great kings of the world. Indeed, Jesus is bringing the kingdom of God, and he has made it clear that this kingdom will be established by means of rejection, death, and resurrection in the city of David.



Jesus is indeed the true king, but not the king expected by the crowds who welcomed him into Jerusalem with palm branches and a royal acclamation. He is a king whose rule does not depend on political and military might. **Jesus will truly set his people free.** But not freedom from foreign invaders, like the Maccabees had achieved over a century earlier. Jesus will win a far greater victory than the Maccabees, and a victory over a far more powerful and insidious foe, but it will not be a victory won by military might. On the Friday of this week Jesus will be lifted up on the cross. His victorious death on the cross will set us free **from the powers of sin and death.** Through the cross the gates of the Kingdom will be opened. Remember, there are two processions entering Jerusalem today. Which of the two are you joining?

Fr John Nwadike CM

(Palm Sunday Year B, 2024)

Easter Collection - Special envelopes are available from the back of the church. The Easter Collection is one of two in a year when the collection goes to the parish priest. It is a gift of love and appreciation from the parish to their pastor. Do show your support.



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