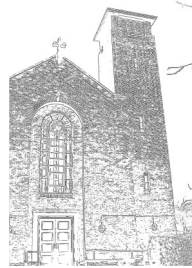


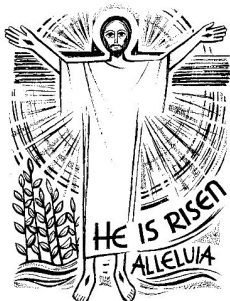
St Joseph's Catholic Church



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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

HOLY SATURDAY (YEAR B) Saturday 30th March EASTER SUNDAY Sunday 31st March	The Easter Vigil @ 7.15 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Priest Intention People of the Parish
MONDAY EASTER OCTAVE Monday 1st April	Mass @ 9.30 am	Clare Rogers nee Hunt (Happy Repose)
TUESDAY EASTER OCTAVE Tuesday 2nd April	Mass @ 9.30 am	The Crompton Family
WEDNESDAY EASTER OCTAVE Wednesday 3rd April	Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
THURSDAY EASTER OCTAVE Thursday 4th April		
FRIDAY EASTER OCTAVE Friday 5th April	Mass @ 9.30 am	Priest's Intentions
2 ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) Saturday 6th April Sunday 7th April <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Nicola Crompton and Family 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 prayers for the Crompton family. **Special Collections April: 20th/21st Priest's Training Fund, 27th/28th 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.**



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 and remember to pray for your parish priest too.

Easter Vigil - Pray for Mark Freeman who will be receive into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Mass and Meeting to discuss parish future. This will take place on **Thursday 18 April. Mass will be at 6.30 pm.** The discussion about the parish future will take place after the Mass. If you have any thoughts and suggestions before the meeting feel free to email Fr John (email on top front page of newsletter). Reflect on Bishop's Ralph's message (earlier this month—newsletter/diocesan stats are still on our parish webpage) and pray to the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance on the way forward to re-vitalise our parish community.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation. Our parish webpage has a section for [Sacramental Preparation](#) with the programme outline for easy reference for parents. There will not be any lessons until Sunday 21st April. In the meantime, parents are asked to go through Chapters 16, 29 and 30 and also revise any of the previous work done in the classes during the school holidays. Children and their families are also encouraged to attend Mass when there are no lessons scheduled.

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

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, rice, tinned meat (chicken in white sauce, meatballs, corned beef etc), tinned tomatoes, curry sauce, tinned veg, other fish in tins (not tuna), sugar, pet food, deodorant (male and female).*



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.**

ALLELUIA OUR LORD IS RISEN!

Good People of God,



Each of the four gospels gives us an account of the disciples going to the tomb of Jesus early on Easter Sunday morning, but the details vary. That should not surprise us because each of the four evangelists is presenting the same story, but from a different perspective. Who first went to the tomb? Well, according to Mark, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb when the Sabbath was over. It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. Matthew tells us that there were two women, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary. They went to visit the tomb after the Sabbath, towards dawn on the first day of the week. Luke also tells us that a group of women went to the tomb on the first day of the week, at early dawn. They were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women with them. They find the stone rolled away from the tomb, but they could not find the body of Jesus. When Peter is informed he then runs to the tomb. Finally, the gospel of John mentions only one woman, Mary of Magdala. Early on the first day of the week when it was still dark, Mary went to the tomb. When she found that the stone had been moved away from the tomb she tells Simon Peter what she has seen, and Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved both come to the tomb. Mary of Magdala is the only person mentioned in all the four accounts of what happened on Easter Sunday morning. However all four of the gospels agree on one key fact: **The tomb is empty; the body of Jesus is not there.**

Some think of her in terms of **repentance**. Repentance from what? Some see her as a woman of easy virtue who later repented after she met Jesus. They associate her with the woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, wiped them with her hair, and covered them with her kisses and costly perfume (Luke 7:36-50). They say that was the day she repented from her many sins, and Jesus forgave her. Luke (8:1-3) tells us that she had seven demons, and Jesus delivered her from the demons. So some think of her in terms of her deliverance from demonic possessions.

Instead of dwelling on the various speculations about her identity, let us focus on what today's Gospel passage makes available to us about her. The passage calls her **Mary of Magdala**. This identification suggests that she was from the ancient Jewish city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, three miles north of Tiberias called Magdala.

The Gospel passage further reveals that she came to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark. This gospel account does not mention anyone else with her. What could have made a Jewish woman to be out alone at such early hour while it was still dark? In addition to the darkness, she was going to meet a dead man in the tomb. Resurrection did not seem to be part of her expectation. She had with her, the oil for anointing the dead as part of the last rites or final respect for the dead.

What gave her such courage to be out and about alone that early while it was still dark? It must be the **conviction** that she found the good in Jesus, she found the **Messiah** in Jesus, and she found **God** in Jesus. Nothing could stand in her way, nothing could change her resolve, not even death, not the death of Jesus, and not the possibility of her own untimely death at that scary hour. It is not so clear at what point she first heard about Jesus and how she began to follow Jesus. But from what we see about her in today's Gospel passage, it is safe to imagine that when she began following Jesus, some family members and some friends thought she was out of her mind, they probably ridiculed her, but she was ready to stand alone as long as she was standing with God. If she was the woman, who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, wiped them with her hair, and covered them with her kisses and perfume, then it is easy to see how the intimidating looks of the Pharisees and the pretentious concern of Judas Iscariot for the poor, could not stop her from all she planned to do for Jesus on that day. So alone with none but God, Mary of Magdala made the dangerous and emotionally tortuous journey to the tomb just to attend to Jesus in the tomb. She was ready to stand alone as long as she is **standing with God**.



CHRIST THE LORD
IS RISEN TODAY!

Finally, she arrives at the tomb. She had thought death was the worst thing to have happened to Jesus, but now she finds out there is something worse. Oh no, the dead body of Jesus has been stolen. Who did this? They killed Jesus, now they have desecrated his dead body and would not allow him to rest in peace. They have denied him his last rites, his last respect. This is something worse than death!



Now comes our **Easter joy**: Alas Mary Magdalene was wrong. Nobody stole his body. But he is not in the tomb. What happened? **He has risen, Alleluia!** Death holds no more powers over him. Alleluia!

Holy week began on Palm Sunday and reaches its climax on Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection. But John’s gospel makes the point that it is precisely on the **Cross** that the work of Jesus is carried to its completion, that’s what **“it is accomplished”** means. What then is the Resurrection? The Resurrection does not cancel out the crucifixion as if it were only a passing episode on the way to Easter. **The Resurrection vindicates the crucifixion.** The Father and the Son together, in the power of the spirit are saying to us that the work the Father gave the Son is accomplish, is consummated, completed and finished as he dies on the Cross. The ruler of this world has been vanquished and Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb of God has won this victory on the cross, he has taken away the sin of the world. Today’s Second Reading, from letter to the Hebrews tells us that he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation. This is the **meaning of Easter.** The Resurrection therefore, must **free us from fear and let love take over.**

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE!

Fr John Nwadike CM

(Easter Sunday 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 .

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.