

St Joseph's and St Patrick's

Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity No. 249404

Barnoldswick, Earby and District

Parish Priest: Canon Kevin Firth

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www.stjosephsbarnoldswick.org.uk

12th WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

21st June 2020

The Bishops of England and Wales have decided to cease having public liturgies in our churches and chapels. Since the Church finds herself in this difficult situation because of the Coronavirus, the obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed until further notice.

Celebration of Mass.

Priests continue to celebrate Mass in the church without the presence of the people, on a daily basis. The continuing celebration of Mass ensures that the people can join in Spiritual Communion with the priests of the Church.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

(St Alphonsus Liguori)

Act of Perfect Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

Fr. Firth is saying Mass each day for all the intentions requested, as follows:

Sunday 21 st	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Janet and Jenny Nixon
Monday 22 nd	Ss. John Fisher and Thomas More	Agnes Power
Tuesday 23 rd	Weekday	Margaret Smart
Wednesday 24 th	Nativity of St John the Baptist	SVP and Friends
Thursday 25 th	Weekday	Francis Livsey
Friday 26 th	Weekday	Dead List
Saturday 27 th	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour	Jeanette and Chris Keane
Sunday 28 th	Ss. Peter and Paul	Peter Green (LD)

Mass intentions received: Peter Green (LD); Harold Watson (100th Birthday Rem).

CHURCH OPENING:

St Joseph's Church is opening for visits, between 10.00 – 12.00 noon each day and 6.00 – 7.00 p.m. on Tuesdays, with Covid19 safeguards and with stewards to direct visitors.

St Patrick's Church will be opening for visits also, 10.00 – 12.00 noon on Sundays and 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. on Thursdays.

Volunteers for acting as stewards are required please. Initially for 1-hour at a time and to follow instructions for safeguarding visitors and the Church. If you are willing to volunteer (however, not if you are in the high-risk group), please contact Fr. Firth for full details.

Living Faith Booklets have arrived and are on sale in Church.

Sacramental Programme: First Communion, Confession and Confirmation.

As churches are open for private prayer only, a Diocesan decision has been made to delay these programmes until Autumn / September. When more information is available, this will be passed on.

The Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) Society, who support those in need through contacting them, and other initiatives, are now meeting by ZOOM for a short prayer meeting and a chat every 3 weeks. If anyone is interested in joining the SVP please contact Kath Altham on 01282 813806. If you wish you can join a ZOOM meeting with us and get to know a little bit more about us.

Live-streamed Daily Mass from Leeds Cathedral at 10.30 a.m. and on **Sunday** at 11.00 a.m.

www.leedscathedral.org.uk

On the website entitled 'Universalis' you can read the Mass readings and the Daily Prayer of the Church, which all priests pray every day.

Please think about using your rosary and Stations of the Cross.

For people who have been unable to live-stream Mass or find it on digital TV channels, it is now possible to dial in to listen to Mass. The following telephone number is available to listen to Mass from home: 01642 130 120

Financial Support for the Church. (An updated note from the Diocese)

Whilst we understand that this is a time of great anxiety for all parishioners and that some people may not be in a position to continue supporting the parish financially, some of you have been asking how you can continue with your weekly contributions while the church is closed.

There are now three ways you may consider:

- **Standing Order.** You can set up a regular Standing Order with your bank. This can be cancelled whenever you want, or you may wish to continue donating this way once things get back to normal. If you would like to set this up please contact Anne Wood either via email aeswood@aol.com or by phoning 07882831159
- **Text Giving.** The diocese has set up a way of donating by text.
To contribute £5 to the parish offertory please text CHURCHBARLICK to 70500
You can text as often or as little as you like. The amount will be added to your Mobile Phone bill.
- **Online Donations.** You can visit the Leeds Diocese Website www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk and click on Online Parish Offertory and then search for St Joseph's Barnoldswick.

Of course, you may just wish to bring in your weekly envelopes when the church opens again. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support. Canon Kevin Firth.

Money Received: Loose - £70 Envelopes - £170

Special Prayers

Lillian Price – Jennie Hendley – Jim Kelly – Marie & Bob Fletcher – Mary Posiko – Margaret DeVito – Phyllis Kिरrage – Val Kaynell – Mark Hoare – Dale McLaughlin – Marie Keating – Max Hudson – Peter Catley – Stan Nelson – Paul Wood – Tony Atherton – Jennifer Purcell – Pat Maloney – Clifford Ball – Mandy McLaughlan.

Please pray for these and for the comfort of anyone suffering in any way. Please also remember the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Sermon

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. Whilst on one of my daily walks during the 'limbo' period we are all going through I spotted a dead bird half hidden below a tree. I thought of today's words of Christ in today's Gospel as I looked at the frail but bright little body of the bird: "not one (bird) falls to the ground without your Father knowing."

God knew all about the little bird in the semi-darkness below the tree falling down dead on the ground before I spotted the frail body. Why should we believe that the Creator notices such things? Because God's son who died and rose again to testify to the truth of what Christ has told us in the Gospel.

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2. What do you think about Divine Providence? Does God really take care of us? Does our prayer for help, protection and safety really make a difference?

When I was at college training to be a priest in Rome many moons ago, one day we were praying in the chapel together, I think it must have evening prayer. Sometimes the students were encouraged to make spontaneous bidding prayers. During one of those freely offered prayers a first-year lad called 'Dave' who was a bit of a dodgy character offered a spontaneous prayer. The prayer went something like this.

"I want you all to pray for a friend of mine who suffered from a life-threatening disease and we have been praying for him to get better. Well, he has made a miraculous recovery and our prayers have been answered, thank God. But today I received a telephone call from my family to tell me that he was crossing a busy road and has been killed by a lorry. Can we pray for his soul ...? Lord hear us."

There was more laughter than prayer from the seminarians rocking in the benches after hearing Dave's bidding prayer.

We all know many stories about really good people who have endured all kinds of sufferings. In our parish there are people we can bring to mind who suffer illness, anxiety, loneliness, or bereavement whose lives have been prayerful and devoted.

3. There is a phrase which keeps recurring in this extract in the Gospel today, the words of Our Lord "Do not be afraid". It occurs three times in seven lines. "There is no need to be afraid".

Christ repeats this to His closest associates. He is sending them out like sheep amongst wolves. He does not want them to be paralysed by fear, to throw in the towel and give up. God is on their side; God is on our side. No matter how bad things seem to be; this is what Christ is instilling into them "If you stand up for me, I will stand up for you!" This was not always obvious to the Apostles. After the crucifixion they became paralysed by fear: perhaps at that very time this phrase which Jesus had used earlier to them "do not be afraid" may have come into their minds. The Apostles did receive the courage to stand up before the Jewish religious leaders and say that they were proud to be punished for witnessing to the risen Christ. These were semi-literate workmen speaking with confidence and looking into the eyes of many a Roman magistrate, soldier or governor and telling them who Jesus Christ was and what He was offering them. "Do not be afraid."

4. Things do not go our way a lot of the time, sometimes the work we do seems not to bear the rich fruit we had hoped it would. We may see our prayers for helping someone not producing the results we had expected. But look at the courage we sometimes see from apparently weak and vulnerable people who are clearly filled with the Holy Spirit. I often witness this from Catholics and non-Catholics alike in our parish and elsewhere.

There is always an Easter morning to look forward to; there is the risen Christ to show us the road.

There are the strong arms of God's comfort during the testing times which often proceed the new life of Easter!

'Do not be afraid.'

Canon Kevin Firth

Airedale Hospital Chaplain: If you require Fr Michael McLaughlin please phone 01535 653153

Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the corner shopkeepers for they are the purveyors of scarce things.

Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers, the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants and the cleaners for they stand between us and the grave; the Kingdom of Heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the Church workers, the deacons, priests and bishops for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God.

Blessed are the single parents for they are coping alone with their responsibilities, and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone for they are children of God, and with Him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved for whom the worst has already happened; they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers for one day – we pray – they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts: all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and who model mercy. May you know comfort. May you know calm.

And may the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
Amen.

21 JUNE 2020

Sunday Message

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 4



DON'T BE AFRAID

(MATTHEW 10:26-33)

Today's Gospel is part of Jesus' mission discourse. The disciples are given reasons why they should be confident as they set out on their mission. Twice they are told, "Do not be afraid." The first time, it is intended to inspire boldness in their preaching. The second time, it is to encourage the disciples to remain steadfast in the face of persecution.

A prominent feature of the Old Testament stories of the calling of prophets is the comforting words: "Do not fear." The preachers of Jesus' message take their place alongside the prophets of old. The message they are to deliver is a bold, public proclamation of the good news of the kingdom of God. They may have received much of the substance of the message in private teaching from Jesus but the time has now arrived for them to proclaim that word publicly, even "from the rooftops". Many ancient religions claimed to have secret teaching that was only to be made known to those who had undergone lengthy rites of initiation. Christianity made no such claims. Its message was the Gospel, the good news of the coming reign of God, that was to be made known free of charge "to every creature", as Jesus would repeat in his final words after his resurrection.

But such public proclamation runs the risk of persecution and death. The call to confidence is supported by some sayings about God's provident care for the disciple. Mere earthly existence is not as valuable as the life of the soul. The one who has dominion over the life of both body and soul is the compassionate Father in heaven. Two comparisons of God's providence drive the point home. Sparrows, the smallest of birds, might appear to be of insignificant value but the Father keeps count even of them. By the same token, every hair on the human head has been counted and a human being is worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

The discussion of persecution introduces the theme of public witness. Declaring oneself for Jesus was part of Christian martyrdom. A disciple was a martyr because he or she had given public testimony for Jesus before the courts. The other side of martyrdom is that Jesus, the first witness, will in turn give evidence on behalf of the disciple in the heavenly court. The contrary is also true: a disciple who is so paralysed by fear that he or she publicly disowns Jesus will in turn be disowned by him before the heavenly court. ■

REFLECT

Matthew stresses that faith in Jesus can never be a purely private matter to be kept under wraps. This doesn't mean it is only preachers who give testimony to their faith in Jesus. When St Francis of Assisi was sending out his first friars to preach the good news, he told them "Preach the Gospel to every creature, using words if necessary."

Francis appreciated the importance of the witness of life, that everything we do and say is a witness to the Gospel. That witness can be as risky as the preached message. Confessing faith in Jesus publicly will earn the right to have him stand as our witness on the day of judgement. ■

LEARN

"Persecutions are not a reality of the past, for today too we experience them, whether by the shedding of blood, as is the case with so many contemporary martyrs, or by more subtle means, by slander and lies. Jesus calls us blessed when people "utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account". At other times, persecution can take the form of gibes that try to caricature our faith and make us seem ridiculous." – Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*

DO

Think about how you witness to the Gospel every day, whether at work, school or at home. How good a witness are you?



PRAY

Jesus tells us that we have nothing to fear. God has counted every hair on our heads. God is as close to us as our very own heartbeat. Thank the Lord for the gift of his love. Ask God to deepen your faith and trust in him.

SAY

"Lord, do not allow me to abandon or deny you in times of difficulty. Give me the strength to always speak your word."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your
heritage,
and govern them for ever.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your
holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your
love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.
Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!"
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends watched
for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be
theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with
justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on
them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 68

Response:

In your great love, answer me, O God.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my
brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)
2. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)
3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their
chains.
Let the heavens and earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

Sin entered the world through one man, and
through sin death, and thus death has spread
through the whole human race because
everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world
long before the Law was given. There was no
law and so no one could be accused of the
sin of "law-breaking", yet death reigned over
all from Adam to Moses, even though their
sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of
breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the
gift itself considerably outweighed the fall.
If it is certain that through one man's fall so
many died, it is even more certain that divine
grace, coming through the one man, Jesus
Christ, came to so many as an abundant free
gift.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among
us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: "Do
not be afraid. For everything that is now
covered will be uncovered, and everything
now hidden will be made clear. What I say to
you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you
hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-
tops.

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the
body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather
who can destroy both body and soul in hell.
Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny?
And yet not one falls to the ground without
your Father knowing. Why, every hair on
your head has been counted. So there is no
need to be afraid; you are worth more than
hundreds of sparrows.

"So if anyone declares himself for me in
the presence of men, I will declare myself for
him in the presence of my Father in heaven.
But the one who disowns me in the presence
of men, I will disown in the presence of my
Father in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation
and praise
and grant that, cleansed by its action,
we may make offering of a heart pleasing to
you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of
your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant
devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen.

"To be connected with the church is to be
associated with scoundrels, warmongers,
fakes, child molesters, murderers, adulterers,
and hypocrites of every description. It also, at
the same time, identifies you with the saints
and the finest persons of heroic soul within
every time, country, race, and gender. To be a
member of the church is to carry the mantle
of both the worst sin and the finest heroism
of soul... because the church always looks
exactly as it looked at the original crucifixion,
God hung among thieves."

Ronald Rolheiser OMI