

St Joseph's and St Patrick's

Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity No. 249404

Barnoldswick, Earby and District

Parish Priest: Canon Kevin Firth

Telephone No. 01282 812204

www.stjosephsbarnoldswick.org.uk

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13th December 2020

If you have Corona Virus Symptoms:

High temperature and new continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, take a test and stay at home. (NHS Advice)

It is now compulsory to wear a face mask in church.

Please sign your name and the number in your group, on entry to Church.

Times of Masses:

Saturday 12 th	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	Edwin Murgatroyd (LD)
Sunday 13 th	3 rd Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	People of the Parish
	Of Advent	10.30 a.m.	Cliff Smith (A)
Monday 14 th	St John of the	9.00 a.m.	Service of the Word and
	Cross		Holy Communion
Tuesday 15 th Dec	Weekday	7.30 p.m.	Zofia & Tadeusz Niewola
Wednesday 16 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Margaret & John Conheeney (A)
Thursday 17 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Keith Nussey
Friday 18 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Dead List
Saturday 19 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Fr Jack Kennedy (LD Keighley)
	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	Jenny Nixon
Sunday 20 th	4 th Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	People of the Parish
	Of Advent	10.30 a.m.	Teresa Nazaruk (LD)

Confessions: Saturday 9.30 – 10.00 a.m. and 4.45 – 5.15 p.m. In the Sacristy.

First Act of Reconciliation and Confession / First Holy Communion instructions have been conducted remotely in the past week and we hope the children (11) will be receiving the Sacrament of Forgiveness at the weekend between the times of the ordinary Masses.

Saturday 12th December 4.45 – 5.15 p.m. (Before Mass)

Sunday 13th December 8.30 – 8.45 a.m. (St Patrick's)

11.20 – 12.00 noon (After Mass)

And the same on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th December.

Mass Intentions Received: Eddie Murgatroyd (LD x12); A Novena of Masses (9) for the sick and housebound (from SVP).

CHRISTMAS MASSES: There will be extra Masses because of the increase in numbers which are likely. **YOU WILL NEED TO TELEPHONE** Fr. Firth (01282 812204) to book a seat(s).

St Joseph's - Mass will be celebrated at 4.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and at 10.30 a.m. on Christmas Day.

St Patrick's - Mass will be at 11.00 p.m. – nearly midnight – and 9.00 a.m. on Christmas morning.

Please book for a good seat! (or any seat).

We will need EXTRA STEWARDS for Christmas! HELP...

Christmas Masses – Wanted – Readers, Altar Servers and Stewards. We cannot celebrate the Masses without help!

If you are volunteering to be a Steward, please put your name on the list at the back of church.

Celebrations of Baptisms can now take place but only the immediate family are able to attend.

Weekly Offerings: 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 at this time, some of you have been asking how they can continue with their weekly contributions.

There are now three ways that 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 to church when it is open, or through Fr's letterbox. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Weekly Offerings Received: £1,003.60 Very many thanks.

Catholic Parish Diaries 2021 – These are available, free of charge, at the back of church.

Christmas-Card Board at St Joseph's near the shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Instead of handing cards to folks who come to Mass, why not sign and place a card on the board and perhaps make a donation towards the Christmas flowers.

Churches Together / Barlick Hope – This year it is not possible to distribute the hundreds of knitted angels, instead, the churches have suggested that everyone is encouraged to make a simple star out of cardboard and place it in their window – called 'Stars of Hope'. There will be further information on social media #stars of hope.

Week of Guided Prayer: In our parish we have a Leeds Diocesan Trained Prayer Guide who can offer to accompany individuals for a short retreat in daily life to explore how prayer is working for them. If you are interested, please get in touch. This is offered free to parishioners. Telephone the presbytery 01282 812204.

Repository Stall : There are many lovely Christmas gifts, cards and Advent Calendars available on the Stall, please have a look and see if there is anything there to fill a gap on your gift list. Many of us do not take money to church so please take what you want and when possible, put the exact money, or cheque, made out to St Joseph's, Barnoldswick, in an envelope marked Repository Stall in the basket where people place the collection. If you leave money on the stall, (this will be collected) please leave the exact amount as change cannot be given. There are some new Mass cards in the card stand, these are now placed in sections, and the price is marked at the top of each section.

Special Prayers

Lillian Price – Jennie Hendley – Jim Kelly – Marie & Bob Fletcher – Mary Posiko – Margaret DeVito – Phyllis Kirrage – 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 – Vincent Reeves – Marion Wilson – John Dwyer – Fr. Geoffrey Parfitt (Broughton Hall).

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.

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

**REJOICE —
THE LORD IS
NEAR!**
(JOHN 1:6-8. 19-28)



Statue of St John the Baptist on the north side of Charles Bridge, one of the most famous tourist spots in Prague

John the Baptist is, in some ways, a transitional figure: he straddles what we usually call the Old and New Testaments, by which we mean the Jewish and Christian scriptures.

He looks backward to the prophets of the Jewish tradition, especially to Elijah, the figure who represents the prophetic tradition. On the other hand, he looks forward to the coming of the Christ and functions as his herald, announcing the near arrival of the kingdom of God.

In today's Gospel episode, we hear how John was a puzzle to those who shared his Jewish faith: was he, in fact, the Messiah? There seem to have been more than a few people who thought that he might well be. The leaders of the people send representatives to ask John to clarify his position, and he states firmly that he is not the Christ, whose sandal-strap he is not worthy to undo.

The New Testament writers clearly had a difficulty with the figure of John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John was obviously a significant person at the time and so has a place in the Gospel tradition. The reading from the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel, the first paragraph of our extract today, presents him as being sent by God — as a witness. No matter how important John was in his own right, his place in the tradition is as a subordinate to Jesus, and once Jesus appears, John's role comes to an end. We might remember that the most important person in the Gospel tradition is Jesus: all other characters, no matter how significant, are always presented in relation to Jesus and never in isolation, separated from him. ■

LEARN

In the Fourth Gospel, the term "the Jews" normally refers to the Jewish leaders who are hostile to Jesus.

In the Gospel according to John, "to believe" is to make a positive decision for Jesus and his teaching.

Priests and Levites are figures principally associated with the Temple in Jerusalem.

REFLECT

Someone once remarked that there is no occurrence of the word "faith" in the Gospel according to John. This statement is, strictly speaking, true. The noun "faith" is not found, but the verb "to believe" occurs well over 100 times. Faith, in this sense, is not something that we possess but rather something we do. The Creed which we declare together at the Eucharist is a statement of doctrine, but faith is essentially a relationship with God. The evangelist John tells us throughout his Gospel version that to believe is to make a choice: it is not a matter of logic, but rather a personal decision to accept Jesus and his teaching.

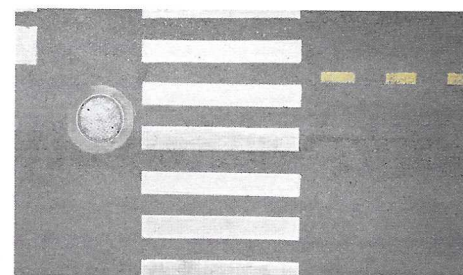
As we approach the celebration of the birth of Christ, we might reflect on this aspect of our Christian life. Sometimes cradle Catholics say that they envy people who come to the faith later in life, because they have had to make a conscious, adult decision for themselves in a way that others, born into Catholic families and raised in a Christian environment, never had to. At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of the light into the world. It is our choice whether we live in the light or not. We might make this Christmas an opportunity to renew that resolution once more. ■

SAY

Rejoice in the Lord always!
(Philippians 4:4)

DO

Look at the state of the roads around your town: how does their condition reflect your readiness to welcome Jesus at Christmas?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,
rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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 Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the
poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
"I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of
salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and
praise
spring up in the sight of the nations."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Luke 1

Response:

My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her
nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
(R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians
5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for
all things give thanks to God, because this is
what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the
gift of prophecy with contempt; think before
you do anything – hold on to what is good
and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect
and holy; and may you all be kept safe and
blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has
called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the
poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness.
When the Jews sent priests and Levites
from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"
he not only declared, but he declared quite
openly, "I am not the Christ." "Well then,"
they asked "are you Elijah?" "I am not" he
said. "Are you the Prophet?" He answered,
"No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We
must take back an answer to those who sent
us. What have you to say about yourself?" So
John said, "I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord."

Now these men had been sent by the
Pharisees, and they put this further question
to him, "Why are you baptising if you are
not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the
prophet?" John replied, "I baptise with water;
but there stands among you – unknown to
you – the one who is coming after me; and
I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap." This
happened at Bethany, on the far side of the
Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we
pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what has begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving
work.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do
not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save
us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of
our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The pilgrims continue to come. Only God
knows what each one of us brings, and with
what kind of heart. We come mystically to
this cave. We know the mess we bring and
the often distracted heart that brings it. But
this is all we have – all we are. One stretches
out his arms to receive.

Basil M Pennington OCSO

