

# 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](http://www.stjosephsbarnoldswick.org.uk)

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### 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.

In view of the current situation, it is even more important that we take care to stay safe when we are in church. Please sit as far apart as possible and please do not congregate at the back of church to chat with others but leave safely and promptly.

### **Times of Masses:**

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Fr. Parfitt (LD)
	Of Lent	10.30 a.m.	Fr. Theodore von Woerkom
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	9.00 a.m.	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	7.30 p.m.	John Spencer (LD)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	St Patrick	10.00 a.m.	Private Intention (JH)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	10.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Francis Livesy
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	St Joseph	10.00 a.m.	Eddie Murgatroyd (LD)
		7.00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross & Benediction (St Patrick's)
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Antoni Lis (B'day)
	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	John Dwyer (LD)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Sr Sophie's Intentions
	Of Lent	10.30 a.m.	People of the Parish

**This weekend** a number of our younger children will be making their First Confession before or after the weekend Masses. Please remember them in your prayers.

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

**Stations of the Cross and Benediction** at 7.00 p.m. on Friday (19<sup>th</sup>) at St Patrick's.

### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion.**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**Mass Intentions Received:** Intentions of Sr Sophie; William Scrivener (A); Antoni Lis (B'day); Dorota Lis (B'day); SVP & Friends; Refugees.

**Catholic Care:** have an annual collection (Env 21<sup>st</sup> Mar) for their work around the diocese which includes residential care for disabled people, care for senior citizens and children's homes along with many outreach services (including care of retired priests).

**Red Mission Boxes.** (St Joseph's and St Patrick's) If you have a Red Mission Box, please bring it into church for emptying. Thank you.

**National Novena to St Joseph:** 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March at St Joseph's Maidenhead. Wednesday to Friday at 7.30 p.m. Saturday 10.00 a.m. Sunday 11.00 a.m. Monday to Thursday 7.30 p.m. Zoom and YouTube via parish website: [stjosephsparish.co.uk](http://stjosephsparish.co.uk) and Mill Hill website [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena)

### **EASTER LITURGIES**

Holy Thursday (1 <sup>st</sup> April)	Mass at 7.00 p.m. (St Joseph's)
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross 10.45 a.m. (St Patrick's) Solemn Liturgy 3.00 p.m. (St Joseph's)
Easter Vigil – Saturday	Saturday 6.30 p.m.
Easter Sunday	Mass 9.00 a.m. (St Patrick's) Mass 10.30 a.m. (St Joseph's)

You will need to 'book' for Holy Thursday, Good Friday (3.00 p.m.) and the Easter Vigil and Sunday Masses. Please, either leave your name on the list in church, tell the stewards or telephone Fr. Firth 01282 812204.

**Weekly Offerings:** (To 10.3.21) : £571.90 Many thanks.

**Please Note:** The new set of envelopes do not have a different colour for the Special Collections, there is just a coloured swirl in the top right hand corner.

The next collection is for Catholic Care on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Would anyone like to start giving by Standing Order through their bank? We receive about £500 per month from Catholics in this way at the moment. It means if you are not at Mass we still benefit from your donations. For more information, please contact Anne Wood  
Tel: 07882831159.

### **Family Catechesis: CONFIRMATION**

Congratulations to the children of our parish who will be making their First Act of Reconciliation starting this weekend and continuing over the next few weekends. How appropriate in this month of March when Pope Francis has urged all of us who can do, to go to Confession and enjoy the wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Piety /Repository Stall.** Please have a look at the stall, there are new Mass cards, some Easter cards and some candles, as well as other new things. Give someone a gift this Easter. We all need a little light in our lives!

**Evangelism Training:** A basic 'How to Step Out' and share the Gospel with your neighbours, family, friends, and 'whoever crosses the path that the Lord has you on' (Psalm: 37 v23.)  
Tuesday evenings 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup> March on ZOOM @ 7.00 p.m. with entry @ 6.45 p.m.  
Trainers: Lea Shaw and Marilyn Harry. Details: Meeting ID: 85701940526 Passcode: 298344  
We look forward to seeing you and your friends!

### **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 McLaughlin – Vincent Reeves – Alfred Atherton – Jo Walton.  
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.

Please pray for Catherine Crimi for her birthday remembrance.

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



# JOHN 3:16

## THE GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL

(JOHN 3:14-21)

In the Fourth Gospel (John), Jesus encounters individuals who represent a specific type of person. Nicodemus is a Jewish scholar who is literally and metaphorically in the dark about Jesus. He is an honest individual, one with well-formed beliefs, whose attitude to Jesus is positive, but limited by his own understanding of God.

He is impressed by the signs that Jesus has worked, but these do not, and cannot, bring him to a true appreciation of who Jesus really is. He seems to want to fit Jesus into his present system of belief, but Jesus challenges him to expand his vision beyond a narrowly Jewish way of thinking to one which is universal.

Jesus appeals to their common Jewish heritage by invoking the memory of Moses fashioning the bronze serpent and curing the Israelites who had been bitten by snakes as punishment for their complaining during the Exodus journey through the wilderness. By a play on the verb "to lift up", he presents his own being exalted on the cross as a similar healing for all those who will look at him and believe. Jesus speaks of this concern of God as being due to God's love for the world, that is, for all human beings. It is on the response which the person makes to the revealing of God's self in Jesus that judgement depends: it is not an act of God, but the result of the decision which each person makes for themselves which determines whether a person is condemned or not. Judgement is in the here and now, based on whether we accept or reject Jesus and his message. ■

### LEARN

In the Gospel according to John, the crucifixion is "the exaltation" ("lifting up") of Jesus as king and priest.

Light and darkness/night are symbols of belief and unbelief in the Fourth Gospel.

Judgement in John is the decision the person makes to accept or reject Jesus and his message: it is something which the individual does, not an external, divine action.

### SAY

**The Son of Man must be lifted up... so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.**

(John 3:14-15)

### REFLECT

**N**icodemus is an interesting character. We first encounter him as a furtive figure, coming to Jesus under the cover of darkness: later he speaks up against the religious authorities' attempt to convict Jesus without giving him the benefit of due legal process; finally, he emerges as a courageous person, risking his reputation, and perhaps more, to bury the body of the crucified Jesus. We can see in him an example of developing faith and commitment.

It is in this dialogue between Jesus and the Jewish scholar that we find perhaps the most concise summary of the Christian faith. Sometimes, we can see displayed at sporting events posters proclaiming "John 3:16": this is the four-line verse which says: "God loved the world so much/ that he gave his only Son,/ so that whoever believes in him may not be lost/ but may have eternal life." Some people have said that if we were to lose the whole of the Christian scriptures except for this one verse, then we would still have the essence of the Gospel.

Nicodemus sincerely believed in the teachings he had received: Jesus did not tell him that he was wrong, but encouraged him to think more deeply about how God viewed the world, not just Nicodemus' part of it. Perhaps we might put ourselves in Nicodemus' shoes and broaden our understanding of Jesus and his message as well. ■

### DO

Memorise the text of John 3:16, given in the "Reflect" section.



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**COLLECT**

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race to yourself in a  
wonderful way,  
grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of  
Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the  
people too, added infidelity to infidelity,  
copying all the shameful practices of  
the nations and defiling the Temple that  
the Lord had consecrated for himself in  
Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their  
ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger  
after messenger, since he wished to spare his  
people and his house. But they ridiculed the  
messengers of God, they despised his words,  
they laughed at his prophets, until at last the  
wrath of the Lord rose so high against his  
people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple  
of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem,  
set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed  
everything of value in it. The survivors were  
deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon;  
they were to serve him and his sons until  
the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is  
how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he  
spoke through Jeremiah, "Until this land has  
enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years  
have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout  
the days of its desolation."

And in the first year of Cyrus king of  
Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that  
was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord  
roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to  
issue a proclamation and to have it publicly  
displayed throughout his kingdom: "Thus  
speaks Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord,  
the God of heaven, has given me all the  
kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to  
build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah.  
Whoever there is among you of all his  
people, may his God be with him! Let him go  
up.'"

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalms 136

Response:

**O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not!**

- By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion:  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps. (R.)
- For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.

"Sing to us," they said,  
"one of Zion's songs." (R.)

- O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! (R.)
- O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! (R.)

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 2:4-10

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

God loved us with so much love that he was  
generous with his mercy: when we were  
dead through our sins, he brought us to life  
with Christ – it is through grace that you have  
been saved – and raised us up with him and  
gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ  
Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come,  
through his goodness towards us in Christ  
Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace.  
Because it is by grace that you have been  
saved, through faith; not by anything of your  
own, but by a gift from God; not by anything  
that you have done, so that nobody can claim  
the credit. We are God's work of art, created  
in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from  
the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**  
**God loved the world so much that he gave  
his only Son;**  
**everyone who believes in him has eternal life.**  
**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

**GOSPEL**

John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have  
eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may  
not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be  
saved.

No one who believes in him will be  
condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is  
condemned already,  
because he has refused to believe  
in the name of God's only Son.  
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:  
that though the light has come into the  
world  
men have shown they prefer  
darkness to the light  
because their deeds were evil.  
And indeed, everybody who does wrong  
hates the light and avoids it,  
for fear his actions should be exposed;

but the man who lives by the truth  
comes out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen that what he  
does is done in God."

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

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
**Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We place before you with joy these offerings,  
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,  
praying that we may both faithfully revere  
them  
and present them to you, as is fitting,  
for the salvation of all the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one  
together.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of  
the Lord,  
to praise the name of the Lord.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes  
into this world,  
illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

