

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

24th May 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 24 th May		Stan Bajkowski (LD)
Monday 25 th	St Bede	Family Safeguarding (KA)
Tuesday 26 th	St Philip Neri	Mary O'Neill (2 nd An)
Wednesday 27 th	St Augustine of Canterbury	Hilda and James Marshall
Thursday 28 th		Francis Levy
Friday 29 th		Dead List
Saturday 30 th		Bernard Spencer (An)
Sunday 31 st	Pentecost Sunday	Mary (Moira) Murphy (LD)

Mass intentions received: Maggie Tullet; Stan Bajkowski (LD); Family Safeguarding (KA); Mary O'Neill (2nd An); Intentions of Josie & Jim Kelly; Mary (Moira) Murphy (LD).

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

www.leedscathedral.org.uk

In our Diocese:

St Edwards, Wetherby - www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-edward-king-confessor-church-clifford-wetherby

St Mary's Halifax – <https://www.stmaryshalifax.com>

There is Mass every day at 12.00 noon from the Church of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk – live or later – link: <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>

Daily Mass and other devotions can be accessed through EWTN television channel. These can be seen on line <https://www.ewtn.com/>

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.

Parish Income: Recently banked: £205. Easter Offering: (through the letterbox) £695

A thought for when you are washing your hands – instead of singing Happy Birthday twice, why not say a Hail Mary instead. (You could probably say a decade of the Rosary throughout the day!!)

If you would like to take a 'Virtual Tour of the Vatican Museum' the following link will take you there:
www.museivaticani.va Enjoy!

Special Prayers

Lillian Price – Jennie Hendley – Jim Kelly – Marie & Bob Fletcher – Mary Posiko – Margaret DeVito – Phyllis Kirage – 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

7th Sunday of Easter

1. I am very fond of reading the works of an historian called Edward Hales who has written several books of the 19th century papacy. In addition, Hales wrote a fantasy novel entitled 'Christ of Fire' in 1977. This novel is based on the 13th century Italian poet Dante and his descriptions of Heaven, Hell and Purgatory.

The story began with the death of a real rogue who became a brilliant confidence trickster and during his lifetime he deprived many honest people of their hard-earned income. The dead man arrived in the airport for eternity and was given a ticket to Hell. Whilst awaiting his flight to Hell he went into a coffee lounge and strikes up two

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conversations with a gentleman who had a ticket for Heaven. Using his earthly skills our man destined for Hell managed to exchange the other man's ticket for Heaven and get himself on the flight to the higher place.

When the rogue had got on the plane, he surveyed his fellow passengers and thought to himself 'these are not my sort of people'. The airplane landed in what looked more like a desert and all the passengers disembarked. A guiding angel explained that they all needed to make a long overland journey to reach their destination which would take an indeterminate time. 'This isn't for me' the rogue concluded and then gave himself up to the escorting angel and returned to the eternal airport and happily boarded a plane to Hell with a much more conclusive company of passengers.

2. A big question which confronts us all is what is eternal life? Jesus told His disciples in today's gospel reading from St John "And eternal life is this: to know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent".

In past ages many people feared God, but this is no-longer the case today and this has both good and bad consequences. Most people do not think they need any forgiveness; even amongst Catholics, the lack of queues in 'normal times' testifies to that. Unless someone commits an act of violence, has a major quarrel, or steals something, most people think that they are almost sinless.

Amongst the general population many believe that, if there is a heaven, there will be an envelope with their name on it containing a one-way trip to the heavenly realms once they leave this earthly life. But if some people have no relationship with God here on earth, perhaps the vision of spending an eternal now with God may not be so attractive.

3. If some folks have ignored God in this world, will they change their mind when they leave? But let us not forget the state between Heaven and Hell which Catholics call Purgatory. This was long dismissed by the Protestant Reformation in our country as non-existent. According to the churches created since the 16th century you are either damned or saved. In fact, most people no-longer believe in Hell either and think on terms of either nothingness or Heaven.

Purgatory is an important Catholic teaching. That is why we devote so much of our prayer to praying for people who have died. The answer to the question of eternal life is really focused on prayer. When we pray, we are plugging in to the electricity of eternity. Prayer is an act of love both to God and for the people we may be praying for and eternal life is one continual act of loving our Creator and all He has created.

But if there exist people who are not interested in God or their fellow human beings and God's creation, will they want to spend an eternal now in one great act of love?

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4. Hell is a real alternative for anyone who wishes to avoid God but, in the end will anyone want to avoid their loving Creator. Hell is a sign that our loving Creator does not force us to accept His embrace of love. Do you recall Christ's words on His sermon on the mount "Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to Hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it". Perhaps this means that Purgatory is brim-full of people working out their own repentance, gradually growing in love of God and a hatred of evil.
5. We are invited to share an eternal now in God's loving presence. Like the fictitious character in Edward Hales' novel we are invited to travel to see the face of God. By praying, by tuning in to God's presence we are beginning our journey together here and now.

As the prime minister has said, "we are all in this together" so maybe we will see the face of Christ in each other and that all of us are invited to take our ticket to an eternal destiny even if we cannot board an earthly plane at the moment.

Canon Kevin Firth

A reminder that the SVP and other volunteers are willing to get shopping, prescriptions etc. for the housebound, vulnerable and elderly. We are also available to ring people for a chat. If you have a need, or would like us to contact someone, (please check first with them that they would like us to do this - especially if they are unknown to us), please ring either Father Firth (01282 812204) or Kath Altham (01282 813806) and we can discuss if it is possible to provide help in some way.

Pendle Community Support Hub:

If you, or a vulnerable person you know, needs help, you can:

fill in our Pendle Community Support Hub form

email helpneeded@pendle.gov.uk

ring 01282 661743 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 3pm Saturday and Sunday

We expect calls to the new community hub to be high so please be patient – we will work hard to get the right help and support to people who need it.

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

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 3

THE IN-BETWEEN TIME

(JOHN 17:1-11)

On this Sunday between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, the Church puts before us the final prayer of Jesus from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus is aware that his departure is imminent, as his first words are, "Father, the hour has come". His leaving the disciples will be by way of the cross, but this is the means by which he and the Father will be glorified. For John, all the aspects of the paschal mystery take place at the crucifixion, and the crucial meaning of the resurrection is not that Jesus comes back to life (as Lazarus did), but that his existence is radically transformed and glorified.

Jesus' work of revealing God is nearing its end. He prays for his disciples, that God will be a Father to them and care for them in the midst of a hostile world. He has made known God's name, that is, all that can be known about God: it is this which makes possible the gift of eternal life. He asks that they be kept in the Father's name and so experience the unity that Jesus and the Father enjoy. Jesus' prayer ends with his declaration that he is returning to the Father, which is the meaning of the ascension, but there is still the final act of the paschal (or Easter) mystery to come – the sending of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. ■

LEARN

For John, the Fourth Evangelist, eternal life consists in knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

No one has to believe in any particular apparition of a supernatural figure.

In biblical thought, to know the name of a person is somehow to have access to that person's deepest being: hence the name of God YHWH is never pronounced in the Hebrew Bible.

DO

Look up at the sky; then look at a crowded street; where do you think Jesus is more likely to be found today?



SAY

**Eternal life is this:
to know you, the only
true God, and Jesus
Christ, whom you
have sent**

(John 17:3)

REFLECT

In the Gospel passage, Jesus says that he has made God's name known: that is, he has revealed all we can know about God. The tradition of the Church is the reflecting of the people of God on the word and what it means for the life of Jesus' disciples today. Our understanding of what the word signifies develops: the manner in which it is expressed has to adapt to changing circumstances while preserving the essential teaching; this is what we mean by tradition. In the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, we find that the most frequent references to the Holy Spirit occur in the chapter on tradition.

The same document teaches officially that no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Throughout the history of the Church, there have been groups which have claimed secret or mystical knowledge which is denied to run-of-the-mill Christians. Individuals have alleged that they have been given privileged information through visions or other experiences. The Church always treats such assertions of personal supernatural communications with a high degree of caution, if not suspicion.

No one, and no particular group, has any advantage over anyone else when it comes to knowledge of God. The teaching of Jesus is available to anyone who is open to accepting it: in this way, eternal life is offered to all. It is the Holy Spirit who will lead us into the complete truth. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;
hide not your face from me, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of
the human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
After Jesus was taken up into heaven, the
apostles went back from the Mount of Olives,
as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance
away, no more than a sabbath walk; and
when they reached the city they went to the
upper room where they were staying; there
were Peter and John, James son of Alphaeus
and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of
James. All these joined in continuous prayer,
together with several women, including Mary
the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 26

Response:

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land or the living.

or

Alleluia!

- The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
- There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,

to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. (R.)

- O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
"Seek his face." (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:13-16

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

If you can have some share in the sufferings
of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy
a much greater gladness when his glory is
revealed. It is a blessing for you when they
insult you for bearing the name of Christ,
because it means that you have the Spirit of
glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None
of you should ever deserve to suffer for being
a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer;
but if anyone of you should suffer for being a
Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it;
he should thank God that he has been called
one.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you, and your hearts will
be full of joy.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, the hour has come:
glorify your Son
so that your Son may glorify you;
and, through the power over all mankind
that you have given him,
let him give eternal life to all those you have
entrusted to him.
And eternal life is this:
to know you,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
I have glorified you on earth
and finished the work
that you gave me to do.
Now, Father, it is for you to glorify me
with that glory I had with you
before ever the world was.
I have made your name known
to the men you took from the world to give
me.

They were yours and you gave them to me,
and they have kept your word.
Now at last they know
that all you have given me comes indeed
from you;
for I have given them
the teaching you gave me,
and the they have truly accepted this, that I
came from you,
and have believed that it was you who sent
me.

I pray for them;
I am not praying for the world
but for those you have given me,
because they belong to you:
all I have is yours
and all you have is mine,
and in them I am glorified.
I am not in the world any longer,

but they are in the world,
and I coming to you."

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

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that through these acts of devotedness
we may pass over the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, I pray that they may be one
as we are also one, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear us, O God our Saviour,
and grant us confidence,
that through these sacred mysteries
there will be accomplished in the body of the
whole Church
what has already come to pass in Christ her
Head.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

