

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

17th WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

26th July 2020

Celebration of Mass.

The obligation to attend Masses on Sundays and Holydays remains suspended by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales; it is unlikely to be restored until the pandemic has ended in this country and people are able to attend Mass freely once again without any restrictions.

Consequently, those who are able to attend Mass on a weekday should consider doing so, thus enabling the Masses which are celebrated at the weekend to have more room available for those who are only free to attend on a Saturday evening or on a Sunday.

As numbers to the weekend Masses will be limited because of social/physical distancing guidelines people will need to register their intent to attend one of these Masses by phoning the presbytery (01282 812204) during the following times:

Thursday	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	
Friday	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.

Such a willingness to be flexible would ease the pressure on numbers attending Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to attendance at Mass for more people.

Ensuring the safety of people attending Mass will require a team of stewards to guide people before, during and after Mass and a team of cleaners to clean the church after each service.

If you are able to help with this, please contact Canon Firth at the presbytery.

At the public Masses, Holy Communion will be under one kind only, the Host will be placed in the hand, and the arm of the communicant must be at full stretch, there will be some form of distancing between Fr. and the communicant.

There will be NO Holy Water, hymn books, congregational singing, children's liturgy, Offertory procession or sign of peace.

Baskets for the Offertory Collection will be on the tables at the back of church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be resumed before weekday Masses (except Tuesday) from 9.30 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.

Confessions on Saturday evening 4.45 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.

Times of Masses:

Saturday 25 th	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	Jenny Nixon
Sunday 26 th	17 th Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	People of the Parish
		10.30 a.m.	Marion Wilson, Speedy Recovery
Monday 27 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 28 th	Weekday	7.30 p.m.	Dr Kenny & Family, Happy Retirement
Wednesday 29 th	St Martha	10.00 a.m.	Ted, Sheenagh & Stephen Chew
Thursday 30 th	St Peter	10.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Francis Livesy
	Chrysologus		
Friday 31 st	St Ignatius	10.00 a.m.	Michael McIlroy (LD)
Saturday 1 st Aug	St Alphonsus	10.00 a.m.	Graham Thompson (LD)
		5.30 p.m.	Dead List
Sunday 2 nd	18 th Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	People of the Parish
		10.30 a.m.	Liz Hall (LD)

Please Pray for Mrs Liz Hall who died recently. Liz was married to Fr. Michael Hall (ex C of E Vicar) who both gave our Parish Day of Recollection two years ago and also led day of preparation for our Confirmation classes.

Mass Intentions received: Hubert & Kathleen Martin (Intentions); Dr. Kenny & Family; Liz Hall (LD); Michael McIlroy (LD); Zofia Urbaniak (An).

Donations this week: From the baskets at the back of both churches : £700 - Many thanks.

Easter Collection for you Parish Priest has been more than generous in the circumstances at around £900. Many thanks.

The SVP is here to help in whatever way it can. Its members are aware that as society starts to find ways to function many people will be affected in different ways. We are concerned when we hear about redundancies, and other ways people are losing their jobs. Such additional worries add to the already existing concerns the virus has brought. If anyone is aware of individuals or families who are struggling financially or in other ways and think we could be of help, please do contact a member of the SVP, or pass a message through Canon Firth, or ring Kath Altham 01282 813806. If you contact one of us to make a referral please ensure you have the permission of the individual or family concerned. Our funds are not limitless so should you wish to make a donation to the SVP, that too can be done by contacting a member of the SVP.

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.

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 Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls ...”

In the world which Christ inhabited pearls were considered the most beautiful of all possessions. They were regarded as a source of pride and joy for everyone who could afford to purchase them. In fact, many people were willing to give up many other things in life to be able to own a beautiful pearl.

To experience beauty is one of the great joys of being human. Flowers in the garden, dramatic skies, distant breath-taking views can inspire us with a sense of wonder. Lovely music can transport us out of ourselves into a new world of emotion or delight, a world of peace and beauty.

When I settled in my first parish in Leeds, way back in 1978, I remember going up to the attic in the big Victorian presbytery in Headingley to see if I could find a chair for the desk in my room. The attic was full of odd bits discarded over the years. Rummaging around I came across a cardboard box with old newspapers wrapped around two objects in the box. I unwrapped them and low and behold there were a pair of Regency style Sheffield plate candlesticks. Going into the housekeeper's room I said to our housekeeper Agnes “look what I found in the attic!” “Yes” said Agnes “they belong to

me; I couldn't be bothered cleaning them and put them out of the way. Would you like in your sitting room?" So, I kept them, polished them and here is one of them!

The merchant sold everything to own the pearl of great beauty. A poor man sold all his possessions to buy a field containing treasure.

What is this thing of great value, this treasure, this thing of infinite value and beauty? It is the discovery of God's presence and His plans and hopes for His creation, more especially His human creation. It is the answer to the question.

"What does God want me to do with my life?" The answer will vary according to who and what we are. How does the Lord want us to spend the rest of our lives on earth?

He wants you and me to see Him in the reflections of His presence here on earth. Where is God reflected? The Creator is mirrored in the things He has created. In the beauty and wonder of this world which we inhabit, in God's creation of humanity, in His Holy and sinful Church, in music, in art, in a pair of old candlesticks discarded in a Victorian attic.

The important thing we are called to do is to search for the Almighty's hand in this world. That is a central purpose of our human existence. Most other things are of lesser importance. Everything else must come second place to God's will for us.

If we do not look for the Almighty's reflection within our lives and the people and things around us, we will not find Him. Seek and we will find but if we give up looking we will only see the earthly cycle of emptiness and death. However, if we keep the eyes of our mind, our soul and our bodies open to catch glimpses of God's presence and give thanks with our whole lives for uniting us with this infinite and mysterious presence.

Canon Kevin Firth

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

er: I couldn't be bothered cleaning them and put them out of the way. World you like
in your sitting room?" So I kept them, polished them and here is one of them!

The merchant sold everything to own the pearl of great beauty. A poor man sold all his
possessions to buy a field containing treasure.

What is this thing of great value, this treasure, this thing of infinite value and beauty? It
is the discovery of God's presence and His plans and hopes for His creation, more
especially His human creation. It is the answer to the question

"What does God want me to do with my life?" The answer will vary according to who
and what we are. How does the Lord want us to spend the rest of our lives on earth?

He wants you and me to see Him in the reflections of His presence here on earth.
Where is God reflected? The Creator is mirrored in the things He has created. In the
beauty and wonder of this world which we inhabit, in God's creation of humanity, in His
holy and sinful Church, in music, in art, in a pair of old candlesticks discarded in a
Victorian attic.

The important thing we are called to do is to search for the Almighty's hand in the
world. That is a central purpose of our human existence. Most other things are of
lesser importance. Everything else must come second place to God's will for us.

If we do not look for the Almighty's reflection within our lives and the people and things
around us, we will not find Him. Seek and we will find but if we give up looking we will
only see the earthly cycle of emptiness and death. However, if we keep the eyes of our
mind, our soul and our bodies open to catch glimpses of God's presence and give
thanks with our whole lives for uniting us with the infinite and mysterious presence.

Canon Kevin Fifth

Aredale Hospital Chaplain: If you require Fr. Michael McLoughlin please
phone 01835 653153

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 1



TREASURE HUNTERS (MATTHEW 13:44-52)

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to think about what we value most. He uses two parables to get his message across. In the first, a farm labourer discovers a treasure hidden in a field. He realises that it is a valuable find, that it will make him a wealthy man. He buries it again, and sells everything he owns in order to buy the field.

In the second, another man discovers a great treasure. But unlike the farm labourer, this man does not discover the treasure by accident. He has been searching for it. He is a merchant who deals in fine pearls. He knows exactly what he is looking for, and when he finds the most valuable pearl he has ever set eyes on, he is in no doubt what to do – he sells everything he owns so he can have that pearl. Pearls in the time of Jesus were the most valuable of all goods. Now that the merchant has that pearl of great value, he doesn't need to search any more.

Both the farm labourer and the merchant appreciate the value of what they have discovered. They are prepared to risk everything, to spend every penny they possess, in order to have it. Both know it's worth the risk, that it would be foolish to let the opportunity pass them by.

In these parables Jesus is asking if we perceive the kingdom of heaven in the same way. Do we see it as a treasure that is worth more than everything else we value in life? Are we prepared to give up everything, to risk everything, in order to have it? Jesus did. He gave up everything he valued – his family, his home – to do his Father's will and to preach the Good News. For Jesus, there was no treasure greater than doing his Father's will. He was even prepared to give up his life to hold onto it. As Christians, God and God's kingdom must be our greatest treasure. It must mean more to us than anyone or anything else. ■

SAY

“Lord, give me the grace to recognise the treasure in my life and the strength not to sacrifice it for things that are worthless. Amen.”

PRAY

We live in a materialistic world, which defines happiness in terms of the size of one's bank account and the extent of one's possessions. Pray for yourself and others that you will have the wisdom to know what is truly important.

REFLECT

People have always taken risks in order to find treasure. Think of the 200,000 who took part in the great California Gold Rush of 1849. Or those who spend all they have on “get rich quick” schemes or other ventures in the hope of striking it lucky. Think of an investor who gambles early on the success of a new company and who makes millions when the company is floated on the stock exchange.

Both the farm labourer and the merchant in today's Gospel know the value of what they've discovered. They are prepared to risk everything to have it because they know it's worth the risk.

Today's Gospel isn't about keeping a sharp eye out for hidden treasure or taking up a career as a venture capitalist. It is about values, priorities, knowing what's important, what our real treasure is. And for Christians the answer is clear: our treasure is the kingdom of God. Our treasure is Jesus. If we follow him, imitate him, live his way, then we will find what we are looking for, the most valuable treasure of all. The gift of salvation is a treasure far more valuable than all the pearls in the sea. ■

DO

Think of the most valuable thing you own, possibly your house. Now think of the words of Jesus in today's Gospel. Even your house, even everything you own lumped together, counts for nothing compared to God and God's kingdom.



LEARN

For Christians the only treasure that matters is the kingdom of God.

Wisdom is a gift of God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his
people.

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

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation,
nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and
guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
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

1 Kings 3:5-7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream
and said, "Ask what you would like me to
give you." Solomon replied, "Lord, my
God, you have made your servant king in
succession to David my father. But I am a
very young man, unskilled in leadership.
Your servant finds himself in the midst of
this people of yours that you have chosen,
a people so many its numbers cannot be
counted or reckoned. Give your servant a
heart to understand how to discern between
good and evil, for who could govern this
people of yours that is so great?" It pleased
the Lord that Solomon should have asked for
this. "Since you have asked for this" the Lord
said, "and not asked for long life for yourself
or riches or the lives of your enemies, but
have asked for a discerning judgement for
yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I
give you a heart wise and shrewd as none
before you has had and none will have after
you."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 118

Response:
Lord, how I love your law!

- 1 My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to
me
than silver and gold. (R.)
- 2 Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. (R.)
- 3 That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. (R.)
- 4 Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

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

We know that by turning everything to their
good God cooperates with all those who
love him, with all those that he has called
according to his purpose. They are the ones
he chose specially long ago and intended to
become true images of his Son, so that his
Son might be the eldest of many brothers.
He called those he intended for this; those he
called he justified, and with those he justified
he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

(For shorter form Mt 13:44-46, read between
> <).

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

>Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of
heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which
someone has found; he hides it again, goes
off happy, sells everything he owns and buys
the field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a
merchant looking for fine pearls; when he
finds one of great value he goes and sells
everything he owns and buys it. <

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a
dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul
of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen
haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect
the good ones in a basket and throw away
those that are no use. This is how it will be at
the end of time: the angels will appear and
separate the wicked from the just to throw
them into the blazing furnace where there
will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They
said, "Yes." And he said to them, "Well then,
every scribe who becomes a disciple of the

kingdom of heaven is like a householder who
brings out from his storeroom things both
new and old."

>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

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings
which we bring from the abundance of your
gifts,
that through the powerful working of your
grace
these most sacred mysteries may sanctify
our present way of life
and lead us to eternal gladness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine
Sacrament,
the perpetual memorial of the Passion of
your Son;
grant, we pray, that this gift,
which he himself gave us with love beyond
all telling,
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.