

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

The 23rd Week in Ordinary Time
6th September 2020

Celebration of Mass.

It is now compulsory to wear a face mask in church – even if you are very beautiful.
There is now no need to register to attend the weekend Masses just sign your name and the number in your group, on entry to Church.

To ensure the safety of people attending Mass there are teams of stewards to guide people before, during and after Mass, and a team of cleaners to clean the church after each service.

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

Confessions at St Joseph's on Saturday 9.30 a.m. and 4.45 – 5.15 p.m., in the SACRISTY and at St Patrick's on Sunday after 9.00 a.m. Mass.

Times of Masses:

Saturday 5 th	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	Janet Nixon
Sunday 6 th	23 rd Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	People of the Parish
		10.30 a.m.	Stella Scrivener (A)
Monday 7 th	Weekday	<u>9.00 a.m.</u>	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 8 th	Birthday of Our Lady	7.30 p.m.	Zofia & Wojciech Rejchell (B'd Rem)
		(9mths after the Immaculate Conception! 8 th Dec.)	
Wednesday 9 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Larry & May Shields
Thursday 10 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Francesca Crimi (A)
Friday 11 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Dead List
Saturday 12 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Graham Thompson (LD)
	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	Jenny Nixon
Sunday 6 th	24 th Week in Ordinary Time	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Francis Livsey
		10.30 a.m.	People of the Parish

Mass Intentions received: Francesca Crimi (A); Intentions of Sharon Costello;.

Numbers at Masses: Wed : 22 Thurs : 8; Fri : 20; Sat : 10.00 a.m. 14; 5.30 p.m. 24;
Sunday 9.00 : 27; 10.30 : 44 Mon : 10; Tues : 10 Total : 199 (Last week : 148)

Donations this week: From the baskets: £511.90 - Many thanks.

Singing at Mass : We are now allowed to have up to 10 socially spaced singers singing!

Statue of Our Lady and Child : This has been in the Sacristy at St Patrick's for many years and has now been donated to St Joseph's school. The school has created a prayer room off the main corridor and the statue will form the main focus for prayer.

The Briery Retreat Centre, Ilkley.

Retreats: 18th – 20th September. Weekend, led by the Briery Team – open to everyone.

25th – 27th September. Living with Loss (bereavement weekend with opportunity for day guests)

Contact www.briery.org.uk or Tel: 01943 608 287

Stewards: The whole parish is extremely grateful to all who so willingly volunteered to look after the church and sanitise the benches. There are parishes in Leeds Diocese who only have a very limited number of Masses because they are unable to get enough volunteers to be stewards. If anyone else would like to volunteer, please let us know. (01282 812204)

Celebration of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals may take place in church following the social distancing regulations. This means a maximum of 30 people can be present, and no congregational singing. Care needs to be taken about anointing and pouring of water in the case of Baptisms.

The Parish Centre is now open on a limited basis for some groups who have to take on responsibility for keeping to the health and safety precautions. Thanks be to God!

St Vincent de Paul Society: We are aware of the impact Covid 19 is having on the lives of some people and wish to offer help and support where we can. What we can do is restricted but we can offer a telephone service chatting to the housebound and lonely; someone will run local errands and we have limited funds to provide financial support. The school holidays are costly, providing food and activities to keep children happy and occupied. The impending new school term can also be a financial burden. We will do what we can to help. If you are making a referral on behalf of someone (please obtain their permission first) or wish to make a donation to the SVP please contact Fr. Firth, Kath Altham (01282 813806) or a member of the SVP.

Cleaning: We need volunteers to clean St Joseph's on Friday morning after 10.00 a.m. Mass – HELP please!

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.

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. Some years ago I went to stay with a friend of mine who is a bishop in the south of England. One morning whilst I was staying there, I went into his office and he looked at me with a sad face. "Is something wrong?" I asked "Look at this stack of letters" he replied "Nearly all of them are letters of complaint. They are complaining about their priest, their parish council, they are complaining about their school, the teachers, they are complaining about me! Why can't they sort it out for themselves and just sit down and talk to the people concerned!". Being a prejudiced Yorkshireman, I tentatively said "Is it because most of them are southerners?"

2. In today's Gospel, St. Matthew gives us a setting for addressing issues and problems which arise in the life of the organised community of the Church. The theme is the Relationship of members of the Church. The phrase St. Matthew uses is 'brothers' suggesting that this is how the Church community should see one another, brothers and sisters, a part of an extended family. In the ancient world 'family' meant everything, more than country, nationality, or religion.

The advice is straight-forward "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves". The Gospel says that the offended party, not the offending one should first seek reconciliation. It advises personal intervention and honest confrontation. It encourages members of the Christian community to straighten things out with each other privately if that is possible. Christians are to deal with each other candidly and personally and not by anonymous complaints to the authorities or whisper campaigns.

If this fails, the Gospel suggests bringing in one or two others who are to try and settle the matter before it goes into the public arena. Only if this fails is the offended party to bring the matter to the attention of the whole community. If the wayward brother or sister is still impatient, they may be excluded from the life of the community. The decision of the Church will be the decision of God "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven ..."

3. This practical advice in today's gospel centres on Christians taking responsibility for one another. It means having a concern for other people who are trying to follow Christ. It implies that we are all brothers and sisters with a common share Father and a special brother we call Jesus Christ.

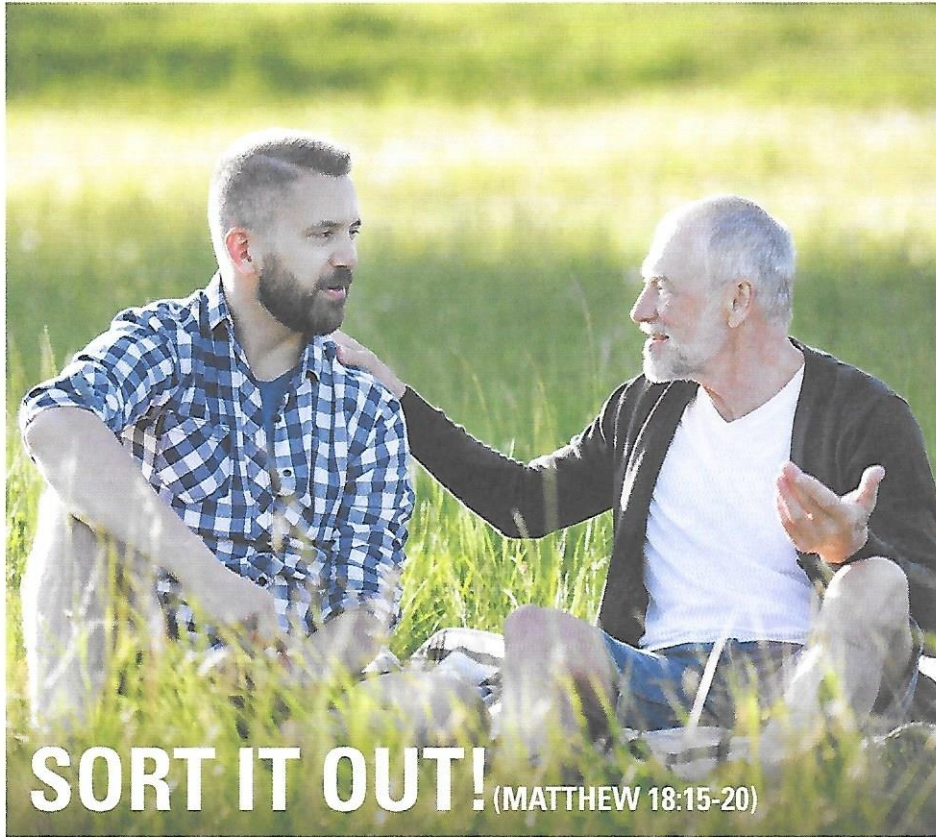
It is a way of handling wrong doing and hurt. Charitable confrontation can sometimes be the only language of love. Writing to the Church in Rome, St Paul reminded them "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour." If love is real, it cannot always avoid facing conflict. Where silence would permit greater division in the community, love must do something to heal the break. A great Irish politician Edmund Burke said two centuries ago "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing". It certainly proved to be true in Germany during the 1930s with the rise of Adolf Hitler and in many more places since then.

4. Today's gospel is not an easy one to follow. If we feel hurt by someone in the family, in our work place, in our church, the best advice is to seek out the person and speak gingerly hoping that our halting efforts at giving voice to our hurt will be accepted in the best spirit.

"Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them" Christ tells us.

Canon Kevin Firth

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



SORT IT OUT! (MATTHEW 18:15-20)

Matthew continues his account of the teaching of Jesus about life in community. Jesus accepts that relationships between disciples are likely to go wrong from time to time, but the true disciple will not allow such a situation to continue.

The threefold procedure which Matthew presents is the Jewish way of resolving a grievance: first, the personal, informal confrontation; secondly, the more formal meeting in the presence of witnesses; and thirdly, when these attempts fail, the official proceedings in front of the community, the Church. Treating the offender “like a pagan or a tax collector” can be understood as excommunicating them from the body of believers: it might also be taken to mean that they need further evangelising and training in what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Earlier in the Gospel narrative, Jesus had given Peter the power to bind and loose, to forbid and to allow. Here, he gives the same power and authority to the wider group of disciples. The way in which this is expressed means that God will accept whatever decision the disciples arrive at. And Jesus will be present when disciples gather in his name, he will be truly *Emmanuel*, “God-with-us”. ■

LEARN

The term “brother” here signifies another member of the community: we can reasonably understand it as meaning brother or sister.

In Rabbinic thought, the divine presence is with people who study *Torah*, the Law.

In some synagogues, a light is kept burning in front of the Ark, the cupboard where the scrolls of the scriptures are kept. Christians will recognise the significance of this sanctuary lamp.

The divine presence is denoted by the Hebrew noun *Shekhinah*.

REFLECT

Misunderstandings are a very common occurrence in social interaction. We can all think of occasions when someone has taken something we have said in the wrong way, and when we have done the same. Judaism and Christianity are both community religions, and so it is important for the wider group that such damaged relationships should be repaired as soon as possible. Jesus tells us that if we are at odds with someone, then we should sort it out before we come to celebrate the Eucharist, which is the sign of unity among those who are taking part. Whether we are the innocent or guilty party does not matter; we are told that we are to clear the air and be reconciled. Otherwise, we are likely to end up in that most unhealthy of emotional states, resentment. Anger can compel us towards action: resentment simply turns us in on ourselves, nursing our wrath to keep it warm. For our own sake, even if our efforts fail, we are encouraged to do what we can to put things right.

Also in our Gospel passage, we find that Jesus gives the same authority to the wider group of disciples as he gave to Peter in the matter of deciding what to allow and what to forbid. Perhaps there is a lesson here for discerning decisions in the Church today. ■

DO

Sort out any awkward situation you experience with another person, especially anyone with whom you celebrate the Eucharist.

SAY

How very good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

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, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
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

Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, "Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 94

Response:

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work." (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-10

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

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

"I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

"I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."

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

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that, through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Christ asks for a home in your soul, where he can be at rest with you, where he can talk easily to you, where you and he, alone together, can laugh and be silent and be delighted with one another.

Caryll Houselander

