

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 24th Week in Ordinary Time
13th 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 12 th	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	Jenny Nixon
Sunday 13 th	24 th Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Francis Livsey
		10.30 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 14 th	Exaltation of	<u>9.00 a.m.</u>	Service of the Word and
	the Holy Cross		Holy Communion
Tuesday 15 th	Our Lady of	7.30 p.m.	Josie & Jim Kelly 60 th Wedding Ann.
	Sorrows		
Wednesday 16 th	Ss Cornelius	10.00 a.m.	Jeanette, David & Chris Keane
	& Cyprian		
Thursday 17 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	SVP & Friends
Friday 18 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Dead List
Saturday 19 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Intentions of Sharon Costello
	Vigil	5.30 p.m.	Refugees
Sunday 20 th	25 th Week in	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Hubert & Kathleen Martin
	Ordinary Time	10.30 a.m.	Louise Whalley

Mass Intentions received: Jeanette, David & Chris Keane; Hubert & Kathleen Martin; Matt & Rose Dunne. Louise Whalley (Ann.) Cliff Smith (Ann.) Eric Wilkinson (Ann.)

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.

St Joseph's Church Seating: As everyone now wears beautiful designer masks, we can now use alternate benches in the church which will increase our capacity for Mass numbers.

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!

SVP - SEPTEMBER RECRUITMENT MONTH

Traditionally we have spoken to you all at one of the Masses in September about the SVP and what we do. As this is not possible this year we are inviting you all to think about joining the SVP as a full member or an auxiliary member (you can be called upon to help at specific times and for specific needs). We are having a ZOOM meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 6.00. It is slightly more informal than our regular meetings, it involves a short reflection and prayers....as well as a chat. If you would like to join us at that meeting or find out about the SVP and what you could do as part of the group please do speak to any member of the SVP, Father Firth or contact Kath Altham (01282 813806). If you would like to give a donation please contact any SVP member, Father Firth or Kath Altham.

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank is short of tinned meat, tuna and biscuits. The collection box is still in the porch at the back of church.

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

1. During my five years in a Bradford parish we had four hundred and fifty-one funerals (between 3 priests). Often relations would say “She/he never did anyone any harm, she/he was a good soul”. But there is no virtue in simply not harming other people, it is like the parable of the talents when the one who brings the money and does nothing is condemned by his master.
2. Many Christians view Jesus as meek and mild and see Him as all loving, all forgiving but in the gospel He constantly tells people that they are responsible for their actions. There is such a thing as judgment. The end of St Matthew's gospel 'The parable of

the sheep and goats' the Lord tells us that God's judgment is based on how we treat other people in this life "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers/sisters you do unto me". Christ Jesus tells us in today's parable in the gospel that those who do not forgive will not be forgiven themselves by God. Judgment is not a fashionable part of the Christian faith at the moment, nevertheless it is a central element in God's revelation to us all.

3. Many believers and most nonbelievers do not look on themselves as sinners. Does that mean that there are very few imperfect people who need forgiveness? As I have said frequently before, just turn the ignition on a car and drive out into the streets and roads of our country. You see the whole gourmet of human interchange. There are patient, courteous, and considerate road users, there are impatient, rude, and quick tempered drivers too. The whole world of goodness and badness is to be witnessed on our roads and I am not always kind and considerate. Like many I get impatient and annoyed and think my style of driving is the best and I am wrong!
4. Christ offers us all the grace of forgiveness providing we are willing to forgive others. I recall two elderly brothers in one parish I was in who were both housebound and I brought them Holy Communion regularly and they lived about half a mile apart. They had not spoken to one another for years because of a family quarrel twenty years previously. Whilst bringing them the Blessed Sacrament I told them both on at least one occasion that I really should not be coming with Christ unless they learnt to forgive another. "But its his fault" they both told me.

Mostly people do not feel the need to forgive or be forgiven. Another example of this I recall visiting a Care Home with nine Catholics living there. I asked each one if they would like to receive forgiveness and go to Confession. Eight said they were sinless, and one received forgiveness in the Sacrament. After they had all received Holy Communion together and began to disperse one lady swore at an old man for "pinching her seat". Another sinless Catholic threw his tea on the floor in a fit of temper because it had gone cold whilst we were having Holy Communion. I smiled and thought that all nine needed forgiving as much as I do!

5. What do we need to confess? Most of us do not find ourselves on a murder charge and we are not generally inclined to robbery so what sin have we found ourselves involved with?

To find out, let us try asking ourselves a few questions. To begin, how often do I fail to put God first in my life? Do I put money, amusement, or something else first? Secondly, how often have I used other people for my own ends and advantage instead of thinking of their needs? Lastly, do I use and value the gifts God has endowed me with, and do I try to use these gifts for others, for myself or not at all? Even from these three questions I always find myself in sin, what about you?

Remember the important thing in Sacramental forgiveness is not what we say but simply that we are sorry. Sometimes I hear Confessions in Polish, and it does not matter that my Polish is non-existent, but God's grasp of the language is perfect! There is nothing so wonderful or so vital in this life as forgiveness. How can we offer it and receive it as we journey through this life?

Canon Kevin Firth

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

13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday Message

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 4



During this discourse, the fourth of five in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus continues to show how society's standards are not those of his disciples.

Peter presents a question about forgiving other people, and his initial proposal of doing so on seven occasions might appear to veer on the generous side. But Jesus replies in terms which suggest an incalculable number, and one which calls into question a system of pardon founded strictly on justice. Jesus illustrates God's attitude by the parable of the debtor who refused to cancel a trifling amount in spite of his own creditor wiping out an enormous bill which he had no hope of ever settling.

Peter wants to know the limits of forgiveness. He is told that there is no limit to God's forgiveness, and the parable makes it clear that the disciple of Jesus is expected to reflect this when dealing with other people. The master's understanding and kindness is further emphasised when he cancels what he now refers to in the original text as a loan, rather than a debt. The ghastly punishment mentioned at the end of the story is not given in light of the debt owed but because of the person's refusal to forgive someone else. Also, this forgiveness must be genuine, "from the heart", and not just a superficial action which conceals the person's true feelings and attitude. ■

LEARN

The law of retaliation (*lex talionis*) was a statute restricting retribution to the extent of the injury caused. It was intended to stop the developing of a vendetta which would have no ending.

A talent was a financial unit, representing a great sum of money. Ten thousand of these would be an astronomical amount which a servant would have no hope of ever repaying.

To end up in slavery as a result of debt was common in the ancient world. Under Jewish law, a wife could not be sold in this way.

SAY

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
(F.W. Faber)

REFLECT

There is, in fact, a limit to God's forgiveness, and that is the limit which we ourselves impose. We are warned elsewhere in the Gospel that the amount we measure out will be the measure which we receive. But, more importantly, we ourselves remind God of this, and ask God to treat us as we treat others each time we say the Lord's Prayer. One of the effects of using archaic language is that sometimes we do not really understand what we are saying: the line "Forgive us our trespasses..." really means "And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors", and Jesus goes on to spell out clearly that this is the standard of forgiveness that we will be subject to, one that we ourselves have laid down.

Peter's posing of the question recalls an early story in Genesis about Lamech (Gen 4:23-24). This episode illustrates the increase in violence among human beings, where Lamech boasts about exacting seventyfold vengeance for injuries he received. The law of retribution ("eye for eye, tooth for tooth") was intended to restrict revenge to the proportion of the offence, so it meant *only* an eye for an eye, *only* a tooth for a tooth... But later biblical teaching is about reconciling the parties. It may well be that Matthew is linking the debt owed to the master in the parable to sin, hence the master represents the heavenly Father. It is the clear, and uncomfortable, message that if we hope that God will forgive us, then we should be careful where we set the limits of God's mercy. It is truly in our hands. ■

DO

Look into your own heart. Is there someone there whom you will not forgive? What might you do about this?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

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

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your
mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our
heart.

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 Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.
Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the
vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be
forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the
Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes
resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by
the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not
bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High,
and overlook the offence.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 102

Response:
**The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the
earth
so strong is his love for those who fear
him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 14:7-9

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

The life and death of each of us has its
influence on others; if we live, we live for the
Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so
that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This
explains why Christ both died and came to
life, it was so that he might be Lord both of
the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Lord,
how often must I forgive my brother if he
wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus
answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-
seven times.

"And so the kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who decided to settle
his accounts with his servants. When the
reckoning began, they brought him a man
who owed ten thousand talents; but he had
no means of paying, so his master gave
orders that he should be sold, together with
his wife and children and all his possessions,
to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw
himself down at the master's feet. 'Give me
time,' he said, 'and I will pay the whole sum.'
And the servant's master felt so sorry for him
that he let him go and cancelled the debt.
Now as this servant went out, he happened
to meet a fellow servant who owed him one
hundred denarii; and he seized him by the
throat and began to throttle him. 'Pay what
you owe me,' he said. His fellow servant fell
at his feet and implored him, saying, 'Give
me time and I will pay you.' But the other
would not agree; on the contrary, he had him
thrown into prison till he should pay the debt.
His fellow servants were deeply distressed
when they saw what had happened, and they
went to their master and reported the whole
affair to him. Then the master sent for him.
'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all
that debt of yours when you appealed to me.

Were you not bound, then, to have pity on
your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?'
And in his anger the master handed him
over to the torturers till he should pay all his
debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will
deal with you unless you each forgive your
brother from your heart."

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

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord,
and in your kindness accept these, your
servants' offerings,
that what each has offered to the honour of
your name
may serve the salvation of all.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the
shadow of your wings.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord,
we pray,
take possession of our minds and bodies,
so that its effects, and not our own desires,
may always prevail in us.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

