

St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

5th Sunday of Lent

29 March 2020 (Year A)

Parish Administrator: Kathryn Lynam; **Assistants:** Emma Harrison and William Scrope
Office Hours: Tuesday (busy), Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm; Friday 9:30-3:30pm.

Under normal circumstances the Church itself should be open 9:00am -5:00pm on a weekday.
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Mass Times this Week

Saturday 28 Feria
5:45pm Vigil Mass: *Danny O'Donnell RIP*

Clocks go forward

Sunday 29 5th Sunday of Lent
Rededication of England
as the Dowry of Mary
10:00am Mass: *Jim Reilly RIP*

Monday 30 Feria

Tuesday 31 Feria

Wednesday 1 Feria
9:30am Mass: *Conal Kavanagh RIP*
10:30am Burial of Howard Snowdon – family only

Thursday 2 Feria
6:30pm Mass: *EBC*

Friday 3 Feria
9:30am Mass: *Dead of the EBC*

Saturday 4 Feria
5:45pm Vigil Mass: *Parish*

Sunday 5 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
10:00am Mass: *Margaret Hewitt RIP*

A Message from Fr James

Today, the 5th Sunday in Lent, used to be known as "Passion Sunday", the day which marked the beginning of Passiontide, the two weeks running up to Easter, in which all the statues and crucifixes in the churches were veiled from view.

It was the time for focussing as fully as we can on Christ's last weeks on earth before his death on the Cross; the liturgy in Passiontide changed somewhat, becoming more sombre and the tone of the prayers was, and still is, one of urgent pleading.

It seems, therefore, very appropriate for our situation today; with all the difficulties and fears we have at the moment, what could be better than to put ourselves close to Our Lord, who suffered far more than we could ever do, and offer our own very real sufferings to Him?

Yes, our sufferings are real. Now we are called to think of and pray hard for the multitudes around the world who would love to only have our sufferings to cope with!

We are, and remain, blessed in every way; each one of us can count a long list of ways in which God continues

to shower us with blessings - O Lord, make us worthy of them! Again, with striking aptness, the readings at Mass today remind us of how suffering and indeed death itself lead to something far more wonderful. The first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel speaks of the Lord's promise to "open your graves" and then to put His own Spirit in us....so that we may live.

Doesn't the second reading from Romans point to the fulfilment of this promise, when St Paul writes: "People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you.

The Gospel reading harks back to the first one, with the account from St John (Our St John!!) about the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Notice how "Jesus wept"! Now, just as at that time, He cannot fail to be moved today by the sufferings and heartache we have to endure in this life, despite all the blessings! He was not and can never be a passive bystander. He is intimately involved with us in all we have to endure. This is the time to really take this to heart and to be thankful for what He gives us.

Let us not forget, too, that He has given us Mary, His own blessed Mother, whose heart was pierced by a sword of sorrow.

Today we solemnly rededicate England to Mary, as her dowry. As we say the prayers of rededication, wherever we are, let us be certain that what we do today will bear great, great fruit. Let us commend our country to her; let us indeed commend all those suffering throughout the world to her, and let us above all never forget the message of today's liturgy - that after suffering comes Glory!

Laudetur Jesus Christus!

Thought for the Week

God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance of our will to overcome them.

C.S. Lewis

Information and Useful Links

Please see our website for a list of on-line resources, including churches who are live-streaming Mass, and Magnificat's offer for free on-line access during this troubled time. You can also go on www.ChurchPaper.co.uk for editions of all the catholic newspapers.

Please give Kathryn your email address if you would like to receive the bulletin in soft copy.

Cpl Jones was right!

In the mid-20th century Britain experienced a fight for its very survival, and now we seem to be in another type of struggle which few could have predicted. There was, of course, much humour associated with WWII, both during it and afterwards, and many of us will remember with pleasure programmes like "Dad's Army"; who can forget the inimitable Corporal Jones with his catch-phrases, the more printable of which was of course "DON'T PANIC!"

His advice (even though shouted out in panic!) is certainly needed today, as we see so much that we have come to take for granted either being restricted or going altogether; the Corona Virus pandemic has come about so quickly that we are all feeling disorientated and wondering how we are going to come through it.

It is never a bad thing to ask ourselves some searching questions – in fact, it is the best way to become the persons we are meant to be – but to be really fruitful it must be done in a spirit of calm, as we realise that panicking isn't going to get us anywhere but rather damages us and those around us.

Perhaps a good place to begin is to remember the words of Our Lord as he reminded us of the two essential commandments: to love God and our neighbour as ourselves.

Our society would benefit so greatly if it were able to return to what really matters, and see a world and everything in it created good by the Father, which then leads us on to seeing the goodness in those around us.

Once we see that, we come to realise, maybe with a shock, that I am no more important than the person I'm passing in the street or sitting next to on the bus. Christ himself told us to value others more than ourselves; what an impact it would have if we could all make a point of doing that in these very difficult days: no more empty shelves in supermarkets would be an immediate sign that something has changed for the better; the old

and vulnerable would have what they need (we all would!) and we would feel a sense of trust and co-operation rather than suspicion and even aggression, which are inevitably so life-draining.

Since I arrived in Easingwold I have found a wonderful spirit here: friendly, welcoming, cheerful and generous – qualities we certainly don't find everywhere. Our task now is to protect them and hone them to perfection, remembering that there will be a post-Corona world – and that this is the time to begin shaping it: let's resolve to make it a better world!

Fr James

Upcoming Events COVID-19 permitting (See Posters)

April

- Sun 5 Palm Sunday
- Thur 9 Maundy Thursday:
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Fri 10 Good Friday:
3pm Good Friday Liturgy
- Sat 11 Holy Saturday
8:30pm Mass of the Easter Vigil
- Sun 12 Easter Sunday
10am Sung Mass of Easter
- Sun 19 Divine Mercy Sunday. St Aelred's have extra celebrations, see poster
- Thur 30 Parish Forum at 7:15pm: Details of the Summer Fayre will be on the agenda.

July

- Sat 4 Summer Fayre in the Priory Garden

Eggs

Still available in the Porch, many thanks to Trish and Jane. £1 per box, in the Poor Box slot.

Offertory Collections and Charities:

- Thank you for those of you who have offered different ways in which they can still make an offering to the Parish. Envelopes can be dropped through the letterbox of the priory, and if you wish to set up a standing order, Kathryn can set that up. We are most grateful for whatever you can do.
- APF red boxes: If anyone would like a red box, please contact Anne on 01347 823015
- Easyfundraising this quarter has raised £42.44 for the Parish – thank you very much to those who have signed up. Please see Kathryn if you would like to donate as you shop, at no cost to yourself.

Middlesbrough Food Bank: 6 April

The MFB needs your support and continued generosity more than ever in these times of crisis when demand has already increased greatly and there are considerable shortages.

Please remember that financial donations would be an alternative if it was easier for you at the moment. There are some flyers at the back of church and donations can, of course, be made on-line. Cash donations, however small, could be handed in to St Benedict's House.

Coffee, tinned meat and rice pudding are in short supply just now, and Easter eggs, please!

If you want to keep up to date, please consult the MFB website: middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk. If you need further information or want to help, please ring: 01653 628755. God bless.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Sick, Infirm and Housebound: Sally Agar, Mattie Burke, Mary Capaldi, Kitty Carrington, Cath Cavanagh, Jenny Cook, David Craig, Paul Gallagher, Pat Grotrian, Catherine Harmer, Graham Harrand, Mary-Rose Harrison, Marta Hatfield, Vince Kelly, Darren Kennedy, Lt. Commander Matthew Kiernan, Kay Moss, Marion Myers, Marie Podgorski, Harrison Torr and Sophie Williams; *those who have Died recently:* Danny O'Donnell, Howard Snowden and Conal Kavanagh *and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Mary Winifred Carr, Anne Elizabeth Maloney, James Jack, Sheila Arnett, Fr Gregory Swann, Hilda Tyreman, Hilda Harris