

St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 July 2020 (Year A)

Parish Administrator: Kathryn Lynam; **Assistants:** Emma Harrison and William Scrope

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Mass Times this Week

Saturday 4	Feria Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 5	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass: <i>Brian 'Doc' Watson RIP</i>
11:00am	Private Prayer
Monday 6	Feria
Tuesday 7	Feria
Wednesday 8	Feria Mass: <i>James Holton RIP</i>
11:00am	Private Prayer
Thursday 9	Feria Mass: <i>Lt Col Tony Carr RIP</i>
Friday 10	Feria Mass: <i>Barbara Burnett Month's Mind</i>
11:00am	Private Prayer
Saturday 11	St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe, Feast Mass: <i>Teresa Catherine Powers</i>
Sunday 12	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass: <i>Parish</i>
11:00am	Private Prayer

Prayer to St Michael

Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust down into hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

LAUDETUR JESUS CHRISTUS!

Both the first reading, from Zechariah's prophecy, and the extract from St Matthew's gospel at Mass today, are *noisy* - the noise that tends to come from exuberance and joy! "Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness....." we read. And why? Because the triumphant and victorious king is coming - coming in humility to proclaim peace for the whole world.

In the gospel reading we hear Jesus exclaiming - shouting out, in fact - his joyous love of the Father whom he blesses and praises from the depths of his being. For once, the veil is lifted, and in this passage we are able to eavesdrop, as it were, on the deep prayer of the Son to the Father in lines which merit much re-reading, pondering and meditation.

It is then in the context of this great blessing of the Father that Our Lord goes on to issue that wonderful invitation to us: "Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened...." The times we are living in are, it must be said, deeply trying, and for some almost more than can be borne; if, however, we learn

from Him, as we are here invited to do, we shall imitate Him in His gentleness and humility (there is no place in the Kingdom for the brutal and the proud!) and experience for ourselves that his yoke is indeed easy, and his burden truly light.

For this to happen, though, there is one other thing we must realise, and St Paul tells us in the second reading what it is; we must learn to give priority in our lives to the things of the Spirit, putting the unspiritual, the "world", firmly in its place. Not to do this is to render Our Lord's yoke and burden heavier than they should be. What do I mean by "giving priority to the spiritual"? Doing this means that we truly believe that what the world has to offer is ultimately a distraction; it is transient and contains its own element of meaninglessness within it. It means coming to see that living our lives in the Spirit is what liberates us and makes the burdens of this life - of which there are many - weightless, able to be borne with ease, with the result that we are able to move forward filled with hope and a stronger faith - two things which many people so badly need.

Yes: it is within our power to render Christ's burdens intolerable; we can grumble, complain, feel resentment and so on, not realising that doing this is the world's way, but not the way of the Spirit; it is the way which leads to - nowhere. The antidote to this is, of course, to see that we, and all that exists, are created in love by God, the God who has a plan for all creation - and particularly for you and me - a plan which will not be frustrated but which will, in the end, arrive at a glorious and eternal culmination. To remember this in all we say and do in our day-to-day lives is what it means to live a spiritual life - a life in which, whatever is thrown at us, we shall find the yoke is easy and the burden light.

God bless you all,

Fr James.

Thought for the Week

It's only when we cease grumbling that God answers our waiting with His presence.

Bishop Robert Barron

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH FOR MASS

All priests have been asked, firstly, to remind everyone that **the Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended, and will do so for a while to come yet.**

All parishes have been receiving "guidance" (that is, rules and regulations...) on how to prepare to celebrate Holy Mass with a congregation again; as you may imagine, it is not perfectly straightforward but needs careful organisation. As a result, our own church will not be open for Mass just yet, but we are hoping to have everything in place *possibly* by next weekend: be sure I shall let as many of you know as possible!

There are two main areas which we are trying to work out carefully:

Firstly, numbers at any given Mass will of necessity be limited. If we have a two-metre rule in the church, we shall be able to accommodate 18 people only for Mass; if we reduce it to one metre, with wearing of face-masks mandatory, we could have about 50 people. We may need to have a booking-system, I'm afraid, in order to remain within the limits, but more on this later. In the meantime, it may be a good idea to think about coming to a weekday Mass rather than Sunday, to spread the load, so to speak!

Secondly, it will be necessary for volunteers to clean the church after each Mass - wiping down benches and all door handles etc in particular. We have had a wonderful response from people willing to clean during and after private prayer, so now (taking my courage in both hands!) I am asking whether some of you would be able to take this on as well?

I shall be in touch as soon as possible with more details - for example, what Mass will "look like" (it will all be very similar to the changes made before the lockdown), and how to receive Holy Communion, for example. Despite these alterations it will be a great joy to be able to welcome you all back to what Vatican II has described as the "summit of the Christian life"; in the meantime, let us all continue to pray earnestly for one another.

God bless you all,

Fr James.

Bulletin setup

We have come to the end of our pre-printed sheets – just at a time when more people might be in church to collect a hard copy bulletin! However, hopefully what we have inserted in place of the newsletter blanks is as useful to you.

SVP

The box is available at the back during Private Prayer

THE OPENING OF CHURCHES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:

Thank you to all those who are helping to keep this going. A reminder of the guidelines is below:

1. The church will be open from 11am to 12 Noon on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The church is closed during the remaining time for thorough cleaning.
2. IF YOU SHOW ANY SYMPTOMS OF THE VIRUS, PLEASE CONTINUE TO SELF-ISOLATE, AND DO NOT COME INTO CHURCH.
3. There are two stewards on duty throughout the prayer session, to guide you through the process, and ensure government guidelines on hygiene and social distancing are maintained.
4. A one-way system will be in operation: please enter by the main church door and exit through the sacristy and church hall door. The two sacristy doors will be left open to make this easier.
5. Please sanitise your hands on entering and on leaving the premises.
6. Please feel free to take a bulletin away with you, but once you have touched one, do not return it to the pile.
7. Each bench in church is clearly marked to indicate whether it may be occupied or not; please - no more than one household per bench! If all benches are occupied, a steward may ask you to queue, two metres apart.
8. We are told that the lighting of candles presents a fire risk due to the inflammable nature of hand-gel; if you do wish to light candles, please take the greatest care. There is a fire extinguisher in the porch.
9. The Lady chapel may be used, but one person (or one household) at a time.
10. The balcony remains closed; the staircase is too narrow to make social distancing possible.
11. We minimise risk by minimising surfaces to be touched. Please avoid touching the statues and Wren furniture in particular, we do not wish to damage them by the enhanced cleaning necessary.
12. Please avoid using the loos if at all possible; if you do use them, please advise a steward or Kathryn/Fr James so they can be wiped down afterwards.

Middlesbrough Food Bank

There are no current collections, although you can make a financial donation on-line. If you have items you would like to donate, we can arrange for them to go to the Easingwold Food Bank in lieu.

Parish Online, Information and Useful Links

- let Kathryn have your email for the bulletin
- search for our closed group on Facebook
- 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.
- Catholic Herald will be a monthly publication from May.

Offertory Collections and Charities: Thank you for your offerings

Envelopes can be dropped through the letterbox of the priory, and if you wish to pay by standing order, Kathryn can set that up. We are most grateful for whatever you can do. This week, Kathryn counted £125 from envelopes dropped through the door. Cheques can be made payable to "Ampleforth Abbey Trust", for the Parish Account: Fr James does not have a personal bank account.

Virtual Flower Festival

Entries have all be submitted and we will let you know when you can see the finished festival.

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday only

Kathryn will be at home looking after Benjamin on a Monday. However, she can see the emails from home, and if Fr James is not in there is an answerphone.

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, Kay Moss, Lt. Comm. Matthew Kiernan, Teresa Catherine Powers, Marie Podgorski and Sophie Williams; *those who have Died recently:* Lt Col Tony Carr, Dennis Connelly, James Holton, Rachel Kelly, Harrison Torr and *those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Brian Anthony Watson, Margaret Edna Johnson