

# St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

# 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 July 2020 (Year A)

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

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday between 9:00am and 3:00pm 01347 821295

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## Mass Times this Week

Saturday 11 St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe, Feast  
Mass: *Teresa Catherine Powers*

Sunday 12 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
10:00am Mass: *Parish* (no Private Prayer)

Monday 13 Feria

Tuesday 14 Feria

Wednesday 15 St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor, Mem  
Mass: *Barbara Burnett RIP*  
11:00am Private Prayer

Thursday 16 Feria  
Mass: *Peter Brown RIP*

Friday 17 Feria  
Mass: *James and Alice Kay RIP*  
11:00am Private Prayer

Saturday 18 Feria  
Mass: *Private Intention*

Sunday 19 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
10:00am Mass: *Parish* (no Private Prayer)

## LAUDETUR JESUS CHRISTUS!

This is rather a "breakthrough Sunday", with Mass being celebrated in our church *with a congregation* for the first time since the 3rd Sunday of Lent! A very warm welcome indeed to all those who have been able to book a place and come; I know there are still many parishioners who would love to have been able to come too, but for you the time is not quite right yet. Be assured that you are far from being forgotten, and are absolutely not being left behind: the day will come when it will be safer still to come and worship our Father, through His Son and in the Holy Spirit - and you may be assured of a great welcome when that day comes. In the meantime you have our many prayers: please remember to pray for us too!

I mentioned the 3rd Sunday of Lent. In a sense, we have been living through a protracted Lent and it has not been easy. Many of us have been wondering what it is all about, and where God is in this time of real trial, so once again I draw your attention to today's readings - the second one in particular.

There is a profound and timely message for us all in this section of Romans; St Paul begins by acknowledging that we do indeed have much suffering to contend with, and reminds us that we must, at those times of distress, look forward to the ultimate glory which is waiting for us - no suffering (at least, for those who have believed in God and tried to live up to that belief) lasts forever, whereas the boundless joy of Heaven is eternal: we will not fear any end to it - there won't be one!

Did you notice how St Paul uses the verb "groan" twice in this passage? First of all, he speaks of all creation "groaning in one great act of giving birth"; this means that throughout all creation, and all

history, a process has been going on, just as it is now. The act of giving birth is indeed a process, and one which involves suffering; that suffering ends, however, with the emergence of a new life into the world. We need to believe that our present sufferings, whatever their nature or their cause may be, will - if we allow them to - issue also in a great joy, so great it cannot be described in human language. God is present at all levels of human life; he is present throughout all the events of human history, just as he is present in all the events of each particular person's life; nothing which happens can ever "take God by surprise", either on the international level, or in the natural world, or especially in our own lives.

Even those times of suffering - which we all have at some stage in our life - have the capacity to end in something good. I remember once being very taken by the idea I came across once in my reading, that those terrible wounds inflicted on Our Lord in His passion and crucifixion are still evident on his Risen Body; now, though, they are not signs of pain, defeat and suffering, but are signs of glory and a cause for rejoicing.

Much has been written (especially in the 20th century, and some of it quite unreadable!) about the human condition - "La Condition Humaine"; anyone who takes a long, honest look at this cannot escape the conclusion that in every human life there is a longing for something, something more, or other, in life. We know how so many try to satisfy this longing by acquiring more "things", or by chasing any form of temporary relief. In this reading from Romans, however, St Paul is telling us that it stems from our belonging to a *creation* which is longing: our longing is, in a sense, programmed into us and there would be something terribly wrong if it were not there. That is why "we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free."

Those of us who have the "first-fruits of the Spirit" - that is, all of us who are baptised and confirmed, and who have provided the rich soil upon which the seed could fall - must bear witness to this in a world which sadly lacks such witness more and more, and never fail to comfort and encourage those who groan.

God bless you all,

Fr James.

### 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.

### SERVICES IN CHURCH

Just a word about the coming week; there will not be a session for private prayer this morning (Sunday), but there will be one on Wednesday and Friday. It is important that we evaluate how Mass this morning went with all the new "arrangements", and see whether we can improve on things before moving to more masses mid-week.

As a result, I hope you will bear with us for a few more days before we announce more definite plans. There will - please God - be Mass again next Sunday at 10am and we shall try to let you know what we hope to do on a more regular basis with regard to weekday Mass as soon as possible. In the meantime, thank you so much for your patience!

Fr James.

### Reminders re the Guidelines we are following

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.**

Thank you to all those who are helping in whatever way to allow us to do this.

1. IF YOU SHOW ANY SYMPTOMS OF THE VIRUS, PLEASE CONTINUE TO SELF-ISOLATE, AND DO NOT COME INTO CHURCH.
2. The church will be open for Private Prayer from 11am to 12 Noon on Wednesdays and Fridays and for Mass at 10am on Sundays. The church is closed during the remaining time for thorough cleaning.
3. There are stewards on duty 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. During Private Prayer, each bench in church is clearly marked to indicate whether it may be occupied or not; please - no more than one household per bench! For Mass, there is an assigned seating plan.
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 during Private Prayer; 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.
13. For Mass, because we are distancing at 1 metre, a face-mask/covering will be needed.
14. As just before lockdown, we cannot use holy water and during mass there will be no intercessions or sign of peace.
15. Before mass begins I'll give instructions about what happens at Holy Communion time.
16. I'm afraid I won't be able to greet people at the end of mass - the rules state that people should leave promptly.

### **Thought for the Week**

*The egocentric is always frustrated, simply because the condition of self-perfection is self-surrender. There must be a willingness to die to the lower part of self, before there can be a birth to the noble*

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

### **Eggs: Free until further notice**

Please take what you need from the Porch, many thanks to Trish and Jane. You are still welcome to donate to the Poor Box if you wish, but there is no obligation.

### **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](http://www.ChurchPaper.co.uk) for editions of all the catholic newspapers.
- Catholic Herald will be a monthly publication from May.

### **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.

### **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 £252 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.

### **Missio Red Boxes**

If your box is full, please can you count the money in it, and either send a cheque or give online. Missio's address is 23 Eccleston Sq, London SW1V 1NU. Online details via [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk).

### **SVP**

- The box is available at the back during Private Prayer
- Fr Bill East died on 1 July. He was married to the former President of the York branch of the SVP.

**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:* Peter Barrett, Lt Col Tony Carr, Dennis Connelly, Fr Bill East, James Holton, Browmyn Jennison, Rachel Kelly *and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Mary Poole, Audrey Hogarth, Joan Dziurzynska, Clare Doyle, Martin Maughan, Lucy Harwood, Margaret Cornforth, Mary Isabel Andrews