

St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 July 2020 (Year A)

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

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Mass Times this Week: No Private Prayer

Saturday 18	Feria Mass: <i>Private Intention</i>
Sunday 19	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00am Mass: <i>Annette Maria Tyrell RIP</i>
Monday 20	Feria
Tuesday 21	Feria
Wednesday 22	St Mary Magdalene, Feast 9:30am Mass: <i>Clare Doyle RIP</i>
Thursday 23	St Bridget, Religious, patron of Europe, Feast Mass: <i>Venerable Mary Ward</i>
Friday 24	Feria 9:30am Mass: <i>Gladys Carterlidge RIP</i>
Saturday 25	St James, Apostle, Feast Mass: <i>Health of Community, Schools and Parishes</i>
Sunday 26	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00am Mass: <i>Parish</i>

LAUDETUR JESUS CHRISTUS!

The times we are living in are still fraught, despite the relaxing of many restrictions, and there is still an almost palpable sense of anxiety across the country with regard to both the present and the future.

Thanks be to the Holy Spirit, then, that the readings for this Sunday are hammering home *once again* the truth that God is acting at the deepest level in our lives, in our very existence. He is a God, as the book of Wisdom makes clear, who "cares for every thing" and whose overwhelming justice and sovereign power make Him "lenient to all." It is good to be reminded that especially in our suffering we can come to meet the God who loved us, each one of us, into being - and having done so, sustains us in being by means of that same love.

The extract from St Matthew's gospel shows how this works in actual human life. In relating the parable of the wheat and the dandel, Our Lord is teaching a very fundamental truth: yes, there is evil in the world - but God is aware of it in its entirety: after all, not a single sparrow falls to the ground without his being aware of it!

This evil is not willed by God, but permitted by Him - a very important distinction. There is a living force, not of human origin, which is dedicated to destroying God's creation, and in particular the most wonderful and beautiful summit of that creation: the human being. It was the devil, Satan - call him what you will - who introduced the dandel, the weeds, into the wheatfield. So, a word about the devil. There are some Christians, people with more secular wishful thinking than spiritual sense, who deny the existence of the devil; how he must rejoice - it makes his malign task a great deal easier.

It is not given to us to know why God permits him to continue his attempts to destroy, except that it is important for our love and knowledge of God to be tried and tested. We are not forced to yield to the (cont.)

devil's temptations - we all have free will - and it seems to be the case that on an individual basis each successful piece of resistance we offer the devil makes us stronger. Moreover, the fact that we are able to choose whether or not to love God, by doing His will and not the devil's, enables us to love God freely - after all, to love God because we are forced to, or because there is no choice, would be no love at all!

But back to the field of wheat. The owner of the field knows at once that the darnel has been put there by an enemy - but he does not want the servants simply to tear it out. And why? In case a single good ear of wheat should be destroyed in the process! What greater show of lovingkindness could there be for each one of us, that God will do absolutely nothing, ever, which may harm a single child of His! The time will come for the harvest, and *then* the darnel can be burned away to nothing, leaving the wheat safely stored in the barn where it belongs.

Here we are looking at some of the deepest mysteries of our faith; there is so much we do not understand, but let that never discourage us. If we remember to keep in touch with God in prayer, and to listen to Him in silence, we will be given all we need. And if anyone ever feels (and I think we all do, sometimes) that prayer is basically a bit too difficult for us - real prayer, I mean, the "raising of the mind and heart to God" as the catechism used to put it - then look at that second reading again.

Because, remember, God is always with us, always involved with us, and when we have the humility to accept that we may not be very "good" at prayer, then the Holy Spirit himself, if we ask Him, "comes to help us in our weakness, for when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words"; in other words, if we offer Him our wordless longing to pray, and our longing to do what seems impossible - that is, to put ourselves in the hands of God - then that very longing is brought immediately to the throne in heaven in its purest form. It has become a prayer which will be answered a hundredfold!

God bless you all,

Fr James.

Opening of the Church for Mass: 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 9:30 Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays and for Mass at 10am on Sundays.** The church is closed during the remaining time for thorough cleaning.
3. Please wear a face-covering in order to comply with the regulations.
4. There are stewards on duty to guide you through the process, and ensure government guidelines on hygiene and social distancing are maintained.
5. 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.
6. Please sanitise your hands on entering and on leaving the premises.
7. Please feel free to take a bulletin away with you, but once you have touched one, do not return it to the pile.
8. There is an assigned seating plan based on the bookings received prior to Mass
9. 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.
10. The Lady chapel may be used, but only one person (or one household) at a time.
11. The balcony remains closed; the staircase is too narrow to make social distancing possible.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. As just before lockdown, we cannot use holy water and during mass there will be no intercessions or sign of peace.
15. At Holy Communion you will be guided as to when to leave your seat. The whole of your row will go at once, and no other row will go until you have returned to your seats.
16. Fr James won't be able to greet people at the end of mass - the rules state that people should leave promptly.

Message from Ampleforth Abbey

The Abbey Church will be OPEN for Public Mass on Wednesday 15 July at 11:30am and thereafter on Sundays & Wednesdays at 11:30am. Our Live Stream service will continue as normal for all other Services. Due to the severe restriction on numbers, and for Track & Trace requirements, it will be necessary to book a place in advance.

Online: massbook@ampleforth.org.uk; Telephone: (01439) 766815

Deadline for Sundays: Saturday 4:00pm Deadline for Wednesdays: Tuesday 4:00pm

Disasters Emergency Committee: Coronavirus appeal

CAFOD is an active member of this committee and has been working across 26 countries, to prevent the virus' spread, and limit food shortages it has caused in the poorest communities. They are asking the Catholic community to keep those worst affected in their thoughts, prayers and where possible, their alms giving.

CAFOD is also keen to support the opening up of churches and offers various online resources to help parishioners to pray and to engage, including online resources, and their "Summer of Hope" ideas for families and parishioners to transform lockdown and cancelled summer events etc into some fun fundraising and easy ways to brighten up lockdown. Please contact Kathryn for more information.

Thought for the Week

Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair.

G.K. Chesterton

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 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

- The first collection back raised £325.70 – thank you so much!
- If your Missio Red 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.
- The SVP box is available at the back during Private Prayer

A message from Lizzie Stewart about her recent Skydive

I would like to thank everyone for so generously supporting me with this fundraiser for Mary's Meals. I am happy and proud to report that what we have raised so far will feed 143 children everyday for a whole year!

A good day's work!

Lizzie.



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, Gladys Carterlidge. Fr Bill East, Bromwyn Jennison, Rachel Kelly *and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Teresa Burke, Peter Kearney, Sr St Paul, Leanne Neilson