

# St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

# 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 November 2020 (Year A)

**Parish Administrator:** Kathryn Lynam; **Assistants:** Emma Harrison and William Scrope  
Office Hours: Under COVID-19 Wednesday and Friday 9:30-3:30pm.

Telephone 01347 821295 (In an emergency, Fr James' number at the Abbey is 01439 766016)

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Mary-Clare Laidlaw and Mark de Groot

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*Facebook and website at stjohntheevangelisteasingwold.co.uk*

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## Mass Times this Week:

Saturday 14	Feria Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 15	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass: <i>Waggott and Magee Families RIP</i> 11:00am Private Prayer
Monday 15	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday 16	St Gertrude the Great, Virgin, Mem
Wednesday 17	St Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop, Mem Mass: 11:00am Private Prayer
Thursday 18	Feria Mass: <i>Graf....</i>
Friday 19	St Hilda of Whitby, Abbess, Mem Mass: 11:00am Private Prayer
Saturday 20	St Edmund, King & Martyr, Mem Mass: <i>Shirley Brown RIP</i>
Sunday 21	The Presentation of the Virgin Mary, Mem Mass: <i>Parish</i> 11:00am Private Prayer

## COMING TO PRIVATE PRAYER

In this second lockdown it is at least something that HM Government has seen the need to allow churches to remain open for private prayer; of course we can, and must, pray frequently ("unceasingly", as St Paul tells us) in places other than church: at home, walking along the street, in a queue – anywhere at all will do. To pray in church, however, adds a vital dimension to our prayer, because not only have we sacrificed some time and effort actually to get there, but we also pray with others, as a little community, and even more importantly, we are praying before the Blessed Sacrament – before Our Lord Himself.

Have you ever wondered what a Catholic Church building actually *is*? Because of that Divine Presence, it is indeed the holiest place on earth – it is the place where God Himself is! Yes, there may be many larger, grander and more ancient churches than ours, but none of them are actually more *holy*. God has given us all privileged access to Himself at the very church of St John the Evangelist in Long Street – which is quite a thought as we see the marvellous invitation He is extending to us.

When we come into the church – even if only for a moment or two – we can make our own the words of Jacob who awoke from his dream in the wilderness (see Genesis 28: 16-17):

“Truly, the Lord is in this place and I did not know!....How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than the House of God, and this is the gate of Heaven!”

Jacob then renamed the place “Bethel” – the House of God.

Do come, if you are able, to this holy place to pray – to pray for all your intentions, yes, but also to say a “thank-you” prayer to our Father for the blessings He gives even when we are unaware of them. No need to book in: just come along any time between 11 and 12 on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays – and remember, as we had in a Thought for the Week quite some time ago – Jesus is longing to see you there, and has been waiting for a long time. And let us all pray for those who simply cannot come to church because of their age or health: it may well be *their* prayers for us which keep *us* going!!

God bless you all,

Fr James.

### **Thought for the Week**

*The Bible constantly warns against a merely mercenary relationship with God – a friendship of convenience or self-interest. We should not love God simply because doing so will produce many consolations in our life. We must enter into a true relationship, where we fall in love not with His benefits, but with Him.*

Bishop Robert Barron



## **CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

### **Statement from the President and the Vice-President of the Conference on the National Lockdown      Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Today, Parliament passed into law the Regulations governing many aspects of activity in the whole of England until 2<sup>nd</sup> December. These Regulations prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings.

Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer and support for those in need. Funeral Masses and funeral services may be held. Please refer to the Regulations (for places of worship see paragraph 18) and associated Guidance.

Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law: ‘*Remind them to be obedient to the officials in authority; to be ready to do good at every opportunity*’ (Titus 3:1). We do this in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods.

It is also important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society.

At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help. We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21<sup>st</sup> November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic. And we encourage you all in your practical service and support of each other and those around you in need.

This pathway of prayer and service is the royal road we are to take as a gracious witness in our society today.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
**President**

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP  
**Vice-President**

**Private Prayer Sessions from 11am to 12 Noon on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays: Thank you to all who are helping in order for 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. A Steward is on hand to log your details for track and trace, to guide you and to ensure the following government guidelines are maintained:
  - the sanitising of hands on entering and leaving the premises
  - the use the established one-way system. *The exception is for those with limited mobility, who may exit via the main door once the Steward has checked the path is clear.*
  - the use of face covering. *The Lady Chapel can be used by those who are exempt.*
  - social distancing: no use of the balcony; and one household only per clearly marked bench. *You will be asked to queue, two metres apart if all are occupied.*
3. The hand-gel is flammable - please take the greatest care lighting candles.
4. Minimise risk by minimising touch:
  - statues and Wren furniture would be damaged by enhanced cleaning.
  - please advise us if we need to wipe down the disabled loo (only one available).
  - Please take a bulletin away with you – once touched, do not return to the pile.
  - There will be no holy water in the stoup

**Information and Useful Links**

- Please 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. For editions of all the catholic newspapers you can also go on [www.ChurchPaper.co.uk](http://www.ChurchPaper.co.uk).

**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**

In the run up to Christmas they urgently need cash donations, or there are arrangements with some suppliers such as Tesco where you can get food delivered to them. Please see [Middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk](http://Middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk)

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**Offertory Collections and Charities: Thank you for your offerings**

- The collection last week raised £134.50. Thank you very much.
- We have raised £93.51 through Easyfundraising over the last quarter, so thank you very much to those who are using the scheme. Please see Kathryn if you do shop on-line but don't currently have a chosen charity set up.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*the Sick, Infirm and Housebound:* Sally Agar, Mattie Burke, Mary Capaldi, Kitty Carrington, Cath Cavanagh, Jenny Cook, David Craig, Col Charles Crossland, Paul Gallagher, Pat Grotrian, Catherine Harmer, Mary-Rose Harrison, Marta Hatfield, Derrick Johnson, Gerry Kelly Vince Kelly, Darren Kennedy, Lt. Comm. Matthew Kiernan, Teresa Catherine Powers, Marie Podgorski, Stephen Sangster, Philip Scrope, Ron Waite and Sophie Williams;

*those who have died recently:* Shirley Brown *and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Bernard Judson