

St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7 February 2021 (Year B)

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

Office Hours: Under COVID-19 Wednesday and Friday 9:30-3:30pm.

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Facebook and website at stjohntehevangelisteasingwold.co.uk

Please let Kathryn have your email for the bulletin, and search for our private Facebook group

Mass Times this Week:

Saturday 6	St Paul Miki, & Companions, Martyrs, Mem
5:45pm	Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 7	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00am	Mass: <i>Brian Underwood and his Brother-in-Law RIP</i>
Monday 8	Feria
Tuesday 9	Feria
Wednesday 10	St Scholastica, Virgin, Feast
09:30am	Mass: <i>Ruth Doyle RIP</i>
Thursday 11	Our Lady of Lourdes, Mem
	Mass:
Friday 12	Feria
09:30am	Mass: <i>Bernadette Barham RIP</i>
Saturday 13	Feria
5:45pm	Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 14	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00am	Mass: <i>Anne Rowe RIP</i>

ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO READ SCRIPTURE

One of the things that happen when we read scripture in a slow, calm and prayerful way is that passages we may have read or heard in church many times before suddenly seem to jump off the page at us, and we understand them better – in a new way.

To give an example: that is precisely what happened to me as I was saying my Divine Office this morning – Morning Prayer, Thursday week 4, ordinary time. After the psalms we have to say comes a scripture reading; this morning's happened to be Romans 8: 18-21 – just a few short verses. I would like, here, to speak about the whole passage, but I shall give you only the first verse in the hope that you will look up the rest in your own bibles. That verse runs:

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

What a message of hope St Paul is giving us for “this present time”, when we are all acquainted with suffering – some profoundly, but all of us to some degree! It is tempting, and easy, to feel overwhelmed, not only by coronavirus but also by all the other things that are happening in the world, but when we think about this passage, which was inspired by God Himself, we realise that He is very much involved in our situation at the deepest possible level and is in effect saying to us: “My dear, dear children: I know life can be very grim at times and I know how much you are suffering. You may wonder why I permit this, given my deepest love for you, but I beg you to believe (even if you do not

understand), that my plan is unfolding and that you *will* come to see the eternal wonders which I have in store for you. Moreover, you will realise that the very sufferings you are undergoing now play a part – mysterious to you, but not to Me – in building up that glory. Trust in Me!”

The rest of the passage from Morning Prayer today gives a wonderful answer to something I have often mentioned in my homilies when I say that we may feel often that “everything is falling apart” and that everything we are so familiar with will pass away; St Paul goes on to explain that creation as we know it, that is the world we are all so used to, has indeed been, from the beginning “subjected to futility” – but he then reassures us that “creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay”. In other words, part of the “glory that is to be revealed to us” consists of seeing this very creation we know so well transformed into something wonderful beyond all telling, in which there will be no decay, collapse, sadness or death!

These words have barely scratched the surface of Romans 8: 18-21, and I pray that next time I read the passage it will be granted to me to see even more clearly the “wonders God has in store for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Holy Spirit – Thank You!!

Fr James.

Thought for the Week

All men are by nature equal, made all of the same earth by one Workman; and however we deceive ourselves, as dear unto God is the poor peasant as the mighty prince.

Plato (428 – 348 BC)

Seating at Mass: Sunday Mass is fully booked

Please note that the seating plans for Mass are now fixed. If you have not already booked a place at a weekend Mass, we should be able to fit you in on a Saturday. Due to the amount of work involved, we cannot accept any new bookings after Friday. If you believe a place is being kept for you on Sunday, but you won't be a regular attendee, please let us know so we can reassign the place.

Preparing ourselves for Ash Wednesday and Lent

Whilst there can't be any Lent Reading Group this year, we have ordered some of the Lenten daily reading books we have used in previous years. £1 each to go in the “Papers” slot.

Catholic Papers

- 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.
- Catholic Universe and Catholic Times: can be delivered to you weekly: 3 months for £25.00 or 12 months for £99.00. See www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call 0161 820 5722
- For editions of all the catholic papers you can also go on www.ChurchPaper.co.uk.

Charities and Other Information

- St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): The SVP nationally has been working hard to meet needs in parishes and communities. In this difficult situation they have arranged for some Zoom sessions for anyone interested in learning more about what they do. Please collect a leaflet from the Porch, or contact Kathryn. We do have a local branch, and if you would like more information about that please ring Pauline on 823675
- Minsteracres Retreat Centre near Consett would like to invite you to join them for the Passover meal and Easter Triduum. Minsteracres will remain closed until April when the team are hoping to open the doors in time to celebrate Holy Week. They will follow government guidelines and ensure a COVID-secure environment for you. Email info@minsteracres.org or telephone 01434 673248.
- CAFOD Volunteer Team: Just a few hours a month could help us to share updates and enable our parish community to take action for global justice. You will be supported by Carol Cross our local CAFOD worker for the Diocese, contact her for more details ccross@cafod.org.uk.

Campaigns in support of Life

- The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please see www.spuc.org.uk. The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.
- A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence is that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, it highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion. Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds and can be accessed at www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

Offertory Collections and Charities: Thank you for your offerings

- Thank you for last week's offertory collections: £136.00
We have raised £93.51 through Easyfundraising over the last quarter: thank you to those who are using the scheme. Please see Kathryn if you would like more information.
- Benedictine Year Book – this is rather late, but we have just had delivery of ten of these. They are in the porch if you would like one. Please put £1 in the "papers" slot.

Bulletin availability

There is now a plastic box for bulletins (thanks to Ted Melling for the idea and Margaret Hodgkiss for the box!) outside the kitchen door of the Priory. If you cannot make it to Mass, and are not on email, there will be a handful of spare bulletins in the box for you to help yourself.

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.

Stewarding: thank you to those who help out by stewarding at all Masses.

Next weekend's stewards are David Embleton and Trish McDonnell

Jean de Groot

Jean de Groot's funeral will be on Wednesday 24 February, with a burial following with her late husband in Wetherby.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Sick, Infirm and Housebound: Sally Agar, Mattie Burke, Mary Capaldi, Kitty Carrington, Cath Cavanagh, Jenny Cook, David Craig, Col Crossland, Paul Gallagher, Murray Grant, Catherine Harmer, Mary-Rose Harrison, Pauline Harrison, Marta Hatfield, Derrick Johnson, Gerry Kelly, Vince Kelly, Darren Kennedy, Lt. Comm. Matthew Kiernan, Vincent O'Donnell, Marie Podgorski, Teresa Catherine Powers, Stephen Sangster, Anne Waggott, Ron Waite and Sophie Williams;

those who have died recently: Bernadette Barham, Alma Corrie, Ruth Doyle, Jean de Groot, Anne Rowe, Jack Walsh;

those whose Anniversaries occur about this time: Mary Frances Andrews, Robert Brown, Pam Scott, James Harry Cole, Eunice Mary Huby