

St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 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.

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

Safeguarding Representatives: Mary-Clare Laidlaw and Mark de Groot

easingwoldpriory@ampleforth.org.uk; Personal emails to Fr James: james@ampleforth.org.uk

Facebook and website at stjohntehevangelisteasingwold.co.uk

Mass Times this Week:

Saturday 13	Feria
5:45pm	Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 14	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00am	Mass: <i>Anne Rowe RIP</i>
Monday 15	Feria
Tuesday 16	Feria
Wednesday 17	Ash Wednesday
09:30am	Mass: <i>Anne Rowe RIP</i>
Thursday 18	Feria
	Mass:
Friday 19	Feria
09:30am	Mass: <i>Ruth Doyle Month's Mind</i>
Saturday 20	Feria
5:45pm	Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 21	1st Sunday of Lent
10:00am	Mass: <i>Bernadette Barham RIP</i>

Thought for the Week

Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are a good reminder that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain a perfect life, all truth and undying ecstatic love—which is the definition of God. In pursuing that happiness, we find happiness."

Fulton J. Sheen

Bulletin availability: hard copy from box at kitchen door

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. Please let Kathryn have your email if you would like a soft copy.

Seating at Mass: Sunday Mass is fully booked

Please note that the seating plans for Mass are now fixed. We can accept new bookings for Saturday, but please let us know by Friday.

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

Next weekend's stewards are Geoff Fulford and Lucy Walton

Parish Contacts

- SVP: Pauline Willcox 823675
- CWL: Susan Harrand 823219

LET'S DE-CLUTTER OURSELVES FOR LENT

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Gospel (Good News)”: these words from Mk 1: 15 mark the opening of Jesus’ ministry and it is good to ponder them as we begin Lent. We know that repentance means changing the trajectory of the path we are on – perhaps slightly, perhaps quite radically. As we once again try to do this, we realise that we have acquired a great deal of what is actually unnecessary baggage as we struggled along our path, and part of the process of repentance involves shedding as much of that baggage as we can – remember what a relief it is when we have been carrying heavy bags, for example, and can finally put them down: true repentance, I am sure, brings the same blessed feeling of relief!

As we approach Lent, therefore let us each look honestly at how we are living, to see what are the elements of our lives which are dragging us down - we all have some - and which are keeping us short of perfection (“Be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect” said Jesus in Mt 5:48 – which can be translated as “Set no bounds to your love, just as your heavenly Father sets none to His”). In the spirit of this verse, may we be sure that this Lent has the potential to be the best ever as long as we persevere, and will bring us to even greater joy when we finally come to Easter.

So, what is the best thing for me to do this Lent? The answer depends on who you are, but I would offer three essential tools which the Church Fathers (that is, the greatest Christian saints and scholars of the earliest centuries) insist are essential in the search for God; they are:

PRAYER FASTING ALMSGIVING

If we practice these three in a humble spirit, all the while asking God to enable us to perform them in order to bring us, and others, closer to Him, we will be making the best possible use of this holy season. One word of caution: each of these three tools involves putting ourselves out in some way; this year I want to avoid the temptation of outlining examples of this, in the hope that each one of us (yes, certainly including me!) will pray for the grace to see *ourselves* as God sees us and learn, in that way, what are the things we need to shed, and the areas of our lives in which we are lacking.

Above all, remember that the surest way to fail in Lent is to aim at being an absolute spiritual athlete over the next forty days; let us resolve to make sacrifices which we *can* make, albeit possibly with some discomfort to ourselves, and not take on things which we know we won’t be able to see through. Above all, remember that no deed done for God goes unnoticed by Him – what enormous value the Lord gave to the widow’s mite!

It may help to reflect on the Collect (opening prayer) for Ash Wednesday - but be warned: it does contain some strong language.....

*Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting
this campaign of Christian service,
so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils,
we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....*

God bless you all and let us pray for each other.

Fr James.

Campaigns in support of Life

- There is a public consultation (ends 26 Feb) on the practice of pills being sent out so women can perform their own abortion at home. Please complete the Department of Health’s questionnaire in order to prevent this becoming permanent. SPUC gives a step by step guide at www.spuc.org.uk.
- Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool (www.righttolife.org.uk) to contact your MP, and ask them to sign the motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on foetal pain.
- Due to the extensive evidence that many women in the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang, China are being subjected to forced abortions, Lord Alton is championing an amendment to the Trade Bill which would give British courts a role in determining whether a country is committing genocide. You can email your MP using a tool at: <https://genocideresponse.org/>

Charities and Other Information

- Minsteracres Retreat Centre near Consett would like to invite you to join them for the Passover meal and Easter Triduum. Email info@minsteracres.org or telephone 01434 673248.
- CAFOD Volunteer Team: contact Carol Cross for more details ccross@cafod.org.uk.

Ampleforth Abbey Job Availability

There are three new roles in the Estates Department: Estate Joiner and Cabinet Maker; Electrician and Plumbing and Heating Engineer. Please see Kathryn if interested.

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, but there is no obligation.

Streaming: Live Catholic Mass Online

- 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.
- At the time of the first lockdown in March 2020, the Diocese built a simple database to provide links to those churches broadcasting live Catholic Mass online. They added times for: 'Daily', 'Sunday Vigil' and 'Sunday' Mass live streams. Where possible they also included Mass in other languages. See <https://middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk>

The National Novena to St Joseph 10- 18 March 2021

In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for their patron's Feast with a special Novena of Masses and prayers. For the first time this year, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email novenamhm@gmail.com.

Catholic Papers

- Benedictine Year Books are in the porch. Please put £1 in the "papers" slot.
- Catholic Universe and Catholic Times: can be delivered to you weekly: 3 months for £25.00 or 12 months for £99.00. 0161 820 5722 or www.thecatholicuniverse.com
- For editions of all the catholic papers you can also go on www.ChurchPaper.co.uk.

Offertory Collections and Charities: Thank you for your offerings

- Thank you for last week's offertory collections: £246.00
- 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.

Ash Wednesday – 17 February

Due to COVID restrictions we will only have the 9:30 Mass on Ash Wednesday morning. We can find room for some people in addition to our regular attendees. Please let us know if you do not normally come on a Wednesday, but would like to attend this week.

Note that whilst there can't be any Lent Reading Group this year, there are some of the Lenten daily reading books we have used in previous years. £1 each to go in the "Papers" slot.

Jean de Groot's Funeral – 24 February at 12:30

Jean will leave from her home in Linton on Ouse at about 12 arriving in Easingwold before 12:30. She will be buried at Wetherby Cemetery, next to her husband, Mike, who died in 1977.

Covid restrictions mean relatives have taken almost all available spaces for the funeral. However Fr James will offer an additional mass for Jean on Wed 24th at 9.30. Please let us know if you would like to attend. The family would like to thank all parishioners for their help, kindness and condolences.

Jack Walsh's Funeral – 26 February at 10:30

This may have a few spaces for parishioners, please contact Kathryn. Burial will be in the graveyard.

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; *and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Joseph Anthony Burton, John North, Rosemary Tigar, Stella Bullen, Edward Russel, Norah Veronica Huck, Alan Sewart, Margaret Tollan, John Macauley OSB pp, Paul Judson