

# St John the Evangelist

Fr James Callaghan OSB

# 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 January 2022 (Year C)

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

Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 to 2:45pm, Friday 9:30-3:30pm.

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**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*

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

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## Mass Times this Week:

Saturday 22 Feria

5:45pm Mass: *Jean de Groot RIP*

Sunday 23 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am Mass: *Parish*

Monday 24 St Francis de Sales, Bishop, doctor

Tuesday 25 The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle

Wednesday 26 Feria

Thursday 27 Ss Timothy & Titus, bishops (disciples of St Paul)

Friday 28 St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor

11:00am Requiem Mass for Mary Melling

Saturday 29 Feria

5:45pm Mass: *Parish*

Sunday 30 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am Mass: *Mary Melling RIP*

## Thought for the Week

*The ego-drama is nothing compared with the Theo-drama; the fun begins when we let God write our stories.*

Bishop Barron

## Confessions

Please remember that, just at the moment, we are unable to provide the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will let you know as soon as we are able to resume this essential Sacrament.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity "We Saw His Star in the East..."

As last year, this has been a very muted event. However, below are some of the thoughts from their booklet.

*The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. Indeed, we have recently celebrated Christmas; the Feast of Incarnation and Epiphany. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires. The Magi travel from far-off countries, and represent diverse cultures, yet they are driven by the same hunger to see and know the new-born king and are gathered into the little house in Bethlehem in the simple act of giving homage. In this we can find a metaphor for Christian unity: that is, of different Christian peoples drawn together in their common search to recognise Christ, to know him and to worship him and witnessing to wider need for unity and to overcome injustice.*

*This text has been chosen by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterized by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. Since the Palestinian Nakba (the exodus of Palestine's Arab population during the 1948 war) the region has seen a series of bloody wars and revolutions and the rise of Islamic extremism. The story of the Magi also contains many dark elements, most particularly Herod's despotic orders to massacre all the children around Bethlehem who were two years old or under (Matt 2:16-18). The cruelty of these narratives resonates with the long history and difficult present of the Middle East.*

(cont...)

## **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.

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*It was in the Middle East that the Word of God took root and bore fruit: thirty and sixty and one hundredfold. And it was from this East that the apostles set out to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). The Middle East has given thousands of Christian witnesses and thousands of Christian martyrs. And yet now, the very existence of the small Christian community is threatened as many are driven to seek a more secure and prosperous life elsewhere. Like the light which is the child Jesus, the light of Middle Eastern Christianity is increasingly threatened in these difficult times.*

*Jerusalem is a powerful symbol for Christians because it is “The City of Peace”, where all humanity was saved and redeemed. But today peace is missing from the city. Even prayer in Jerusalem has become subject to political and military measures. Various parties stake their claim to it and disregard others. Jerusalem was the city of kings, indeed the city that Jesus will enter triumphantly, acclaimed as king (Lk 19:28-44). Naturally the Magi expected to find the new-born king revealed by the star in this royal city. However, the narrative tells us that, rather than being blessed by the birth of the Saviour king, the whole of Jerusalem was in tumult, much as it is today. Today, more than ever, the Middle East needs a heavenly light to accompany the people.*

*In this context Christians are called to seek the new-born king, the king of gentleness, peace and love. But where is the star that leads the way to him? It is the mission of the Church to be the star that lights the way to Christ who is the light of the world. By word and through action the Christian people are called to light the way so that Christ might be revealed, once again, to the nations. Yet divisions dim the light of Christian witness and obscure the way, preventing others from finding their way to Christ. Conversely, Christians united in their worship of Christ, and opening their treasures in an exchange of gifts, become a sign of the unity that God desires for all of creation.*

*The Covid-19 global pandemic; the economic crisis that has followed and the failure of political, economic and social structures to protect the weakest and most vulnerable; and the racism that blights our communities have underlined the global need for a light to shine in the darkness. The star that shone in the East, (the Middle East), two thousand years ago still leads us to the manger, to where Christ was born. It draws us to where the Spirit of God is alive and active.*

*After encountering the Saviour and worshipping him together, the Magi return to their countries by a different way, having been warned in a dream. The communion we share in our prayer together must inspire us to return to ourselves, our churches and our world by new ways. But what does this mean in practice? Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to humankind, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalized. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that we can all build a good future according to God’s heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.*

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## **Middlesbrough Yearbook - £1**

These are available in the Porch. No sign of the Benedictine ones yet.

## **SVP and CWL Contacts**

- St. Vincent de Paul (SVP): Pauline Willcox 823675
- Catholic Women’s League (CWL): Susan Harrand 823219

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

- Last Sunday’s collection raised £305.35. Thank you very much.
- Last week’s second collection for the SPUC White Flower Appeal raised £162.15

## Middlesbrough Food Bank

Thank you for your recent offerings. Next delivery by Sunday 6 February.

Do please remember that we also collect for the Easingwold Food Bank, which helps a large number of families even in our own “prosperous” town and surrounding area.

**COVID Alert** - Please be aware that two parishioners have recently tested positive.

### Appeal for empty sweet tubs/biscuit tins

A request from All Saints School: if you have any to spare, please let Mary Atkin-Johnson know.

## Upcoming Events

### February

- Wed 2 1:00pm SVP meeting in the Priory.  
Zoom Meeting ID: 656 389 1749 Passcode: Trainingi
- Sun 6 4:00pm Evensong to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen’s Accession at the Parish Church - service to be taken by the Bishop of Selby

### March

- Fri 4 2:15pm World Day of Prayer in our church.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

*the Infirm and Housebound:* Rita Ashbridge, Mary Capaldi, David Craig, Hilary Dutton, Paul Gallagher, Mary-Rose Harrison, and Gerry Kelly;

*the Sick:* Jenny Cook, Simon Cunniffe, Marcin Ellingham, Barbara Fox, Charles Grant, Murray Grant, Brian Harrison, Marta Hatfield, Sarah Hodgkinson, Darren Kennedy, Lt. Comm. Matthew Kiernan, baby Malachi James Mtui, Krystyna Najgrodzka, Vincent O’Donnell, Teresa Catherine Powers, Val Ross, Tilly (Middlesbrough) and Anne Waggott;

*those who have died recently:* Mary Melling and Brian Pennington;

*those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Patrick Alfred Burgess, Harold Callaghan, Jean De Groot, Tom Holton, Patrick Maughan, Josephine Alice Miller, Michael Anthony Nelson, Esther Mary Catherine Waghorn and Jack Walsh.

### Please help yourself to the following free items

- Herbs from the herb garden outside the kitchen door
- Selection of mirror tiles in Parish Office

### Rotas: More help is needed, please speak to Kathryn if you think you can help

- Kathryn has sent out the rotas for 2022 but, if you have not received one and you expected it, please let us know.
- Eucharistic Ministers to the sick and housebound: You do not have to be especially “holy”, but a Catholic *in good standing* who has a deep reverence and love for the Blessed Sacrament, and a love and care for the people to whom you will be administering it.

	Steward(s)	Reader	Coffee	Flowers
Sat 22 Jan	Fulfords with Peter	John Willcox		
Sun 23 Jan	Sam Moodycliffe	Jenny Tomalin Reeves	Sheila H and Christine	Trish and Jane
Sat 29 Jan	Frams with Peter	Michael Fram		
Sun 30 Jan	Kathryn for Lizzie	Jill Simpson	Sheila W and Teresa	Trish and Jane