

4th Sunday of Advent EMMAUS MASS SHEET

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**CHRISTMAS is almost here.....!**

**THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** is our final day of preparing the way for the Lord to celebrate the Nativity of Our Saviour. It is a time to renew our hope and expectation: God is always faithful to His promises. The fourth **CANDLE** on our Advent wreath is seen as the **MARY** candle because the Nativity is the consequence of Mary's **YES** to God — her **FIAT** (let it be done.....).

This week we should, together with Mary, ponder the wonderful thing God has done for us in the Incarnation.

How does it touch us, move us?

How do we want to respond to it?

How do I see my **“YES”** to God? Is it whole hearted? As we ponder this we shall be moved to confess our sins — all of which express our **NO** to God: every sin is a “no-no” to God.

A good confession is the best way to find a truly Happy Christmas, when we prepare the way for Our Lord to be born again in our heart , where we can treasure Him, adore Him, and love Him, like the shepherds.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the God-given means of making the way for Him to enter us—so do go to confession.

“Mary Immaculate, my Mother, keep me close to you, at one with you, so that I may imitate your wholehearted Yes to God.” Fr David Barnes, Rector

**This will be the last bulletin of the year.**

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3rd Sunday of Advent EMMAUS MASS SHEET

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**GAUDETE SUNDAY**

**“REJOICE” SUNDAY** (from Latin “Gaudete”) is the name given to this Third Sunday of Advent. We rejoice because of the coming celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, born in the manger in Bethlehem.

We rejoice not only because He is “Emmanuel” (God with us), but because His coming (or Advent) is the proof of God’s love for us: he has come to share His life completely with us. This is re-confirmed every time we receive Holy Communion.

Like Mary His Mother we have the privilege of holding Him and treasuring Him in our heart.

Go to Mary, asking Her how we can hold and treasure Him better, more devotedly, more tenderly.

Pope Francis teaches us that the Church should be a “House of Joy”. Our parish and families will be “a House of Joy” in so far as we recognise that the infant in the crib is truly God fully among us. To help us ponder this please ensure that the **CRIB** has a central place in your home. Let us gather around the crib to pray as a family.

Our joy is the fruit of our faith, God’s gift for our “Yes” to God. **REJOICE!**

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

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## 2nd Sunday of Advent EMMAUS MASS SHEET

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### ADVENT

The word **ADVENT** comes from the Latin verb “*advenire*” meaning “*to come to:*” so Advent calls us to ponder Our Lord’s THREE “comings” to us.

- the Incarnation, when “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” i.e. Our Lord’s Nativity in Bethlehem.
- Our Lord’s *daily coming* to us in the Holy Mass.
- the Second Coming, when “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead”.

**ADVENT** is sometimes called “Little Lent” because it is properly a time of prayer, fasting and good works, a time of repentance. This is why purple is the colour of Advent. Do your best to keep Advent in this way, even though secular society is making merry around us, the celebration of Christmas *begins* with the Vigil of Christmas, and is celebrated for the 12 days that lead up to the Epiphany on 6th January.

**THE ADVENT WREATH**, with the build-up of lighting the candles, reminds us of the coming of Our Lord into this world in His Nativity– He is “the Light of the World” who dispels the darkness of the world.

**ADVENT** is a time of **HOPE** as we come to understand better that God is always faithful to His promises.

OUR LADY “believed that the promises made her by the Lord would be fulfilled:”

We pray that we may have faith like hers, and invoke her powerful intercession.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

#### A few quotes from Pope Francis on Advent.

Pope Francis invites us to *feel* the beauty of hope. Hope can seem distant ... “out there”

somewhere. But the call to *feel* it is a call to bring it in close, and to warm yourself by that fire. This Advent let us warm ourselves by the fire of hope! (Comment by Christmas West)

*“Advent has a special charm, it makes us experience deeply the meaning of history.”*

*“In Advent we rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey ... across the paths of time.”*

*“The season of Advent restores ... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! ... Let us think about and feel this beauty.”*

*“Let us allow ourselves to be guided by [Mary this Advent], she who is mother, a mamma and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness.”*

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## [1st Sunday of Advent EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

### **1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**28th November 2021**

### **HONOURING SUNDAY**

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

#### **Longing for our Lord**

We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a “homesickness.” We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

#### **The Eucharist, source and summit**

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord’s sacrificial love to shine through. The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

#### **The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist**

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love. At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

### **Responding to the Gift**

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

*Approved at the Plenary Assembly of Bishops in Leeds Thursday 18th November 2021*

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[Christ the King EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)  
**LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe**  
**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

### **CHRIST THE KING**

**TODAY** is the Grand Finale of the Church's year. On this final Sunday, our celebration focuses on Our Lord through whom the Kingdom of God comes. Our Lord taught constantly about the Kingdom of God: the Kingdom comes through the Church, founded by Christ and with which He is totally identified in every way apart from our sin. The Church is the sign and seed of the Kingdom, and through the Church we are called to let Christ reign in every area of our life. The more we co-operate with Him, the more the Kingdom comes.

**TODAY** also focuses us also on our young people. The Theme for this year is "*Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen. (cf. Acts 26:16)*" In our parish we have many, and we should thank God for them and pray for them. On this "**Youth Day**" we should reflect carefully on what we are doing to help form our young people. How can we strengthen the life of faith in our homes? How can we help our school, St. Joseph's, Macklin Street, which is developing wonderfully through the present leadership? I am concerned about our adolescents: how can we support them better? Do let me know your ideas. Pope Francis

speaking to young people says:

*“God loves us the way we are, and no sin, fault or mistake of ours makes him change his mind. As far as Jesus is concerned – as the Gospel shows – no one is unworthy of, or far from, his thoughts. No one is insignificant. He loves all of us with a special love; for him all of us are important: you are important! God counts on you for what you are, not for what you possess. In his eyes the clothes you wear or the kind of cell phone you use are of absolutely no concern. He doesn’t care whether you are stylish or not; he cares about you! In his eyes, you are precious, and your value is inestimable.”*

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### 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET

### **33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

### **WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**

In his message for this World Day of the Poor **TODAY**, Pope Francis reflects on Jesus' words at the anointing in Bethany, **“The poor you will always have with you”** (Mk 14:7).

This he says **'is a summons never to lose sight of every opportunity to do good.'**

On this day we are invited to offer friendship, solidarity and welcome to the poorest of our sisters and brothers. As we reach out with love and support, let us hold all members of our global family in our prayers.

On November 12, Pope Francis travelled to Assisi to meet with a group of 500 people living in poverty.

The meeting marks the World Day of the Poor, which was established by the Pope five years ago.

Pope Francis' last meeting with people in need took place in September, when he visited a house run by the religious sisters belonging to the congregation founded by Mother Teresa.

*The Lord is always near us, whether we can see Him or not. He is always with us on the journey of life. Let us not forget this, especially in difficult moments.*

The Pope met with various people from different countries around Europe. He heard their testimonies, and spend time praying with them. The visit was Pope Francis' fifth visit to Assisi. The last time he travelled there was on October 3, 2020 to sign his latest encyclical, “Fratelli tutti.”

The organization coordinating the meeting is from France called “Fratello,” Italian for brother, which works with people in need throughout the world. To read the Pope’s message in full, please visit: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/20210613-messaggio-v-giornatamondiale-poveri-2021.html>

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** marks the end of the First World War. On this day we remember all those who gave their lives for their country, all who suffered and died through

acts of war and those who were left behind to grieve and mourn.

**PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE**

O God, merciful and strong, who crush wars and cast down the proud,  
be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst and to wipe away all tears,  
so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children.

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**ELIZABETH (Betty) OGILBY RIP:** We would like to thank Fr David, Fr John and the people of the parish. For all the love and support they have shown us after our mothers death. *Isabel Cristina, William & Stephen Ogilby*

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**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS 32OT**

**32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION**

Our second collection **TODAY** will be in support of the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund.

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support.

By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you will help ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners.

The fund will be used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest. It could ensure a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery.

Rest assured, the Diocese works closely with the NHS, local councils and social services, but there will nevertheless be gaps in funding and we need to ensure our priests have peace of mind in their senior years.

If you took a donation envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection bag today. If you do not have an envelope, there are some available in the pews and at the back of the church. The envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. This reduces the risks to everyone of handling cash or touching the envelopes. If you are able, please consider filling out a standing order form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests.

Please be generous and remember our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill, in your prayers. Thank you.

**ELIZABETH (Betty) OGILBY RIP:** Please pray for the gentle repose of Betty's soul.

Reception into the church at **5pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**. Her funeral Mass is on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11:00am**, May she rest in peace. Amen

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:** Our parish raised a fantastic **£ 238.85** for CAFOD's climate change appeal this Family Fast Day. Thank you for your generosity.

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### [All Saints EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

#### **ALL SAINTS**

**SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

### **NOVEMBER—MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS**

Pope Francis on praying for the souls in purgatory: “Even now we experience a communion between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven through our union with those who have died. The souls in heaven assist us with their prayers, while we assist the souls in purgatory through our good works, prayer and participation in the Eucharist. As members of the Church then, the distinction is not between who has died and who is living, but rather who is in Christ and who is not ...

There is a deep and indissoluble bond between those who are still pilgrims in this world — us — and those who have crossed the threshold of death and entered eternity. All baptized persons here on earth, the souls in Purgatory and all the blessed who are already in Paradise make one great Family. This communion between earth and heaven is realized especially in intercessory prayer”.

See Also: <https://www.cathdal.org/home/ten-ways-to-pray-for-the-holy-souls-in-purgatory>

1. **1. Pray the [Novena to the Holy Souls](#)** by St. Alphonsus Liguori.
2. **2. Offer up your Holy Communion**s for the souls in purgatory.
3. **3. Have Masses said** for your departed loved ones, especially on the anniversary of his or her death.
4. 4. Pray the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** for the intention of the Holy Souls.
5. **5. Eucharistic Adoration:** visit the Blessed Sacrament to make acts of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on behalf of those in purgatory.
6. **6. Sacrifices:** practice small acts of self-denial throughout your day and offer these penances up for the poor souls.
7. **7. Give alms:** The giving of material assistance to the poor has always been considered a penance that can be offered for the Holy Souls. “*For almsgiving saves from death, and purges all sin*” ([Tobit 12:9](#)).
8. **8. Ask for the intercession of saints** who were known to be great friends of the Holy Souls during their lifetime to join you in prayer for the faithful departed: St. Nicholas of Tolentino, St. Gertrude the Great, St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Padre Pio, St. Philip Neri, St. John Macías, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Joseph, Our Lady, and others.
9. **9. When passing by a cemetery:** Pray the short Eternal Rest prayer: “*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*”
10. **10. Pray to earn indulgences for the holy souls:** On all the days from November 1 to November 8, a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Poor Souls, is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed (standard

requirements for indulgences apply\*). Partial indulgences are granted to those who recite Lauds or Vespers of the Office of the Dead, and to those who recite the prayer, "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace"

## **ETERNAL REST**

**Lord, this month we pray especially for the departed loved ones.**

**We ask you to give them the gift of a dwelling place in your eternal home.**

**We pray too for those who have no one to pray for them.**

**Through your infinite mercy may they share in the company of the saints to offer you eternal praise and glory. Amen**

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## **[30th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)**

**30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

## **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - MISSIO**

**TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**- World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world today! There will be a retiring collection after all Masses. It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sister Veronica build peace in Nigeria and share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation, if possible: <https://missio.org.uk/wmsdonate/>

**Pope Francis calls us to renew our missionary commitment to share the good news with all peoples.** By supporting Missio through your prayers and donations, you:

- help missionaries share the love of Jesus
- train tomorrow's Priests and Sisters
- give hope to the world's poorest children
- create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS**

Father of all goodness, mercy and love,

You call people of all Faiths to live and work together for the coming of your Kingdom on earth.

Make us instruments of your peace, and cultivate in us the fertile seed of your healing love. Create in us the spirit of understanding, acceptance, and respect for one another, irrespective of our differences.

Stir within our hearts a renewed sense of reverence for all life.

Give us the vision to recognise your spirit in every human being, and help us to break the cycle of violence by realising that peace begins with me. Amen.



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**ELIZABETH (Betty) OBILBY RIP:** Please pray for the gentle repose of Betty’s soul, who died last Thursday while away with her family. Her funeral has yet to be arranged. May she rest in peace. Amen

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[29th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**SYNODAL PATHWAY**

Following the Synod 2021- 2023 opening ceremony in Rome on 10th October, led by Pope Francis, the Westminster Synodal Pathway will be launched by His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nicholas, Archbishop of Westminster, at 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 16th October in Westminster Cathedral. Mass will be live-streamed.

Launching of the Synodal Pathway in Parishes will take place on the weekend of Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th October.

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes:** “Pope Francis envisages what is called a ‘Synodal process’. The language may sound a bit technical, but the word ‘synod’ means quite simply ‘journeying together’. The Holy Father is offering us the opportunity to participate in a time of listening and reflecting. He hopes this will help us to discern how God’s presence comes into our lives and what the Spirit of God is prompting us to do anew, so that we might be more alive and creative in our response to the call of Jesus, our Way, Truth and Life.

There is a world-wide aspect to this process, leading to a Synod of Bishops in 2023. But the Pope asks us to begin in our own situations, with our own experience, especially of this last year and a half which has surfaced both strengths and weaknesses in our life as the Church. The kind of questions we can explore are these: during this terrible pandemic what strengths did I find in my faith and faith community? How, during this time, was I disappointed and sorrowful? In what ways did the grace of God most clearly touch and uplift me? Whom did we neglect the most? Who feels left out? What could we do better? How do we choose priorities for our own mission?

I have found these words, taken from the guide to this process issued by Rome, to be helpful and inspiring:

‘The purpose of the synod is not to produce more documents. Rather it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.’ (Vademecum 1.3)

In our diocese, as in every diocese throughout the world, this ‘Synodal’ pathway will begin on the weekend of 16/17 October. Our immediate part in the process is short and concentrated: as a diocese we have to have our reflections brought together by February. So in the next few days and weeks there will be invitations issued for a variety of ways in which

you could take part, in your parish, through the school. Joining in will focus not so much on discussing ideas but in sharing experience and, on that basis, trying to sense what needs to be done, all shaped by prayer and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

**THE PRAYER OF THE SYNOD: ADSUMUS SANCTE SPIRITUS**

**Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. The version below was specifically designed for the Church’s Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023.**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

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**[28th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)**  
**28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**10th October 2021**

As President of Pact, I invite you to join with me in supporting Prisoners’ Sunday, 10th October 2021.

Pact is the major Catholic charity for the support of prisoners and their families, working in prisons across England and Wales. Wherever it is active, Pact relies heavily on the support of volunteers, expressed not least through the generosity of our parishioners. You will find resources on Pact’s website to help your parish to mark Prisoners’ Sunday.

The Gospel message for Prisoners’ Sunday shows how God’s forgiveness and welcome are for all: no one is excluded. So let us not forget that the needs of prisoners are great and growing, particularly as we emerge from the lockdown imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. For prisoners this has meant being confined to their cells for over 23 hours each day for many months and not receiving visits from their loved ones, including their children. We must not forget either the prison staff or our chaplains who too have had to confront the additional challenges posed as a result of the pandemic.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols Archbishop of Westminster, *President of Pact*

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**[27th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**

**OCTOBER: Month of the HOLY ROSARY**

I am asking all of you to renew and deepen your love of the Rosary this October. When we pray the Rosary we are walking through the wonderful things that God has done for us, together with Mary our Mother. Do please always have a Rosary with you, in your pocket. At different times of the day hold it with faith and love, so uniting ourselves to Jesus and Mary. These quotes from recent Popes will encourage us:

*"The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints... it is a prayer from my heart."* Pope Francis

*"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary."*

Pope Saint Pius X

*"How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening!"* St. John Paul II

*"The Rosary is a prayer both so humble and simple and a theologically rich in Biblical content. I beg you to pray it."* St. John Paul II

*"The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying."* Pope Leo XIII

Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, Pray for us.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

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## [26th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

### **26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 26th September 2021**

### **DECISIONS**

**OUR PARISH ASSEMBLY** has decided that, for the present, our Mass times will remain the same.

**Sundays. Vigil Mass, Saturday 6pm.**

**10am and 6pm on Sunday**

**Weekdays. 6pm daily**

If numbers increase over time, then we shall re-introduce a Mass in Latin on Sundays, and the weekday lunchtime Masses.

**THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN** all day on Sundays, from 9am, closing after the evening Mass. On **WEEKDAYS**, the church will be **OPEN** from 12 noon until after the evening Mass.

If more people return to Central London, we will extend the opening times further.

At present, we have no organist, and many of the choir children have not yet returned, so do please be patient with the tentative music arrangements: it will get better!

**TODAY is WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2021:** The Bishops have asked us to remember them all in our prayers. For more information. <https://>

[www.cbcew.org.uk/wdmr21/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/wdmr21/)

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Climate Crisis Appeal:**Our local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October is Family Fast Day, donate in the parish using a CAFOD envelope or online through the CAFOD website ([cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis](http://cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis)) and help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. You can also add your voice to our online petition calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis, [cafod.org.uk/climate](http://cafod.org.uk/climate). You can read more about CAFOD's response at [cafod.org.uk/emergencies](http://cafod.org.uk/emergencies). There will be a second collection after all Masses next weekend.

### **A PRAYER FOR CLIMATE CRISIS**

Walk beside us, Lord, in the cool of the day, in the garden you have created as our common home.

Walk beside us, Lord, as the cries of the forest pierce the dawn, and flames rip through our common home.

Grant us courage, Lord, as we walk beside all those who struggle, to protect our common home.

Grant us hope, Lord, and the vision to walk dark paths in the light of a single sunbeam.

Grant us grace, Lord, to put the flourishing of all people and the wonder of your creation at the heart of all we do, as we strive to be guardians of our common home.

St Francis, pray for us

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### **[25th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)**

#### **25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 19th September 2021**

### **OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**

Friday 24th September is the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, in North Norfolk, was established in 1061 when, according to the text of the Pynson Ballad (c 1485), Richeldis de Faverches prayed that she might undertake some special work in honour of Our Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation occurred, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. This Holy House was built and a religious community took charge of the foundation. Although we have very little historical material from this period, we know that with papal approval the Augustinian Canons built a Priory (c 1150). Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom.

In 1538, the Reformation caused the Priory property to be handed over to the King's Commissioners and the famous statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was taken to London and burnt. Nothing remains today of the original shrine, but its site is marked on the lawn in "The Abbey Grounds" in the village.

After the destruction of the Shrine, Walsingham ceased to be a place of pilgrimage. Devotion was necessarily in secret until after Catholic Emancipation (1829) when public expressions of faith were allowed. In 1896 Charlotte Pearson Boyd purchased the 14th century Slipper Chapel, the last of the wayside chapels en-route to Walsingham, and restored it for Catholic use.

In 1897 by rescript of Pope Leo XIII, the sanctuary of Our Lady of Walsingham was restored with the building of a Holy House as the Lady Chapel of the Catholic Church of the Annunciation, King's Lynn. The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom brought the first public pilgrimage to Walsingham on 20th August 1897. Visits to the Slipper Chapel became more frequent, and as the years passed devotion and the number of pilgrimages increased.

### **SLIPPER CHAPEL**

In the Middle Ages Walsingham was one of the four great shrines of Christendom with pilgrims coming from all parts of the known world. There were wayside chapels along the pilgrim route and the Slipper Chapel was the last and most important of these. Pilgrims stopped here to go to Mass and to confess their sins before walking the last mile to the Holy House in Walsingham. The name of the chapel may come from the fact that pilgrims removed their shoes to walk the last mile or it may come from the word “slype” meaning a way through or “something in between”, the slype or slip chapel standing as it did between the Holy land of Walsingham and the rest of England.

In 1538 the Shrine and Priory were destroyed and the Slipper Chapel, although not damaged, passed into disuse. It was used successively as a poor house, a forge a barn and even a cow byre. Stories of older residents suggest that even during this time of neglect occasional pilgrims would still come and pray there. In 1896 it was brought by Charlotte Boyd and restoration started the following year. For thirty years the Slipper Chapel remained restored but little used, as devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham was centred on Kings Lynn. On August 19th 1934, Bishop Youens of Northampton celebrated the first public Mass in the Slipper Chapel for four hundred years, and two days later Cardinal Bourne led a national pilgrimage of more than 10,000 people to the Shrine. At this pilgrimage, the Slipper Chapel was declared to be the National Shrine of Our Lady for Roman Catholics in England.

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### **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET**

#### **24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 12th September 2021**

### **THE HOLY CROSS**

This Tuesday is the great Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The public veneration of the Holy Cross dates from the fourth century.

TODAY the Church commemorates the rescue of the true Cross of Christ by Emperor Heraclius in a victory over the Persians. Our Mother the Church sings of the triumph of the Holy Cross, the instrument of our salvation. In order to follow Christ, the Christian must take up his cross and become obedient with Christ, who was obedient until death, even death on the Cross. We are identified with Christ on the Cross. We become co-redeemers, sharing in Christ's Cross.

O cross, you are the glorious sign of victory.

Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus.

Then this Wednesday 15th September is the Feast of OUR LADY OF SORROWS. This feast has its origin in that Christian devotion which associates her with the Passion of her Son. Pope Pius VII extended this devotion to the whole Church and, in 1912, St Pius X fixed the feast on this day, within the octave of the Nativity of our Mother the Virgin. Our Mother the

Virgin teaches us to live, together with her, beside the Cross of her Son. In her suffering as co-redeemer, she reminds us of the tremendous malice of sin and shows us the way of true repentance.

**FUNERAL MASS:** For Maria Normile is on Wednesday 15th September at 11am. May she rest in peace.

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[23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)  
**23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Sunday 5th September 2021**

**POPE FRANCIS VIDEO - SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE**

In his video for the month of August 2021, Pope Francis focuses on the need for an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Pope Francis says: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

It makes me very happy to see that young people have the courage to undertake projects for environmental and social improvement, since the two go together.

We adults can learn much from them, because in all matters related to care for the planet, they are at the forefront.

Let us take advantage of their example and reflect on our lifestyle, especially during these moments of health, social and environmental crisis.

Let us reflect on how the way we eat, consume, travel, or the way we use water, energy, plastics, and many other material goods, is often harmful to the earth.

Let us choose to change! Let us advance with young people towards lifestyles that are simpler and more respectful of the environment.

Let us pray that we all will make courageous choices, the choices necessary for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, taking inspiration from our young people who are resolutely committed to this. And they aren't foolish, because they are committed to their own future. This is why they want to change what they will inherit at a time when we will no longer be here.

Watch the video on YouTube. Pope Francis - An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle September 2021

**FUNERAL MASS:** For Maria Normile is on Wednesday 15th September at 11am. May she rest in peace.

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[EMMAUS MASS SHEET 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)  
**22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**29th August 2021**

**FOR OUR VISITORS...**

**Dear Friend,**

**Welcome to our church: I trust you will feel at home here. During this summer period, you may join many visitors, so we offer you here a brief guide to this church. We have a fuller guide available before and after Mass. We also have available a booklet 'HOLBORN London's VIA SACRA' a brief but inspiring account of the courage and heroism shown by the Saints and Martyrs in Holborn who gave witness to the Faith during the Reformation. We hope you enjoy your visit.**

*Fr David Barnes, Rector*

1) As you enter the church, to the left there is the Baptistry. There is a plaque on the wall in memory of Edith Gwen Kinghorn, wife of Tony Kinghorn, who for many years was an altar server in the church.

2) Statue of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Little Flower who, from the age of fifteen until her death at 24, lived a hidden life in the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. She is one of the most popular saints the world has ever known - a Doctor of the Church. Her Little Way of spirituality emphasizes the seeking of holiness in the simple and the ordinary.

3) Proceed alongside the left hand aisle of the church. Here you will see the continuation of: 14 Stations of the Cross on either side of the church; each recalls an aspect of the suffering of Our Lord on Good Friday.

In between the Stations of the Cross and at various positions around the church, small tablets in red with a gold cross are set in the walls, with a small candle holder fixed in front. These are points where the Bishop anointed and consecrated the church in 1959.

4) Further along the left aisle, past the 14th Station are 2 plaques. The Colonna Crucifixion, after Michaelangelo circa 1542, commemorates Canon Francis Bartlett, who was parish priest of St. Anselm and St. Cæcilia's from 1977-1985.

5) The other plaque is to the memory of Charles T. Fisher IV, an American Banker who worked near the church and died in the Lockerbie air disaster in 1988, three days before his 36th birthday. The door to the right leads down to the Parish Room.

6) The Sanctuary, with the altar - the focal point of the church. On the left of the sanctuary is the Ambo from which Holy Scripture is read.

7) The Sanctuary lamp is the gift of the legal profession (in its two branches) and signifies the presence of God in the Tabernacle that contains the Eucharist.

8) The Tabernacle, which contains the vessels in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. To the left, set in the wall is a small recess, the Aumbrey, for the Holy Oils used in baptism, confirmation and anointing the sick. To the right, again set in the wall, is the piscina where water used sacramentally is disposed of directly into the earth. Nowadays the piscina in the Sacristy is used for this purpose.

9) On either side of the Tabernacle are two roundels bearing the Instruments of the Passion

and above are sculptures of Christ crowning Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, surrounded by Angels, with the patron Saints, Anselm to the left and Cæcilia on the right.

10) High above is the wooden canopy or Baldacchino, painted in blue with gold leaf. Depicted in the centre is the symbol of the Holy Spirit (a dove) and roundels in four corners with IHS, which, in Greek are the first letters for Jesus, Son and Saviour.

11) Proceed halfway along the centre aisle then, facing the Sanctuary, look up to the Great Cross, with statues of Our Lady standing on the left and St John on the right of the suffering Christ. Behind this scene, on the left, is the organ loft, which is better viewed from the right aisle alongside the Sanctuary.

12) On the right are the doors leading to the Sacristy, with the large painting of the Descent from the Cross hanging on the South wall. Attributed to John Francis Rigaud RA. In the Old Sardinian Chapel it hung above the High Altar.

13) As you leave this passage, look up towards the West Window with the stained glass depiction of Christ rising from the flames, just as a phoenix rises from the ashes, with images of St. Anselm and St. Cecilia to the left and right. This window commemorates the fire on Christmas Day 1992 when much of the church roof was destroyed as a result of an electrical fault in the main organ. Below is the choir gallery with organ and console to the left.

14) The first Station of the Cross begins along the South wall, Jesus is condemned to Death.

15) Further along on the left is a statue of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was the visions of St Margaret Alacoque in 1673-5 which gave definite shape to the object of devotion and its practices. The feast day is observed on the Friday in the week after Corpus Christi.

16) Our Lady's Altar. Tradition maintains that the Lady Altar was the High Altar of the Old Chapel. According to an old parchment, which may date from around 1700, the altar stone of the High Altar in the old Chapel came with its relics from the Lady Chapel of Glastonbury Abbey. This area of the church was bombed during the Blitz in 1940, but restored after the war. There is a piscina to the right of the altar.

17) To the right of Our Lady's Altar is the Chapel of St. Thomas More – A Man for all Seasons. An inscription on the wall describes St. Thomas' time as a bencher of Lincoln's Inn and Lord Chancellor. Having opposed King Henry VIII over his divorce and martyred on the grounds of having opposed the Act of Supremacy, he was beheaded in the Tower of London in 1535. St. Thomas was canonized in 1935. Here also hangs the Large Crucifix which is venerated throughout the year, but especially on Good Friday when the faithful kneel one by one to kiss the feet of Our Blessed Lord.

18) Halfway along the South aisle is St. Joseph's Altar. The mosaic was commissioned in 1962 by Father Joseph Scholles, then Parish Priest, in memory of his father, Joseph Scholles, who died around that time. The mosaic depicts St Joseph, protector of the Universal Church, holding the church of St. Anselm and St. Cæcilia in his hands. Inscribed in Latin on the front of altar is- Sancti Joseph, Ora pro nobis. (St. Joseph, pray for us). On the left is a statue of St Joseph carrying the infant Jesus and holding a lily in his right hand - a symbol of purity.

19) To the right of St. Joseph's altar are the confessional boxes.



20) Above the West end of the Lady Chapel is the Royal Sardinian coat-of-arms, which originally surmounted the organ in the old Sardinian Chapel.

21) Approaching the last row of benches, behind the pillar is a statue of St Jude, much invoked as the patron of hopeless cases and lost causes.

22) To the right is the small altar and statue of St Anthony of Padua, a simple and humble Franciscan Friar and Doctor of the Church who preached the Good News lovingly and with fearless courage, much invoked in cases of special difficulties and commonly referred to today as the finder of lost articles. Usually depicted with a book and the Infant Child Jesus in his arms.

23) In the aisle as you approach Our Lady's altar is the Statue of St Peter. In the Middle Ages pilgrims who reached Rome, touched and kissed the foot of the statue and prayed to St. Peter, asking that he be merciful and open the gates of Heaven for them if they died during the pilgrimage.

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### [17th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

## 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25th July 2021

This will be the last bulletin until early September.

### HOLIDAYS

**HOLY DAYS** are occasions when we go to Mass to express most fully that we belong to God, the source and end of our life, and that we belong to one another as the Family of God, the Church. From Holy Days comes our words *HOLIDAYS*.

We are now entering the holiday season, so how will we use our holiday time?

- Make the Holy Mass more the centre of all our activities. “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives”(from our Bishops)
- Daily prayer: begin each day with some prayer, say the Angelus around mid-day, and some evening prayer. This daily conversation with God is vital– life-giving –if we are to connect with the source of our life. Say some part of the Rosary – Our Lady & St Joseph will help us.
- Daily prayer will develop our capacity to love our neighbour
- The more we open our hearts to God and our neighbour, the more we will overcome our inclination to selfishness and sin: remember, any sin is a failure to love, and leads to unhappiness.

**DAILY PRAYER**, as our conversation with God, is both speaking and listening, we all need some help.

Therefore, as you leave church today, there are available “**The Simple Prayer Book**”.

If you really intend to use it, do take a copy.

Wishing you all a fruitful holiday period, and please pray for our parish each day.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector and Parish Priest*

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[16th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**18th July 2021**

**STATEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND**

*SUNDAY – IT IS OUR DAY!*

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the

Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.

1 St Jerome, *In Die Dominica Paschae II*

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[15th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**11th July 2021**

**SEA SUNDAY**

**TODAY** is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea.

Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually.

This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. To donate, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate) or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. There is a basket at the back of the church for your donation. Thank you.

**A PRAYER FOR SEA SUNDAY**

*O God the Father*, who call man and woman to cooperate with their labour in the work of your creation, we thank you for the tireless dedication of the people of the sea, who in this period never stopped transporting from one port to another essential medical equipment and medicines to support the fight against the spread of the virus.

Grant them strength in moments of weakness, unity in diversity, a safe and smooth sailing and, once the contract is over, happiness to be reunited with their loved ones.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, with Your grace, encourage the maritime industry to facilitate crew changes, vaccinations and strengthen the implementation of international standards to enhance and protect the human and working rights of the people of the sea. Free us from the scourge of piracy and the tragic consequences of the abandonment of seafarers.

*Holy Spirit*, hovering over all the waters of the world, awakens in the chaplains and volunteers of Stella Maris the appeal of the splendour of the faith, so that they always witness it with the consistency of life, revealing the caring face of the Church which welcomes and is close to the people of the sea, responding without hesitation to their spiritual and material needs.

*O Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea*, we entrust to you the wellbeing of the people of the sea and pray that you continue to protect us all from all dangers, especially from COVID-19. Assist us with Your maternal blessing, while we are sailing to the port of all our hopes. Accompany those who are no longer with us into the house of Heavenly Father and give comfort to grieving relatives and friends. Amen!

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[14th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**4th July 2021**

## OUR PARISH ASSEMBLY last Monday (28 June)

.....was an opportunity to consider how we move forward as a parish. **MASS** times were central.

We shall no longer have a full Sung Latin Mass at 12 noon. From September we shall continue with a simple Sung Mass in Latin. The 10am Mass will have the hymns sung by our children in our school.

It has not been possible to continue with our Director of Music, Adam Balkwill. The change in Job Description, and finance, has determined this. Adam has given our parish, and most especially our children, so very much! On behalf of us all I thank him for all he has done for our children and all of us. We wish Adam every blessing for his future.

## PETER'S PENCE

**TODAY, SUNDAY**, we have the annual collection for "Peter's Pence". This collection started here in England at the end of the 8th century, when the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity. They wanted to help the Bishop of Rome, as successor of St Peter, in his universal ministry. The money collected is for the Pope to give to those suffering from natural disasters, such as famine or flooding, or those in great need, such as those suffering the consequences of war. The Pope gives money in the name of the whole Church. This annual collection expresses well our love for the Successor of Peter in his universal ministry.

Please do give generously, and do pray for Pope Francis.

May the love and prayers of Ss Peter and Paul sustain the Church, increase our love for the Church as the "Mystical Body of Christ" as also our love for the Pope, and our love for the mission of the Church. For more information visit: <http://www.peterspence.va/> .

**Pope Francis says:** "We cannot proclaim good things but without service it is not proclamation. It may seem to be, but it is not, because the **Spirit** not only carries you forward to proclaim the truths of the Lord and the life of the Lord, but **He also brings you to the service of the brothers and sisters**, even in small things". "**All of us have been saved gratuitously** by Jesus Christ. Therefore, **we must give gratuitously**. Those who carry out the pastoral work of evangelization must learn this. Their life must be gratuitous, given in service, proclamation, borne by the Spirit. **Their personal poverty forces them to open themselves up to the Spirit**".

## **JULY – MONTH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD:**

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus is a powerful means to help us be devoted to the totally sacrificial love of Our Lord, as also loving Him totally present in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Cathedral here in Westminster is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

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[13th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**27th June 2021**

**TODAY IN OUR DIOCESE –**

**We are celebrating the Feast of ST JOHN SOUTHWORTH (d.1654)**

St John Southworth's significance for our diocese lies in the discovery of his body at Douai in 1927 and his subsequent translation to Westminster Cathedral in 1930. He acts as a representative figure for the many priests who courageously worked in London in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, at the risk of imprisonment and execution. Southworth was trained at Douai and worked in Lancashire and London. Together with the Jesuit St Henry Morse (1595-1645), Southworth cared for the victims of the 1636 plague at great personal risk. Spending many years in prison, he was finally hung, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 28 June 1654, together with two counterfeiters. Westminster has traditionally kept his feast on 27 June because 28 June (the day of his martyrdom) is already occupied by St Irenaeus and the Vigil of Ss Peter and Paul.

**SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES**

**TUESDAY 29th JUNE** is the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul.

The Church founded by Christ has Ss Peter and Paul as its principle pillars. Peter was chosen by Christ to be His first Vicar on earth, endowed with powers of the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven (Mt 16:13-19) and charged with the role of Shepherd of Christ's flock (Jn 21:15-17).

In Peter and his successors, the visible sign of unity and communion in faith and charity has been given.

Divine grace led Peter to profess Christ's divinity. St Peter suffered martyrdom under Nero, in A.D. 66 or 67.

He was buried at the hill of the Vatican, where recent excavations have revealed his tomb on the very site of the Basilica of St Peter's.

Paul was chosen to form part of the apostolic college by Christ himself on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-16). An instrument selected to bring Christ's name to all peoples (Acts 9:15), he is the greatest missionary of all time, the advocate of pagans, the Apostle of the Gentiles.

St Paul was beheaded in the Tre Fontane along the Via Ostiense and buried nearby, on the spot where the basilica bearing his name now stands.

*Daily Roman Missal - SCEPTER PRESS*

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[12th Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**20th June 2021**

**DAY FOR LIFE**

DAY FOR LIFE: Bishop John Sherrington, writes:

We celebrate DAY FOR LIFE, TODAY. This day, inaugurated by Saint John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection. This assists pro-life organisations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach.

GLOBAL PANDEMIC: The fragility of life and the reality of death has been brought into sharp focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19. Yet in the face of such suffering and death, we have also witnessed the extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying. We too have each made sacrifices for the greater good during this pandemic. These acts of heroic love are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life.

ASSISTED DYING: Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of ‘assisted suicide’ in our country. It is not a question of ‘if’ this challenge will come, it is now a question of ‘when?’ There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called ‘Assisted Dying’ and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons.

This year’s theme for Day for Life focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

DAY FOR LIFE adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in the pews supporting our work.

In 2020, we were unable to hold our annual ‘Day for Life’ collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater.

DAY FOR LIFE is a simple, practical response which pushes back against ‘the use and throwaway logic’ often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly, sick and dying when ‘they no longer serve our interests.’ If you feel you can offer financial support no matter how small, please visit: <https://www.dayforlife.org/article/donate/> Or place your donation in the basket as you leave the church today. Thank you for your generosity as always.

### PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH PATRON SAINT OF THE SICK

Faithful Joseph, with the fulfilment of the Lord’s promise,  
you peacefully leave this world in Jesus and Mary’s hands.  
Your faith transforms death into the sowing of life;  
thus, God considers you to be a just man.  
Your heart overflows in the presence of the Lord.  
With your hands outstretched to God, your night is filled with prayers.  
Surrounded by the living, you embark upon the great march to the promise Land.  
Open our eyes that we may glimpse the road to Life that lies beyond death.  
May nothing, not denial, anger, nor depression, separate us from the Love of God.  
Strengthen our faith in God who always finds ways of preserving us in his friendship.  
Be beside us to hold our hands when we take our first steps toward the Eternal Kingdom.  
Amen

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[Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMESUNDAY**

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH**

We have all endured an extraordinary 18 months: the pandemic has changed us all.

Now we need to plan together for the future: what sort of parish do we want to become?

A parish priest is responsible for the development of a parish, but in my opinion he must do this together with the parishioners: we are all in this together!

**THE PARISH ASSEMBLY** is a way of implementing this process. We can raise any issue, look at what we are doing and what we are failing to do. Every person counts, and every voice matters: the Holy Spirit is at work in all of us, and so we need to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying through each one of us.

**THE INVITATION** is to each one of you: do come on **MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE** immediately following the 6:00pm Mass. We shall meet in the church.

**THE AGENDA** can be as you wish. Please submit any items to me beforehand, or simply bring them to the meeting. We need to consider especially our **MASS TIMES** as we come out of lockdown regulations.

**MEETINGS** are not everybody's cup of tea!

Even if you cannot be at the meeting, please do email me, telephone me or speak to me on the street. I am here to try to serve you, so it is paramount I know what you think.

**THANK YOU** for all you contribute. It is a joy to be among you as your Parish Priest.

God Bless, Fr David

**JUNE: THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART**

Throughout this month, let us deepen our devotion to the love of God revealed through the Heart of Jesus. The Litany of the Sacred Heart is a wonderful way to do this.

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[Corpus Christi EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

**6th June 2021**

**CORPUS CHRISTI**

**TODAY** we celebrate the wondrous love of Our Lord for us — how He gives Himself completely to us in Holy Communion, and how He is with us always in the Sacred Host in all

the tabernacles throughout the world.

**MASS** is the means to bring us this presence. The priest takes bread and wine, and through the Holy Spirit our gifts are transformed to become really, truly and substantially the Body and Blood of Christ, so that Our Lord is present as perfect God and Perfect Man, body, soul and divinity. This transformation we call transubstantiation.

**ADORATION** is therefore the appropriate response to this gift, so on this weekend's celebration we should resolve again to

- make a good preparation for receiving Holy Communion followed by thanksgiving.
- Visit Our Lord regularly in the tabernacle ("making a visit" is an important part of Catholic spirituality, and builds up our bond with Our Lord).
- Show ever greater respect when we come into church, "the House of the Lord", by genuflecting to the tabernacle and kneeling to adore and pray. Keeping silence in church is not only a way to respect Our Lord, but also one another.

"O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine".

### **June: month of The Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**THE HEART** is a symbol of love in very many cultures. Devotion to the Heart of Jesus is quite simply devotion to Him who is the Love of God perfectly revealed to us. The devotion goes back to earliest times, based on Our Lord's description of Himself, "Come to me...for I am meek and humble of heart .....". (Matthew 11:28-29)

Our own co-patron St Anselm promoted this devotion, though it really became widespread through St Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation sister in France (Paray-le-Monial) in the 17th century.

The most beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart I know is in our church (see photo overleaf).

**SACRED HEART NOVENA:** Here at St Anselm & St Cecilia will be praying the Novena before Mass every day until Tue 11th June. Petitions may be placed in the box at the Sacred Heart statue and will be placed on the Altar on the Feast day."

Fr. David Barnes, *Parish Priest*

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[+Trinity Sunday EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY  
30th May 2021**

### **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

GOD has been revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit — three persons, but one God. We could never know this by use of reason: we know it because Our Lord Jesus has *revealed*



it.

GOD's love is made known to us as a dynamic interaction of loving between the Three Persons of the Trinity. God is loving — the active relationship of loving between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

GOD's love for us is made known in the Incarnation — the enfleshment of God — when “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” That love is *revealed* above all through the Mystery of the Cross. God's love for us is confirmed in every Mass through receiving Holy Communion. As Pope Francis tells us: “Christ has shown us the face of God, one in substance and triune of Persons. God is all and only Love, in a subsisting relationship that creates, redeems and sanctifies all: Father, Son and Holy Spirit”.

God's love for us is made known in the fact that God wants to be known by us — to live in relationship with us. We can do so with confidence because in our baptism God made us adopted sons and daughters with the great privilege of relating to God as a most beloved son or daughter. We always have access to God on this personal level. So relate to God everyday, ever faithful, through that daily conversation which is prayer.

Fr. David Barnes, *Rector*

**CHURCH OPENING TIMES:** The Bishops have now decided we can re-open the churches for silent prayer during the day.

Our church will be open as following: **MONDAY-FRIDAY from 8am-to end of 6pm Mass, SATURDAY 9.30am-to end of 6pm Mass and SUNDAYS from 9.30am to end of 6pm Mass.**

**Mass times remain the same, daily at 6pm and Sundays 10am and 6pm**

We ask all visitors to adhere to the following

- 1. SANITISE HANDS** on entry to the church and before receiving Holy Communion.
- 2. USE THE TRACK AND TRACE QR CODE** (during the day) or manually for Mass as we have been doing
- 3. WEAR A FACE COVERING** when inside the church (unless exempt), this will reduce aerosol and droplet spread.

The church will be cleaned daily as per the guidelines.

We will monitor the situation and as always take further guidance from the Government and the Bishops if anything changes.

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[+Pentecost Sunday EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**

## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**“COME HOLY SPIRIT.....”THE HOLY SPIRIT** transformed the apostles from being inward- looking, timid and afraid, to being outward-looking and bold in proclaiming the Risen and Ascended Lord. The Spirit set them on fire: for this reason we sometimes call the Feast of Pentecost the **BIRTHDAY** of the Church.

The Holy Spirit can do the same for us—if we are open and really want to be transformed. Pope Francis said “The Spirit is the wind pushing us forward, keeping us going, that makes us feel like pilgrims and foreigners and doesn't allow us to get comfortable and become sedentary.....”

**HOPE** collects the wind of the Spirit and transforms it into energy”.

This Pentecost, pray that we shall all be filled with the Holy Spirit and be full of hope. How well do we know the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

The **Seven Gifts** of the Holy Spirit are:

Wisdom, Understanding Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge Piety Fear of the Lord.

The **Twelve Fruits** of the Holy Spirit are:

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control and Chastity.

**COME, HOLY SPIRIT, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.....**

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

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**CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS:** There are copies of [Today's Pastoral Letter - Pentecost](#) from Cardinal Vincent Nichols available at the back of the church as you leave, please take a copy home with you.

*Prayer to the Holy Spirit*

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: O, God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Holy Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever enjoy rejoice in his consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. **R.** Amen.

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[7th Sunday of Easter EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+7th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**16th May 2021**

## **CARDINAL VINCENT – INVITATION TO PRAY 'THY KINGDOM COME' NOVENA**

Once again this year, we are invited to join 'Thy Kingdom Come', the global prayer novena from Ascension to Pentecost, to pray for the spread of the Gospel so that more people may come to know Jesus. In his message inviting us to take part in the novena, Cardinal Vincent encourages us to pray that the Holy Spirit may strengthen 'our effort to announce the Gospel in word and in deed'.

'The Holy Spirit is God's power, sustaining the created world in being. It's the Holy Spirit that transformed what we call the 'chaos' into the 'cosmos', the ordered world,' he says, inviting us to 'cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit in protecting, enhancing our natural environment, the world, because it is our human environment.'

For more information about the prayer novena and prayer resources, please visit the [Thy Kingdom Come website](#).

The novena of prayer before Pentecost, 'Thy Kingdom Come', has become part of the rhythm of life in the Christian churches. So I encourage you to take it up.

Every opportunity to pray, in a structured way and in a way that brings us together in prayer, is immensely valuable.

And that is true of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We pray in anticipation, asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now, that's so central to our faith. It's the Holy Spirit that gives life to the Church that gave that first impetus to the gathering of the disciples and Mary to go out and to begin the proclamation of the Gospel, the Good News that only Jesus Christ brings into this world.

And so we pray for a strengthening in that Spirit in our effort to announce the Gospel in word and in deed. It's really important that we use this period, this novena of prayer before Pentecost, to allow the Holy Spirit to fill us. It's a time in which we receive. We cannot ever earn our salvation; we have to receive it, and we receive best with open hands and an open heart.

The Holy Spirit is God's power, sustaining the created world in being. It's the Holy Spirit that transformed what we call the 'chaos' into the 'cosmos', the ordered world.

What better time than now for us to be thinking about how we cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit in protecting, enhancing our natural environment, the world, because it is our human environment.

In caring for the world, we care for each other. In caring for each other, we care for the Creator and show him our respect, our deference, our service.

So may 'Thy Kingdom Come' be a prayer from our hearts that the Holy Spirit transforms us into servants of the Word and servants of the created world made through the Word himself.

Watch: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtQZpMdyiy4&t=2s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtQZpMdyiy4&t=2s)

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42164>

**RETIRING COLLECTION: TODAY** there will be a retiring collection at all masses for

Catholic Communications. Please leave your donations in the basket as you leave church.

The time between the feast of the Ascension and the coming of Pentecost is a time of preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. To be a spiritual person and so become a saint (and this is our vocation through our Baptism) we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

During the month of May, which is dedicated to Our Lady, we are conscious that she is “full of grace” – that is with the Holy Spirit. We need to know and love her more if we are to understand our life in the Church. Her vocation, to give birth to Our lord, is also the vocation of the church – i.e., to give Christ to the world. Hence the spirit of the Church is the spirit of Mary: to be open to God, and, though not understanding everything, to want to do what God wants.

In this month of Mary, let us pray that we have the spirit of Mary – her generosity, her commitment, her desire to do God’s will. When that happens, God can do great things through us and among us.

Fr. David Barnes *Rector*

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### [6th Sunday of Easter EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+6th SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**9th May 2021**

**The Ascension of the Lord – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

**“...HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN...” (Creed)**

**THURSDAY’s** celebration of Our Lord’s Ascension gives us much to ponder and treasure in our heart.

Our Lord has completed everything the Father had given Him to do, crowned by the Paschal Mystery, and now He is returning to the Father. His joy is complete, and He invites us to share His joy. Our true joy is to share His joy!

He goes to prepare a place for us. Heaven is where we truly belong, to be with God for all eternity. Our Lord has prepared a place for us. He is calling us “so that where I am, you may be too”.

Do I live with heaven as my goal and true homeland? We are never alone: in his Ascension He promises that He will be with us always, “Yes, to the end of time”.

He is always present to us: are we always wanting to make ourselves present to Him? My Mission and purpose in this world is to share in the Mission Jesus gave the infant Church at His Ascension: “Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News...”

Our Lord shares His life fully with us through the Church: do we seek to bring others to share His life through the Church?

“Gladden us with holy joys, Almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,

for the Ascension of Christ your Son in our exaltation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope” (Thursday’s Collect)

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - THURSDAY 13th MAY MASS TIMES:**

**WEDNESDAY 13th MAY - VIGIL MASS: 6:00pm**

**THURSDAY 13th MAY -12:30pm and 6:00pm**

**CONFESSIONS: 12:00-12:20pm and 5:00-5:20pm**

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[5th Sunday of Easter EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+5th SUNDAY OF EASTER  
2nd May 2021**

**May – The month of Mary**

**MAY** is dedicated to Our Lady. It is a time to get to know and love Our Lady more. – and, even more importantly, her love for us. At the 10am Mass this weekend we have the Crowning of Our Lady as Queen of the May. This helps us express and understand how the reign of Mary is the reign of **“YES- TO-GOD”** in our daily life. May we let the spirit of Mary, the spirit of **“YES-TO-GOD”**, flourish in our day-to-day living.

Our Marian devotions should not be limited to church. Please ensure you honour Our Lady in your home. Do crown a statue or picture of Our Lady at home. Gather around the statue or picture of Our Lady, and recite the Rosary. Let’s make it our aim that all of us, families or individuals recite at least one decade of the Rosary **EACH DAY**. Let us teach our children (and remind ourselves!) that the reign of Mary, the reign of **“YES -TO-GOD”**, is the best way to true self-fulfilment and happiness.

**Feast of THE ENGLISH MARTYRS – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

The Catholic Church in England has a long history of martyrs, beginning with St Alban in c. 304 AD. At the time of King Henry VIII’s break with Rome, many more were added. Many of these martyrs passed through our parish on their way from Newgate prison to Tyburn, so we have a close connection with them. Two priests were martyred in Lincoln’s Inn Fields – Blessed Robert Morton and blessed Hugh Moor: we should often ask them to pray for us that we will become better witness to Christ and the Catholic Faith.

**Blessed Robert Morton and Blessed Hugh Moor, pray for us.**

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE - DAY OF PRAYER 4TH MAY.**

Please pray:

- For all survivors of sexual abuse; may they come to know, once again, the compassionate love of God and find healing and hope in the risen Lord.
- For all who work in safeguarding; may they place the voice of the survivor at the

heart of their service and through their care for others help to build up the Body of Christ.

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

Reflection this week, we wish to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year. The full version of the reflection is available at the back of the church. [The Day of the Lord - Reflection by the Bishop's of England and Wales](#)

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[4th Sunday of Easter EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+4th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**25th April 2021**

**PRIEST TRAINING FUND**

**TODAY** (Sunday), is **Good Shepherd Sunday** and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund.

The formation of our priests is of top priority – it is our future.

The Priest Training Fund pays for the training and education of seminarians at our seminary, Allen Hall. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 18 of whom are for our own Diocese, and two men are currently studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. In 2020 we also celebrated the ordination of two men from Allen Fund.

This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood.

Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests.

It costs on average £25,000 per man, per year of formation – that is about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church.

The Priest Training Fund also pays for the ongoing education and formation of our priests, post-ordination. Priests are the heart of the Catholic Church. Please continue to pray for vocations and our seminarians.

Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the church. Please collect and return to the basket as you leave the church. You can also donate online anytime at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

**ALLEN HALL ANNUAL NEWS:** After a difficult year in Allen Hall, there is a definite feeling of change in the air, not least because of the brighter weather and the lighter restrictions. Despite the difficulties, it has been a full year of formation. To view and download the newsletter, please follow this link: [https://issuu.com/rcwestminster/docs/allen\\_hall\\_newsletter\\_-\\_easter\\_2021](https://issuu.com/rcwestminster/docs/allen_hall_newsletter_-_easter_2021)

## **A PRAYER FOR THOSE CONSIDERING THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Lord, help each of us to live the fullness of life by following your call. Send your Holy Spirit to guide those who are making life choices. We pray especially for those who are called to serve you in the priesthood or consecrated life; may they be supported in their vocations and truly be a sign of your love in the world. Amen

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**FUNERAL NOTICE:** Mr Thomas Kennedy RIP. Tommy's Funeral Mass will be held here on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 12.00pm. Please remember Tommy, his family and friends in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

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### **+3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **PARISH FEAST OF ST. ANSELM (1033-1109) Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

St. Anselm, a Benedictine monk who became a bishop, was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1720 and has been called **“the Father of Scholasticism.”** Born in Piedmont, Italy, he first entered the Benedictine monastery at Aosta, Italy, but under pressure from his father he had to leave the monastic life. After an unsettled period, the youth fled to France and entered the Benedictine monastery at Bec (1059), where he eventually became abbot and gained renown as a preacher and a reformer of the monastic life. During this period he wrote his best theological works, which exerted a powerful influence and established him as a theological master in the late Middle Ages. Eventually he became archbishop of Canterbury in England and was involved in the struggle over lay investiture with King William II, who refused to recognise Pope Urban II. Twice Anselm went into exile (1097 and 1103) but finally he was able to return to his see, where he died on April 21, 1109.

### **MESSAGE AND RELEVANCE**

The Opening Prayer of the Mass presents the characteristic traits of the spirituality of St. Anselm: **“to study and teach the sublime truths”** of revelation. His definition of theology was *“faith seeking understanding.”* He contributed greatly to the development of systematic theology but always with an emphasis on the contemplative and spiritual dimension. St. Anselm and St. Thomas Aquinas.

The excerpt from the *Proslogion* in the Officer of Readings is an example of the manner in which St. Anselm did theology.

For him it was not mere intellectual research or logical deduction from principles. *“My soul,”* he asks, *“have you found what you are looking for? You were looking for God, and you have discovered that he is the supreme being, and that you could not possibly imagine anything more perfect. You have discovered that this supreme being is life itself, light, wisdom, goodness, eternal blessedness and blessed eternity. He is everywhere and he is timeless.”* His other works include a treatise entitled *Cur Deus Homo?*, a marvellous theological investigation of the Incarnation. He also defended the orthodox doctrine on the *Filioque* when he attended the Council of Bari (Italy) in 1102.

Today also we should strive for a deeper understanding of our faith so that we can love the truth we have studied, as is stated in the Opening Prayer: *“Let your gift of faith come to the aid of our understanding and open our hearts to your truth.”*

The famous axiom, *Credo ut intelligam* (I believe in order that I may understand) reminds us that we should be guided by the light of faith and not by the light of reason alone. Otherwise, if we rely too much on human knowledge, there is a danger of weakening our faith.

The name **ANSELM** is from the ancient German and means “Protected by God.”

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**Priest Training Fund:** Next weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will also take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 45 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 28 of whom are for our own Diocese, and last year eight men ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests.

This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests.

Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can donate online anytime at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

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## [2nd Sunday of Easter EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**11<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION**

From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God’s love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus as **The Divine Mercy** is based on the writings of [Saint Faustina Kowalska](#), an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God’s mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message of mercy is that God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him



with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

**A** — Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B** — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**C** — Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

**11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021, 2.45pm-3.30pm** Divine Mercy devotions with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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**+ EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION**  
**4th April 2021**

**THE LORD IS RISEN, Alleluia**

**HE IS RISEN IN DEED Alleluia**

This ancient Christian greeting, said on meeting one another during Eastertide, should surely be recovered and used again – encouraging us to deepen our faith in the Risen Lord.

**THE RESURRECTION** is a supernatural event, a clear break with the natural order, Jesus is raised from the dead through the power of God, and in sharing this victory we are “*saved*”. To reduce our understanding of life to the natural order alone is to miss out on the full reality of human existence: life is so much more wonderful, beautiful and exciting when we can see everything in the light of the Risen Lord!

**WE ARE WITNESSES** to our Risen Lord because we choose to believe and trust the witnesses who saw Him, believing the accounts of the Risen Lord in the Sacred Scriptures, and also believing the Church who has faithfully handed on the message to us.

**TRUST** and **FAITH** is at the heart of our believing. The present pandemic, with a virus that can be so destructive of human life, reminds us of our fragility and vulnerability. Just as sin is destructive of our power to love, made in the image of God, so there is a destructive power at work in the natural order. The virus is surely part the armoury of the Evil One. We must fight it with all the resources we have, in the sure faith that it will be vanquished.

Wishing you all a Blessed and joy-filled Easter.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

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**+ PALM SUNDAY – PASSION OF THE LORD**  
**Sunday 28th March 2021**

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

Holy Week is the most important week in the Christian year. Pope Francis says “Holy Week” is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus: friendship with Him is shown in times of difficulty”. The best way to draw near to Our Lord is to participate as much as possible the liturgies of the Church.

**PALM SUNDAY (TODAY)** — the commemoration of Our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem when He was greeted with praise and thanksgiving, the waving and strewing of palms. This year, because of the pandemic, palms will be given as you leave the church. Take the palm home and put with your household crucifix.

**THE SACRED TRIDUUM** —the 3 Holy Days of the Paschal Mystery

**HOLY THURSDAY —The MASS of THE LORD’S SUPPER** at 6:00pm commemorates the institution of the Eucharist, the total gift of Himself to us as the Bread of Life. Afterwards, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. The pandemic means that we have no “watching” this year, but you can do so through live streaming.

**GOOD FRIDAY — A day of FASTING and ABSTINENCE.** Fasting applies to those 18-60: no meat (abstinence) and only one simple meal and two small ones, and no food in between. **THE LITURGY OF THE LORD’S PASSION AND DEATH** at 3:00pm, the hour at which Our Lord died on the Cross.

**HOLY SATURDAY** — the Church waits in the Lord’s tomb, reflecting on his Passion and Death, waiting with faith, prayer and fasting the glorious Resurrection. Mary and Joseph are waiting with us. We gather at 8:00pm, to celebrate how God prepared His People for the Resurrection, (the Vigil), leading to the First Mass of Easter.

Fr David Barnes, Rector

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**FUNERAL NOTICE:** The Funeral Mass for **Sheila Hunt** will take place here at **St Anselm & St Cecilia on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am.** Please remember Sheila’s Family and Friends during this time, may she rest in peace.

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**STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE BISHOPS’ CONFERENCE  
ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION FOR COVID-19**

**TUESDAY 23rd MARCH 2021**

We welcome the designation of Tuesday 23rd March as a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute’s silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.

We ask you all to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer. In reflection we ponder on all that has taken place; in prayer we bring this to our Heavenly Father. For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So let us make the 23rd March truly a day of prayer.

March 2020 was the first time our churches had to be closed. It is our hope that on this day, every one of our churches will be open. We invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We know this will involve an extra effort, but this can be part of our important contribution to a significant moment in the life of our country. Indeed, we ask that you might invite a friend, neighbour or colleague to come to church with you as you make this visit.

There is so much on which to reflect and include in our prayer.

We reflect in sorrow on all those who have died, whether family members, friends or those unknown to us personally. We pray for them, asking our Father to welcome them into their heavenly home, the destiny for which God first gave us the gift of life.

We reflect with compassion on all those who have suffered during this last year, whether through illness, stress, financial disaster or family tensions. We pray for their ongoing resilience, courage and capacity to forgive.

We reflect with thanksgiving for the generosity, inventiveness, self-sacrifice and determination shown by so many in this most difficult of times. We pray for them, thanking God for their gifts and dedication, whether they are scientists, politicians, health workers, public servants of every kind, community leaders or steadfast family members and friends who continue to show such love and compassion.

We reflect in hope that, as the pandemic is controlled and we open up our lives again, we will gather in the lessons we have learned and build our society into a better shape, more compassionate, less marked by inequalities, more responsive to needs and deprivation. We ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us in this endeavour, whether we are focussing on overcoming family breakdowns, economic recovery, or building political consensus.

Christian prayer is, of course, centred on Jesus Christ, the one who is “lifted up” before us “so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him” (John 3.13). We pray with Jesus, in him and through him, for he is the one who carries us, and our prayers, into the embracing presence of his Father. He is our comfort in sorrow, our strength in the face of need, our rejoicing in the gifts we celebrate and our hope in the face of the weighty darkness of death.

May Tuesday 23rd March be a great day of prayer that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God’s Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols *Archbishop* & Malcolm McMahon OP *President Vice-President*

**FUNERAL NOTICE:** The Funeral Mass for **Boniface Simeons** will take place here at **St Anselm & St Cecilia on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30am**. Please remember Boniface’s Family and Friends during this time, may he rest in peace.

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[Fifth Sunday of Lent EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ 5th SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**Sunday 14th March 2021**

**“LAETARE” (“Rejoice”) SUNDAY**

**TODAY** we are invited to **REJOICE**, because the coming celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection (**the Paschal Mystery**) is fast approaching. May our rejoicing energise us

to use this second half of Lent as well as we can to prepare for Easter.

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

**FUNERAL NOTICE:** The Funeral Mass for **Riccardo Pedrini** will take place here at **St Anselm & St Cecilia on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00am**. Please remember Riccardo's Family and Friends during this time, may he rest in peace.

**FUNERAL NOTICE:** The Funeral Mass for **Boniface Simeons** will take place here at **St Anselm & St Cecilia on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30am**. Please remember Boniface's Family and Friends during this time, may he rest in peace.

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### **EASTER LITURGIES 2021**

#### **Palm Sunday:**

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

Vigil Mass 6pm (Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March)

Sunday Mass 10am

Sunday Mass 6pm

#### **Monday of Holy Week (29<sup>th</sup> March):**

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

6pm Mass

#### **Tuesday of Holy Week (30<sup>th</sup> March):**

Chrim Mass (Westminster Cathedral):

12 noon (Live Streamed)

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

6pm Mass

#### **Wednesday of Holy Week (31<sup>st</sup> March):**

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

6pm Mass

#### **Maundy Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> April):**

Confessions: 5:00-5:45pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 6pm

#### **Good Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> April) - Day of Fasting & Abstinence:**

Solemn Liturgy of the Lords Passion 3pm

Stations of the Cross & Veneration of the Relic of the True Cross 6:00pm

#### **Holy Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup> April):**

Confessions: 7:00pm-7:45pm

Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter – 8pm

#### **Easter Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> April):**

10:00am Mass

(NO EVENING MASS)

**Easter Monday (5<sup>th</sup> April):**  
10:00am Mass ONLY

**Easter Tuesday (6<sup>th</sup> April):** Normal Mass times and Confession times resume

**BOOKING IS REQUIRED FOR MASS ATTENDANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING MASSES,**

**to assure yourself of a place, you do need to book:**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER VIGIL (SAT, 6PM), EASTER SUNDAY (10AM MASS ONLY), available from next weekend, please see the stewards after Mass**

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[Third Sunday of Lent EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**Sunday 7th March 2021**

**2021 - YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

*'Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.'* - Pope Francis

*'A tradition I treasure is that of always having a statue of St Joseph in the kitchen, so often the heart of the home. I recommend this to you. Bring St Joseph into your kitchen. Then he will be before your eyes each day, as protector and guide in these difficult times.'* – Cardinal Vincent Nichols

*For more information or to view the full booklet, compiled by Sister Silvana Dallanegra rscj, Caritas Westminster and Deacon Adrian Cullen, Agency for Evangelisation, please visit:*  
<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/st-joseph>

**THERE WILL BE A SHORT NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH AT ST ANSELM AND ST CECILIA FROM THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH UNTIL FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH AT 5.55pm, just before the start of 6pm Mass.**

**Lived streamed as usual at: <https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinfields>**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 REGISTRATION:** For Year 3 Children who attended St Joseph's school, a letter and Registration form will be given to the children when they return to school next week. Please return to the Parish Office by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March along with the £10 donation to cover costs of Books etc. For any children not attending St Joseph's please email the Parish Office to request a copy. At [lif@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:lif@rcdow.org.uk)

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[Second Sunday of Lent EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**Sunday 28th February 2021**

**TO SEE GOD, FACE-to-FACE**

To see **GOD** as **GOD** really is – this is the goal of our life.

**GOD** has made us with this deep longing for love, which ultimately is our longing for God. So God alone can fulfil this longing, which is why no human being should ever take this primary place of God in our life.

**THE TRANSFIGURATION**, today's Gospel, is the blessed occasion when Peter, James and John were privileged to see the Lord Jesus as He really is – the fulfilment of the Law (signified by Moses) and of the prophets (signified by Elijah). Jesus is the **YES** to all God's promises. In Him we see God.

**TODAY** we pray that we may see our Lord as He really is, never giving in to that temptation to make Him into that image we would take Him to be.

The three great disciplines of Lent – **PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING** – are the means to open our eyes to Him as He really is.

**PRAY: "Lord, may I desire to see and know you as you really are".**

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

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**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:** There will be a retiring collection at all Masses **TODAY**. Please hand in your collection an envelope for Family Fast Day 2021 as you leave today. Thank you

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) or by using one of our envelopes. You can also easily give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10.\* \*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information please see our Privacy Policy: [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)

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[1st Sunday of Lent EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ 1st SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**Sunday 21st February 2021**

**POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY ON ASH WEDNESDAY**

The 40 days of Lent are an opportunity to turn from the slavery of sin to the freedom found in reconciliation with God, Pope Francis said on Ash Wednesday.

**“The journey of Lent is an exodus from slavery to freedom,”** the pope said on Feb. 17. **“These 40 days correspond to the 40 years that God’s people trekked through the desert to return to their homeland. How difficult it was to leave Egypt!”**

The Israelites had many temptations during the 40 years they wandered in the desert and **“so it is with us,”** Francis added. **“Our journey back to God is blocked by our unhealthy attachments, held back by the seductive snares of our sins, by the false security of money and appearances, by the paralysis of our discontents.”**

**“To embark on this journey, we have to unmask these illusions.”**

In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on St. Paul’s exhortation in 2 Corinthians to **“be reconciled to God.”**

**“Be reconciled: the journey is not based on our own strength,”** he said. **“Heartfelt conversion, with the deeds and practices that express it, is possible only if it begins with the primacy of God’s work. What enables us to return to him is not our own ability or merit, but his offer of grace.”**

**“The beginning of the return to God is the recognition of our need for him and his mercy, the need for his grace. This is the right path, the path of humility,”** Francis said.

He also noted God’s message through the Prophet Joel: **“Return to me with all your heart.”**

**“How many times, in our activity or indifference, have we told him: ‘Lord, I will come to you later, wait... I can’t come today, but tomorrow I will begin to pray and do something for others,’”** he said.

**“God now appeals to our hearts,”** the pope said. **“In this life, we will always have things to do and excuses to offer, but now, brothers and sisters, is the time to return to God.”**

According to Pope Francis, Lent is about more than the little sacrifices we make, but about realizing where our hearts are oriented, and turning them back toward relationship with God.

**“Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being,”** he said, advising people to reflect on stories of conversion in Sacred Scripture to know how to start the journey of the Lenten season.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-on-ash-wednesday-lent-is-a-journey-from-slavery-to-freedom-97697>

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**+ 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Sunday 14th February 2021**

### **PASTORAL LETTER – CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS**

Shortly it will be Ash Wednesday, a day rich in associations and symbolism. It marks the beginning a Lent, a time for turning again to the practice of our faith, in prayer, self-denial (fasting) and practical generosity (almsgiving). Ash Wednesday is the doorway into this

season of renewal.

As we cross this threshold we customarily receive ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of the cross. This is a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking his mercy, forgiveness and help. We use these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. Yes, we cannot pretend otherwise. Or: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. Yes, we seek the one thing that is absolutely necessary: the grace of God.

This year receiving ashes in church is going to be difficult. Yes, our churches are safe if the protective measures are fulfilled. But we must all be very careful about travelling too far. Some churches will of course be open for the celebration of Mass as usual. But I have asked them not to make extra provision for Ash Wednesday. We must be so careful and cooperative in the measures we must take, to protect ourselves and to protect others.

I now want to emphasise an important point. Receiving ashes is an outward sign of an inner step, a movement of the heart towards our beloved Lord. This year I invite you to concentrate much more on this inner, spiritual movement than on its outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes.

My suggestion is this: celebrate Ash Wednesday at home, with your family, in the household or 'support bubble' of which you are a part. Gather for a while. Read the prayer which I offer. Bless each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead. Spent some time praying in a way that you know. But please, make this a prayer of your heart for God's mercy upon this world struggling to cope with the terrible pandemic and the devastation it is bringing.

Here is a prayer:

*'Lord God, with all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.'*

Then, bless each other, using one of the two traditional formulas I have quoted earlier in this letter. Then continue with your own prayers. A pattern is suggested at the end of this letter. As a child, my mother or father used to come to my bedside each night to settle me for sleep. I was kissed goodnight and then, either my Mum or Dad would make the sign of the cross on my forehead. They gave me their blessing. This brought me such security. I remember it to this day. Then I slept in peace.

So please do not hesitate, within your household or 'bubble', to bless each other on this Ash Wednesday. We do well to remember together our need of the good Lord. Together, and through each other, he wants to comfort and reassure us of his loving presence. If, on this day, we set aside every pretence that we can do everything of ourselves, then we create in our hearts and lives the space for God's grace and strength to find a home in us.

This is the great invitation of Ash Wednesday and of the weeks of Lent which follow. Please do take up this invitation. Open your hearts to the gift of God's presence to support, comfort and strengthen you. This year, it may be best to do this, not by going to church, but by sharing the prayer, the blessing and this moment of dedication within the love of your family



and friends.

Please do include me in your prayers, too.

May God bless you all

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, *Archbishop of Westminster*

**CONFESSIONS - PLEASE SIT 2 METRES APART WHEN WAITING:**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February & Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February**  
4:45pm - 5:15pm & 6:30pm – 6:45pm (as required)

**Ash Wednesday – 17<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
9:30am - 9:50am & 5:00pm – 5:45pm

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Fridays in Lent at 6:30pm. Also live streamed at: <https://www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinfields>

**LENT WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS:** Daily readings and prayers for LENT £1.00 ONLY. Available from the back of the church.

**THE OFFICIAL PRAYER of the Year of St Joseph**(composed by Pope Leo XIII in 1889)

**TO YOU, O BLESSED JOSEPH (Ad te, beate Ioseph)**

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.Amen.

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[5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

**+ 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Sunday 7th February 2021**

**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

POPE FRANCIS has proclaimed 8 December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 as a “*Year of St*

Joseph”.

WHY? “So that every member of the faithful following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God’s will”.

POPE FRANCIS explains his thinking in his letter to the Church entitled “With a Father’s heart” (**Patris corde, in Latin!**). He explains how he wants to share some personal reflections on the holy and just Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which arise over these months of the pandemic. Pope Francis notes how many people have made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect other (just as St Joseph did with the Holy Family).

“Each of us can discover Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and guide in times of trouble..... St Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an in comparable role in the history of salvation”.

POPE FRANCIS describes St Joseph as “beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, and creatively courageous”. He was also very much “a working father”. St Joseph is “a father in the shadows”, and in his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the Heavenly Father: he watched over Him and protected Him, never leaving Him to go His own way.”

POPE FRANCIS continues that the contemporary world requires examples of fatherhood: “Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice (St Joseph did just this). The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever over vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration,”

**THE OFFICIAL PRAYER of the Year of St Joseph – To you, O blessed Joseph** – was composed by Pope Leo XIII in 1889. The Holy Father asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary especially during October, the month of the Holy Rosary.

**TO YOU, O BLESSED JOSEPH (Ad te, beate Ioseph)**

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

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[4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

**+ 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Sunday 31st January 2021**

## **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

**TODAY** is **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**. This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in [Fratelli Tutti](#) speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

The theme is 'A Time to Act'. Racial issues and inequalities were identified nationally and internationally in 2020 generating awareness, emotion and outrage. In light of this Racial Justice Sunday 2021 is particularly significant. Action is needed to further the cause of racial justice but what can we do?

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice says in his message: "**It's not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act.** In the words of Pope Francis: '**God asks us to dare to create something new.**'"

## **A PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE**

Lord Jesus Christ, in your ministry In our own time may we provide you were approached by people to all those who are suffer of many different nations and the help that they need cultures. and the care that they require.

You listened to their cry for help, May we respond to the invitation of the Holy treated them with love and Spirit compassion, to dream of a world made new and brought them healing and where the poor are not forgotten wholeness. but are given the opportunity to live and flourish with good health and equal prospects. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

**THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION, (Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2021)** often called **CANDLEMAS**, commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the Temple, which occurred 40 days after his birth as prescribed by the Jewish law. According to Mosaic Law, a mother who had given birth to a boy was considered unclean for seven days. Also, she was to remain 33 days "in the blood of her purification. "Luke tells us, quoting (Exodus: 2, 12) that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem because every firstborn child was to be dedicated to the Lord. They also went to sacrifice a pair of doves or two young pigeons. This lowly offering showed that Mary and Joseph were most likely poor. Once in the Temple, Jesus was purified by the prayer of Simeon, in the presence of Anna the prophetess. Simeon, upon seeing the Messiah, gave thanks to the Lord, singing a hymn now called the **Nunc Dimittis: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled: My own eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.**

Simeon told Mary, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." Simeon thus foreshadowed the crucifixion and the sorrows of Mary at seeing the death of her Son.

The name **CANDLEMAS** is derived from the activities associated with the Feast. It came to be known as the Candle Mass. In the Western Church, a procession with lighted candles is the distinctive rite. Compiled by David Bennett for more information visit: <https://prayerist.com/candlemasprayers.html>

## **THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalled the

150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

### **A daily prayer to St Joseph**

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

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[3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Emmaus Mass Sheet](#)

**+ 3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Sunday 24th January 2021**

### **SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**POPE FRANCIS** has made this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (**today!**) an opportunity to deepen our devotion to the celebration, study and spread of the Word of God.

**THE SACRED SCRIPTURES (the Bible)** are the inspired Word of God. God speaks to us in a particular way when we read them with faith and love. Like **Our Lady** we need to ponder them and treasure them in our heart.

St Paul writes: “All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for:

1. Teaching
2. Refuting error
3. Guiding people’s lives
4. Teaching them to be holy

This is how the person who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work” (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

**READ THE SCRIPTURES** therefore every day, even if only a few verses. We should feast

on them more than food and drink!

**RESOLUTION:** decide today to be committed to reading the Sacred Scriptures every day.

1. Give the Bible a special place of prominence in your house. Hold it with reverence. The priest kisses the Gospel after proclaiming it at Mass: we do well also to kiss the Bible as we use it.

2. If we are beginning again, why not start with St Mark's Gospel, a clear and simple presentation of what Jesus said and did?

Or, the First Letter of John, a beautiful presentation of how to come back to God with all our heart.

**WHATEVER WE DECIDE, DO SOMETHING!**

Every Blessing

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

**FUNERAL NOTICE:**

TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 11:00am – Tino Marazzi.

Please pray for the repose of Tino's soul, and for his family in their grief at this difficult time.

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[2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time EMMAUS MASS SHEET](#)

**+ 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 17th January 2021**

**PEACE SUNDAY**

Quotations from the 2021 World Peace Day Message from Pope Francis

*“A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace”*

1. Peace, justice and care of creation are three inherently connected questions, which cannot be separated in such a way as to be treated individually ...

2. We need to stop and ask ourselves what has led our world to see conflict as something normal, and how our hearts can be converted and our ways of thinking changed, in order to work for true peace in solidarity and fraternity.

3. How many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of healthcare.

4. What a courageous decision it would be to establish a Global Fund with the money spent on weapons and other military expenditures, in order to permanently eliminate hunger and contribute to the development of the poorest countries.

5. There is... a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.

6. ... may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another.

7. ... everything is interconnected and genuine care for our own lives and our relationship with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others.

8. ... the need for relationships between nations to be inspired by fraternity, mutual respect, solidarity and the observance of international law.

9. At a time like this, when the barque of humanity, tossed by the storm of the current crisis,

struggles to advance towards a calmer and more serene horizon, the "rudder" of human dignity and the "compass" of fundamental social principles can enable us together to steer a sure course.

For more information, please visit: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>

### **PEACE SUNDAY PRAYER**

Loving God of peace, Strengthen my determination to work for a world of peace and justice;  
My conviction that, whatever our nationality or race, we are all global citizens, one in Christ;  
My courage to challenge the powerful with the values of the gospel;  
My commitment to find nonviolent ways of resolving conflict—personal, local, national and international;  
My efforts to forgive injuries and to love those I find it hard to love.

Amen

*'Peace alone is holy. Peace alone is holy. Not war.'*

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### **+ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Sunday 10th January 2021**

**TODAY**(Sunday) we celebrate Our Lord's baptism by his cousin John the Baptist....

Our Lord is revealed as divine, the Son of God. Our Lord commissions the apostles to go out into the whole world and baptise people everywhere in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

To be baptised means to be immersed into the life of the Blessed Trinity, so as to share God's life. In baptism God places us in His Son and we become a son or daughter of God: when God looks on us He sees us as His son or daughter because we are *in* His Son. This is all pure gift, a grace of God. We could not do this ourselves: God does it for us.

God wants to share His Life with us, and for us to share our life with Him. Baptism initiates this relationship. Today, thank God for the Sacrament of Baptism, and pray we shall all live our friendship with God more devotedly.

I am immensely grateful to our steward's in the parish. Without them, we could not be open. Following Mass, they have to deep cleanse the church which takes a lot of time and energy. Please do follow any directions they give, as they are simply carrying out what is required to keep to the regulations. If you are unhappy with the protocols, please do speak to me rather than give a steward any difficulty.

May God keep us safe and strong, and God expects each of us to do our best to keep both ourselves and one another safe and well.

Every Blessing

Fr David Barnes, *Rector*

### **DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER – Bishop John Sherrington writes**

#### **The current position and role of our churches in this phase of the pandemic**

We are aware that questions are being asked as to why churches remain open during this

National Lockdown. We are also aware that many local authorities are calling for places of worship to close. We wish to respond to these concerns.

Churches are allowed to open for prayer and communal worship at this time according to the provision of the most recent national legislation and Government guidance. This decision is based on two factors: the recognition that our churches are safe, and that the service they offer is essential.

The safety of our churches has been affirmed by Public Health England in its current advice to the Government. This is publicly recognised to be the result of the great efforts made by many people in the implementation of procedures mandated by PHE and thereby establishing the necessary conditions within churches for their safe use.

Our churches are making a significant contribution to the personal resilience and inner strength of people which is much needed at this time. Many are hubs from which essential support is offered especially to those most in need, extending well beyond the faith communities which use them. This includes the regular provision of food; the care of the homeless; and being a place of peace and reflection (which is safe) for many whose living conditions are very limited. This will become more appreciated as the programme of vaccination increases. The vital link between prayer and action is important to maintain this service.

At this phase of the pandemic, which is causing alarm and fear, our churches will exercise their role with increased diligence to ensure continuing safety and service.

Our clergy will ensure that all are aware that there is no duty or responsibility to come to church and communicate to all there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. They will review, in each local area, the provision offered by the church in order to ensure that the highest standards of safety are maintained. This will include a review of the role of stewards, the provision of additional social distancing within the church, a review of cleansing routines, and consideration of the personal circumstances of the priest(s) and people. On this basis there will be a local evaluation and decision about the possible reduction in the times of opening and the frequency of communal worship.

In conclusion we recognise the higher levels of fear and anxiety which the new strain of the virus has prompted and we have a very proper awareness of the care which must be exercised by everyone, under the guidance of PHE health professionals.

We recognise, too, that isolation is having a profound detrimental effect on people and that the role of churches in easing that isolation in ways which are safe and supportive has been recognised as a positive and beneficial contribution to the common good.

We pray for the dedicated work of the NHS and continue to provide spiritual support to staff and patients through the network of chaplains working both in the hospitals and the community.

Bishop John Sherrington  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster* 8th January 2021

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**+ 2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**

## Sunday 3rd January 2021

**ON WEDNESDAY (6th January)** we celebrate the Epiphany. In the coming of the Kings/ the Magi, we see that all real power and wisdom are found in the person of Jesus — He is the *Power* and the *Wisdom* of God personified.

The Kings/Magi fall on their knees and worship Him: we too must imitate them, falling on our knees and worshipping Him — only then are we better disposed to recognise who He really is.

The Feast of the Epiphany was the day I was ordained priest — now 45 years ago! On my ordination prayer card I put a prayer written by a saint who has influenced me greatly throughout my adult life: St Ignatius Loyola (1491 — 1556)

I put the prayer here again, and encourage you to say it regularly. Pray for me too, please, as I do for you.

Dearest Jesus,  
teach me to be generous;  
teach me to serve You as You deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to ask for any reward  
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.

Fr David Barnes, *Parish Priest*