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## PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO

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Parish Priest : Fr David Barrow; In residence : Fr Gary Walsh, chaplain to the Albanian community; Parish Sister : Sr Pauline Forde

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### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

*Masses will be said privately by Fr Gary and Fr David every day for your intention*

DAY	OPEN AT	CLOSE AT	WHAT' S HAPPENING	Private Mass each day offered for
Saturday	5 pm	7 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5 pm to 7 pm	Parishioners
Sunday	9 am	12:30 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 am to 12:30 pm	End of COVID Pandemic
Monday	9 am	5 pm	Church Open for Prayer	Those who have died from COVID virus
Tuesday	9 am	5 pm	Church Open for Prayer	Elderly , Good health
Wednesday (Annunciation of the Lord)	9 am	7 pm	Church Open for Prayer. Adoration from 5pm to 7pm to allow those who ending their 33 day consecration to our Lady to do it before the Lord.	NHS Staff, Good Health and cheerfulness.
Thursday	9 am	5 pm	Church Open for Prayer	Leaders and Government
Friday	9 am	5 pm	Church Open for Prayer	Sick and Housebound



### SAINTS OF JOY AND HOPE

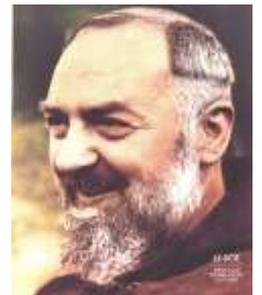
**The greatest honour we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love.”**

Julian of Norwich lived at the time of the Black Death – it killed ¾ of the population of her native city Norwich.

**“Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.”**

St Padre Pio a mystic who suffered terribly; he had the wounds of Christ imprinted on his body, suffered the pains of Christ each week.

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## YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER SAYS - DO NOT WORRY !!

MAT 6:25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Read these words carefully and meditate on them, they will console you in the coming months!

Jesus here traces the worry and anxiety which we suffer to a lack of faith and relationship with his Father. In other words the problem is that we think our heavenly Father will fail us; that somewhere along the line the Father's providence will fail us, our family and then we will be thrown onto our own resources, and have to fight our own corner by ourselves. The thought of this and the effort to insure that this will not happen, is the source of that stomach churning anxiety, the edginess which comes when we cannot cope, the stress which envelops us.

Jesus says that if we are to conquer, anxiety, worry and stress, we need a new approach, we need to seek the kingdom of God and its righteousness, because the kingdom of God is seeking you, more that you are seeking it. The kingdom belongs to the little ones who call God – Abba, i.e. Daddy, who self identify as beloved Sons and Daughters of their heavenly Father. Your Abba runs the world, and has been doing it for quite a long time, 13 billion years to be precise, and is not doing a bad job of it; your Father knows what you need, he cares for you and your family. All we are called to do is to receive his gifts as they are given and give thanks for them.

Today's readings give us two examples of two people who learn to self-identify as children of God, and live from this consciousness that they are God's beloved children.

The first David, to eventually become King David after many trials, was a nobody shepherd boy, even his earthly father, forgot he was his son, when Nathan came to anoint him; he was given all the worst jobs in the household; when he took on Goliath, he was only supposed to deliver a packed lunch to his brothers who were cowering in fear because of the threats of Goliath. He was the errand boy who became King, but not immediately, only after many persecutions by Saul and others. In all this what sustains David is that he knows he is the Beloved Child of the Eternal God. From this identity he is sustained, and lives and grows to be king. The many psalms which he wrote give witness to this.

The second Bartimaeus, the blind beggar is another. On the day that he met Jesus and was healed, he got up thinking that it would be just another day of begging. Unlike other blind men in the gospel who asked Jesus to be healed, he could not even be bothered to ask Jesus to heal him – even God had no interest in him – so he thought; after years of begging for money, of being blind, his poverty and blindness had become his identity. Jesus then passes by, and all this changes.

Jesus makes a paste to heal him, spittle = God's mercy; and dust = our sins, as was done on Ash Wednesday on our foreheads. Jesus splashes this paste all over his face. Bartimaeus is angry at this and storms off to find a place to wash, then he sees, first with the eyes of his body then with the eyes of his soul through faith. Having been cured, no longer an overlooked blind beggar, Bartimaeus now comes into full possession of his identity as a child of God is able to confidently confront and face down the Pharisees and religious authorities. He has thrown off his former identity and taken on his full stature as a child of God. He knows his dignity as a child of God.

And you? Are you worried? Are you aware of the Father's goodness; of his care for you; of your identity as his beloved child; his providence in your life. Lent & Easter is a good time to welcome the kingdom of God anew.

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**Prayer suggestion : each day and in moments of fear, worry or anxiety, takes a few minutes alone, 10 minutes and repeat the words Abba Father slowly, until the Father confers on you his peace.**

