

Gospel Reflection

We all need affirmation in order to continue to do what we do and this story has Jesus receiving affirmation from God, his Father, close to the end of his ministry in just the same words as were used at the beginning of his ministry; "This is my own dear Son with whom I am pleased."

Jesus was shortly to knowingly endure the cross. In the preceding verses to this passage he tells his disciples: "I must go to Jerusalem and suffer much from the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. I will be put to death, but three days later I will be raised to life." So, we can well imagine that Jesus needed this affirmation from his Father, just as much as his disciples needed to hear it for their future understanding.

Are there people whose work you could affirm this week? Do you know of people facing particularly difficult challenges and circumstances that you could encourage? Perhaps there are some to whom you have given encouragement in the past, maybe even helped into their current direction, who would appreciate a call or a conversation to sustain them this week.

Finally, God also wishes to call you his child and affirm you in your ministry. Are you open to that prospect?

Lord Jesus, scripture speaks of you as the sustainer of all things and yet you, yourself, required affirmation in your ministry. Encourage us this week with your affirmation of our ministry in and through our work and enable us to share your affirmation with others.

PARISH CENSUS Have you completed a form? it is important that Fr Simon has your up to date details. Forms available in the porch.

ST. JOSEPH'S FILM NIGHT MONDAY 13TH MARCH 7:30 pm
We will be showing the much acclaimed film "RISEN".

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

NEWSLETTER

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"United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

12th MARCH 2017 **2nd SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 11th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Brenda & Gordon Lyle RIP
Sunday 12th March	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Alan Isherwood RIP
Monday 13th March	9:30am 7:30pm	Mass – Anne & Peter Clarke Film Night
Tuesday 14th March (Note>>)	7:00pm	Mass - Alan Isherwood RIP
Wednesday 15th March	Noon	Mass – Maurice Body (Anniversary)
Thursday 16th March	9:30am	Mass – Chris Garner
Friday 17th March		No Service
Saturday 18th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Hilda & Albert Clarkson RIP
Sunday 19th March	9:30am 11:00am Noon	Jack Hunt RIP People of the Parish St Joseph's Day - Shared Table

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr C Williams

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

We are still collecting unwanted spectacles/cases to be sent to the Missions. If you have any that you no longer need please bring them in.

Bingo Night. Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Bingo Night. A total of £850 was raised - £425 for the Carers Trust and £425 for the Cheshire Autism Practical Support Group.

WINGS – Thanks to those who keep bringing in their unwanted Euros and Dollars. If you have any left over from your holidays please put them into the Bottle in the Porch.

SUNDAY 19th MARCH After the 11am Mass we will be having a Shared Table to celebrate St Joseph's Day. Please make a note in your diary and come along and join in the fun. Please bring along some food to share – sandwiches, sausage rolls, salads, pasta dishes, crisps, trifles, cheesecakes, etc. etc.

There will also be a selection of foods from various nationalities.

The Bar will not be open, so please bring your own drinks.

There is going to be an Easter Egg Tombola so could you please donate an Easter Egg to Church next weekend.

Volunteers will be needed please to help clear up afterwards.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Derek on- 01606 889048

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Matthew 17 1-9

Six days later, three of them saw that glory. Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light. Then they realized that Moses and Elijah were also there in deep conversation with him.

Peter broke in, "Master, this is a great moment! What would you think if I built three memorials here on the mountain—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah?"

While he was going on like this, babbling, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and sounding from deep in the cloud a voice:

"This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him."

When the disciples heard it, they fell flat on their faces, scared to death. But Jesus came over and touched them. "Don't be afraid." When they opened their eyes and looked around all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus.

Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't breathe a word of what you've seen. After the Son of Man is raised from the dead, you are free to talk."



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi

OUR LENTEN CHARITY

This year we are being invited to support SPA – The Society of St Peter the Apostle - which exists to support the education of candidates for the Catholic priesthood in the developing world, and to support the formation of men and women candidates for the religious life in the missions. The second of these collections will take place next weekend.

COFFEE MORNING 29th March 10:30am. Please come along and meet parishioners who go to a different Mass to the one you usually attend. There will also be a Bring and Buy Stall - so bring something along.