

Gospel Reflection

When people read this they say they see a new side of Jesus. Like seeing other sides to a friend. Never knew he was like that. Jesus weeping over the death of his friend! A real human being, son of God, God of heaven, man of the earth.

Then the heart of Jesus – a human heart. He liked friends and he found a home, a safe place with them. Just over the hill and away from the mob. Picture him there – the talk, the chat, the prayers, the love. And endless refreshment and love, more love. That's Jesus.

And for us – is Jesus this type of person? The one who can share a laugh, eat a scone, have a drink or a cuppa. The one who'd give a wink at the sign of peace. And not so all so serious about religion. Sad saints are the bane of our lives. He is a good friend. Friendship gives new spirit.

When life is over we will thank for friends and regret the way we have drifted or hurt each other. Friendship is when another's thoughts become at least or more important than my own. Jesus needed friends. No harm to say we need friends. And they needed him. He was in their love. In every friendship he is the third. Wherever there is real and genuine love no matter who or what the people are, God is there, the source of love. Family, marriage, friendship of all kinds. The moments of real love, of real care for another – God is there.

So the resurrection and the life is not just for after death. It is for now. We raise each other up in friendship and in love. In that is the grace now of the Lord, himself a friend, for when we love, God lives in us.

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

St Joseph's RC Church
Woodford Lane
Winsford
CW7 2JS

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor
Tel: 01606 543877
Website; www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk
email: stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk
General Queries – contact Derek Pearce
Tel: 01606 889048
email: pearcederek36@talktalk.net
Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



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

2nd APRIL 2017 5th SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 1st April	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Brenda & Gordon Lyle RIP
Sunday 2nd April	9:30am 11:00am	Norah and Michael McNeill RIP People of the Parish
Monday 3rd April	9:30am	Mass – Mary Kennerley RIP Anniversary
Tuesday 4th April	9:30am 1:30pm	Mass – Bernard Cannon RIP Craft Group
Wednesday 5th April	Noon	Mass – Andrew Bradshaw RIP
Thursday 6th April	9:30am	Mass – William & Mary Cannon RIP
Friday 7th April		No Service
Saturday 8th April	Noon 4:45pm 5:15pm	Lent Reflection Afternoon Sacrament of Reconciliation Isobel and Stan Lyle RIP
Sunday 9th April	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Dr Michael Hollinrake 10 th Anniversary
Tuesday 11th April	7:00pm	Service of Reconciliation

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 Mackay

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.

OUR LENTEN CHARITY

We have now decided to donate our Lenten Charity donations to support the Disaster Appeal for those starving in East Africa. We were intending to give the money to SPA, but in view of the situation in Africa we felt we should support this Appeal from the DEC.
(We will be making a donation to SPA from Parish funds.)

ST GEORGE'S DAY FISH & CHIPS SUPPER

Friday 21st April 7:30pm

We will be celebrating St George's Day in the most appropriate English way – with a Fish & Chip Supper. More details to follow, but please add your names to the clipboard in the porch if you will be coming.
"Helpers for the night would be welcome. We are looking for help in handing out food and cleaning up afterwards."

Lent Reflection Afternoon. Saturday 8th April. Noon til 3.00pm in church. An opportunity to reflect on the markers along our life's pathway. Please sign up in the porch for an idea of numbers.

PARISH RETREAT: Sadly we have had to cancel the Lindisfarne Retreat as there were insufficient numbers wishing to go. Instead we are organising a Retreat in November at Foxhills in Frodsham. Please take a form from the porch and return it ASAP.

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 John 11

A man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Master, the one you love so very much is sick." When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."

After two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead.

Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house. Martha said, "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will be raised up." Martha replied, "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time."

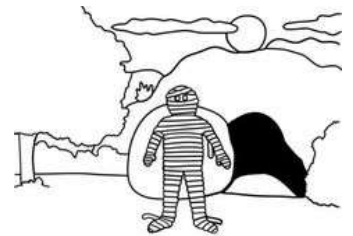
"You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world."

When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, "Where did you put him?" Master, come and see," they said. Now Jesus wept. The Jews said, "Look how deeply he loved him." Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man." Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, "Master, by this time there's a stench. He's been dead four days!" Jesus looked her in the eye. "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone."

They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."

Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose."



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi