

Gospel Reflection

Along with every other piece of Lenten scripture this is a journey of transformation - Nicodemus walks away under cover of night in confusion; this is a good thing, a very good thing - the crack in the armour of certainty allows the Light to enter. And we know that this is only the beginning - Nicodemus appears again - a public supporter at the trial; and again - a sorrowful witness at the foot of the Cross.

Jesus asks us to be aware of what action our faith calls us to. We must struggle, like Nicodemus, with what we already believe; struggle with the ties that bind us to tradition and convention. Have courage to step out of the shadows and stand beside the call to love; beside the outcast.

To have the compassion to take into our arms, into our lives, a God who so loved the world that he gave us himself.

Bingo Night Friday 13th April 7:30pm: In aid of Doctor Fallon's chosen Charities – Autism Group and Carer's Association. We would be delighted to receive any donations and prizes for the bingo night. Please leave the donations in the sacristy marked "Bingo".

Aid To The Church In Need: There is a talk on Tuesday 20th March at St Wilfrid's Northwich at 7:30pm about Christians suffering for their Faith. Please see the poster in the porch.

Parish Holiday: We will be going to Scarborough on 26th September for five days. Cost will be £209 per person – which includes Transport, Dinner Bed and Breakfast and also 3 Trips (to the Yorkshire Moors, Whitby and York). Please sign up by adding your name(s) to the list in the porch.

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
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Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

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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

11TH MARCH 2018 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE B)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 10th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Paul Martin RIP
Sunday 11th March	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Father Stephen Dwyer RIP
Monday 12th March	9:30am 7:30pm	Mrs Dorothy Drinkwater RIP Scripture Group
Tuesday 13th March	9:30am	Father Stephen Dwyer RIP
Wednesday 14th March	Noon	Billy Vanes RIP
Thursday 15th March	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Friday 16th March		No service
Saturday 17th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Kathleen Harrison RIP
Sunday 18th March	9:30am 11:00am Noon	Jack Hunt RIP People of the Parish Family Fun Day & Easter Egg Tombola
Monday 19th March	9:30am	Bernard Cannon Anniversary RIP

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 Charles McTasney

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

Coffee morning: Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday 20th March at 10:30am. There will be tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits – everyone is welcome.

Heating & Lighting: This weekend we are appealing to you to help us with our Gas & Electricity Bills. This winter has been particularly cold and our usage has been particularly high. So we will be having a Retiring Collection.

Offertory Envelopes: The new Boxes of Envelopes are available today. Can you please pick up your Box. If you would like to join the Envelope Scheme please see George or one of the helpers – there are spare Boxes available. Also available are Standing Order forms if you would like to give in this way. If you are a Tax Payer and would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme please take a Gift Aid form.

Family Fun Day: Next Sunday (18th March) we are having a Family Fun Day in the Parish Centre. There will be a Shared Table and an Easter Egg Tombola. If you would like to donate an Easter Egg please leave it in the Box in the Sacristy marked “Tombola”. Thank You.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

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.

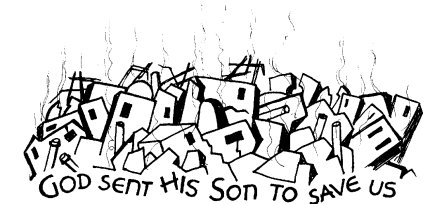
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St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Reading *John 3: 14-21*

“Jesus said to Nicodemus. “No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.”



“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.”



“This is the crisis we’re in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won’t come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is.”

The school children would like to invite our parishioners into school for a Royal Tea Party to celebrate the Wedding of HRH Prince Harry to Miss Meghan Markle. If you would like to attend (on Friday 18th May) please add your name(s) to the list in the Porch. Please see the poster in the porch

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi