

## Gospel Reflection

No one is rotten to the core. Every person instinctively responds to God's call. There is no helpless soul, for the soul is God's implanted hope. Jesus sees promise in his strange friends; He was not blind to their needs. The prodigal son, the tax collector and the sinners were in fact lost ones. But Jesus befriends them; He comes in search of the sinners, awaiting their return. God has become incarnate to seek us in our looseness. He comes out like a Father who waits for the return of his beloved son. God's love is so great, His forgiveness is unbelievable. It defeats all human calculations. God wants to reclaim every prodigal son and rejoice over him at his return. But do we ever take the risk and pain of going to the other side of the track when we falter? Can we, like the prodigal son, make a return to the Father?

As we read again this parable of divine mercy and forgiveness, we are reminded of the lyrics of a modern religious song: "I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have loved you and you are mine." We may have spent much time, effort and money getting ourselves into trouble as did the son in today's parable. Regardless, we can be assured that God will gladly spend much more to get us out of it. He is truly a Prodigal Father to us all.

**Spectacles For Missions:** Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases.

**Wanted:** Any household items, curtains, cutlery etc for young girl moving into her first house. Please phone Pat 01606 590225 or bring small items into church, large items can be collected.

**Coffee morning:** The next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am, everyone is welcome to come along for coffee and cake.

### **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  
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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

### **31st MARCH 2019** **4th SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE C)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 30th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Father Simon's Intentions
Sunday 31st March	9:30am 11:00am	Margaret Matthams RIP People of the Parish
Monday 1st April	9:30am	Hugh Duffy RIP Birthday
Tuesday 2nd April	Noon	Mary Kennerley RIP
Wednesday 3rd April	12:30pm 7:15pm	Requiem Mass – Ann Keeler RIP Music Ministry Rehearsal
Thursday 4th April	9:30am	Michael Hollindrake 12 year Anniversary RIP
Friday 5th April	7:30pm	No service Bingo Night (doors open at 7pm)
Saturday 6th April	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Andrew Bradshaw RIP
Sunday 7th April	9:30am 11:00am	Laffey family special intentions People of the Parish
Monday 8th April	9:30am	Sick of the Parish

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 William Matthams

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB  
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

*"Preach the Gospel always,  
if necessary use words"*

St Francis of Assisi

**Offertory Envelopes:** The new Boxes of Weekly Offertory Envelopes are now available for you to pick up. If you can't find your Box please ask George Snape who will be able to assist you.

If you are not already using Envelopes - and would like to, please see George.

Similarly, if you would like to make your Offertory Donations by a Standing Order at your Bank – and/or to take advantage of Gift Aid, there will be forms available. Many thanks to those parishioners who help the parish in one or more of these ways.

**Bingo Night:** Next Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, the doors open at 7pm and the bingo starts at 7:30pm. Come along and join in the fun.

**Joke:** Q: Why do they say 'Amen' at the end of a prayer instead of 'Awomen'? A: The same reason they sing Hymns instead of Hers!

**Prisoner Outreach:** Please continue to bring in your loose change and leave the money in the bottle on the bookshelves in the porch and help to support this organisation.

### 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.

.....  
St Joseph pray for us

## Gospel Reading Luke 15 1 – 3 11 – 32

Then Jesus said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

"So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

"That brought him to his senses. He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got right up and went home to his father.

"When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: 'Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again.'

"But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here - given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!' And they began to have a wonderful time.

"All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day's work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, 'Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast - barbecued beef! - because he has him home safe and sound.'

"The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, 'Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!'

"His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours - but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

