

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church
High West Street
Gateshead
NE8 1LX



**Our Lady & Saint
Wilfrid's Catholic Church**
Sunderland Road Gateshead
NE8 3QR

Parishes of the John Inram Partnership Gateshead

Parish Priest: Canon Michael Peter Brown

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Parish website: - www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk

Hall Bookings contact Mr. Alan Telford Tel: 07999724444

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (CF) Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (EF)
6th February 2022

BY: Fr. Gerald M. Musa

We all have our deficiencies and are far from being perfect people. It baffles me how God pays special attention to people who admit they are unworthy, unqualified, imperfect and weak. St. Augustine tries to explain this *modus operandi* of God when he says; "God gives where he finds empty hands". Empty hands in this case refer to people who are able to let go and let God reach them. Each one of us has a personal story of his or her faith journey and the miracles of grace encountered in the journey.

The prophet Isaiah narrates how God called him. He had a vision in which he saw himself overwhelmed by the presence and holiness of God. This vision reminded him of his unworthiness and imperfection in the sight of an all-holy God and conscious of his sinfulness, he said: "Woe is me, for I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). As soon as he voiced out his imperfection, God cleansed him from his guilt and shame by sending an angel to him with a burning coal to touch his mouth and the angel said to him, "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven" (Isaiah 6:7). As soon as this rite of purification was completed, the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8) and Isaiah responded positively to the call for mission saying, "Here am I send me" (Isaiah 6:8). This was how Isaiah was saved and sent out to go and preach to his people. Deep within him, he knew he was far from being qualified as an instrument of God, but the miracle of the grace of God was at work in him.

Other people who were called for mission (Paul and Peter) share a similar experience with the prophet Isaiah. The similarity is based on their declaration of unworthiness and on God's subsequent merciful love and grace upon them. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul recounts how he found his vocation. He did acknowledge his past sins by recalling how he persecuted the Church of God. Therefore, he does not declare himself as the greatest, but the least of the Apostles. He attributed his call to the miracle of grace – "Though it is not I, but the grace of God working in me" (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Peter, on his part, had a special encounter with Jesus at the lake of Gennesaret. Peter and his companions were in a state of disappointment as they worked for many hours, but could not catch fish. They were washing their nets, preparing to go away. Jesus came and offered them hope and a new strategy to catch fish. He told them to put out the nets into the deep. They listened to him and were astonished at the great shoal of fish they got. Peter was so enthralled with this encounter and immediately he fell on his knees to acknowledge his own unworthiness in the presence of Jesus. In words that are similar to Isaiah's, He said to Jesus: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For acknowledging his sinfulness and for his humility, Jesus considered him qualified for mission and said to him, "Do not be afraid; henceforth, you will be catching men." Peter responded generously to the call of Jesus as he left everything and followed Jesus.

We have stories of men and women who have attained greatness by declaring their unworthiness and imperfection. C.S. Lewis, a novelist and poet, says, "The gospel means we can stop lying to ourselves. The sweet sound of amazing grace saves us from the necessity of self-deception. It keeps us from denying that though Christ was victorious, the battle with lust, greed, and pride still rages within us. As a sinner who has been redeemed, I can acknowledge that I am often unloving, irritable, angry and resentful with those closest to me. When I go to church I can leave my white hat at home and admit I have failed. God not only loves me as I am, but also knows me as I am. Because of this I don't need to apply spiritual cosmetics to make myself presentable to Him. I can accept ownership of my poverty and powerlessness and neediness."

Isaiah, Paul and Peter all acknowledged their unworthiness, weakness and helplessness in the presence of God. Their humble disposition towards God marked a turning point in their lives. Some salient scriptural verses teach us how God operates. One says, "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong" and another passage declares, "Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?" (James 2:5). An unknown author has the following words of encouragement for you and I, "When you feel unlovable, unworthy, and unclean, when you think that no one can heal you, Remember, Friend, God Can. When you think that you are unforgivable for your guilt and your shame, Remember, Friend, God Can. When you think that all is hidden, and no one can see within, Remember, Friend, God Can. And when you have reached the bottom, And you think that no one can hear, Remember, my dear friend, God Can. And when you think that no one can love, the real person deep inside of you, Remember, my dear friend, God Does."

Never ever forget that the miracle of grace is constantly at work in those who acknowledge their emptiness and unworthiness.

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Saturday	February 5 th	Abigail McVeigh	5.00pm		
Sunday	Feb 6 th			People of the Parish Fr Kevin Daly Vespers and benediction	10.00am 12.00 3.00pm
Monday	Feb 7 th	Funeral Service Craig Herron	10.00am		
Tuesday	Feb 8 th			Requiem Philip Sheridan	12.05pm
Wednesday	Feb 9 th	Funeral Service Ann Young	10.00am	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Special Intention (MG)	11.00am 12.05pm
Thursday	Feb 10 th			Holy Souls	7.45am
Friday	Feb 11 th	Priest's Intention	10.00am	Mona Richardson	12.05pm
Saturday	Feb 12 th	Priest's Intention	5.00pm	Nancy O'Sullivan	11.00am
Sunday	Feb 13 th			People of the Parish Henry Eglington	10.00am Midday (EF)

"EF" = EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS IN LATIN ACCORDING TO 1962 ROMAN MISSAL

Confessions: - St Joseph's: Wednesday after Mass; Saturdays from 12-12.30
St Wilfrid's - before Mass on Saturday

Prayers for: - anniversaries occurring at this time; the sick and recently deceased

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament @ St Joseph's Wednesday 11.00

Vespers and Benediction every First Sunday of the Month at 3pm

African Mass last Sunday of the Month at 2pm

First Holy Communion preparation sessions for children not attending Catholic schools begin on **Wednesday February 9th at 3.30pm**. Families who have registered have been contacted, if there is anyone else who would like to attend these sessions please contact Canon Michael TODAY. Thank You

Book Club: the next date for discussing the book: "The Jesuit Guide to (almost) everything", will be held in the John Ingram room at St Joseph's Presbytery on **Wednesday 16th February at 7.00pm**. ALL are welcome to this informal, fun, lively discussion group.



Please take a newsletter home with you in order that you can refer to it during the week to remind yourself of anything taking place in our Parishes and the diocese. OR

Alternatively please sign up for the newsletter to be emailed out to you each week, just contact the office gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk

Give your email address and details and let us know you would like to be included on the list.

Do you feel God is calling you to serve on the Altar? Are you interested in finding out a little bit more about what is involved? Please come and speak to Canon Michael or Peter Armstrong or any of the Altar Servers who will happily talk to you about this important role of service. Don't be afraid to ask questions, speak to our current Servers after any Mass, or if you would just like to try it out come along **15 minutes before the start of Mass** and tell Peter Armstrong (10am Mass (girls and boys)) or Canon Michael (Mid-Day Mass (boys only)) and they will help you get ready and show you what to do, you will learn as you go along.

PARISH GROUPS: If you run/organize/lead a parish activity or group please keep the office informed about times, dates etc and details can be shared on the newsletter.

Email: gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk

Altar Servers Social (TBA)
Book Club (16th February 7pm)
Community Choir (to begin again in the spring)
CMUK (can resume meetings at St Joseph's)
Good Shepherd (beginning in September)
Young Catholic's Lunch (TBA)

If you have any ideas for a group you would like to see taking place please email the above address and share your thoughts and we will see what can be done!

If you know of anybody who is ill or housebound and would like a visit from Canon Michael for confession or to receive Holy Communion please notify the office.

The Good Shepherd Catecheses Programme for children aged 3-7years will resume at the beginning of **September 2022, places are limited.** If you would like to register your child please do so at the office on Wednesday afternoons or Friday mornings, or give details to Canon Michael. The sessions, which will take place on a weekly basis, are delivered by Mr. Peter Armstrong with the help of another adult.



Find Out About Courses and Events on the Diocesan Website:

Keep Up to Date with Diocesan News:-
[News - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesahn.org.uk\)](http://diocesahn.org.uk)

WHY DO WE HAVE ALTAR SERVERS?

A Reflection by Fr Dwight Longenecker

Before we get down to particulars, I want you to know why we have altar servers at all. Do the deacons and I need you to bring the bread and the water and wine to the altar? No, we could do that ourselves. Do we need you to carry candles and the cross and hold the book? Not really. The priest is supposed to extend his hands in prayer, so he can't hold the book, but we could just put it on the altar. Do we need you to ring the bell and turn the page and wash our hands? No. We could do all that without you.

You're not really employed to be useful. You're employed to help lead the worship. As long as you understand that, everything else that we teach you will follow. You see, all of us work together to lead the people of God in the worship of God — it's not just the priest and deacons. I rely on you not just to do those particular jobs. Instead, I rely on you for something far greater and nobler and more beautiful and more true.

Our worship on earth reflects the worship in heaven. What we do here at the holy sacrifice of the Mass is a kind of distant echo of what goes on in heaven. There, the Lamb of God is offered in one timeless and eternal sacrifice. There the saints and angels worship around the throne of the Lamb. In that city there is no sun, moon, or stars, for the Lamb Himself is the light of that city. This altar you see here is a reflection of the altar in heaven. This chalice is a sign of the eternal Precious Blood of the Lamb. This host is, on earth, the sign of the Eternal Bread of heaven. The priest is an icon of Christ the Lord — and who are you? You represent and reflect on earth the heavenly host.

That's right. I want you to represent the saints and angels.

That's why we have children serve the Mass if we can, because you children remind us adults of what the Lord Jesus said: "Unless you become like a little child, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." So just by being children you remind us what we must be like to become like the saints and angels.

Therefore, since you represent the heavenly host of saints and angels, I want you to behave as such. Of course, I know that you are not yet saints, and I know you are not angels. You fight with your brothers and sisters. Some of you are bullies and others are cowards. You lie and cheat and have bad thoughts. You disobey your parents and are selfish and unkind. Nevertheless, you have a role to play in the Divine Liturgy, because despite all that, you are called to reflect something greater. You are called from what you are not to become all that you shall be; and if you are struck with a sense of awe at what I am expecting of you, think how I feel, for I am a sinner just like you are, and I am called to represent Christ Himself to the people.



PARTICIPATING IN THE SYNODAL PROCESS:



We are ALL asked to respond to the SYNOD, please see the Diocesan Website for further information and ways to have your voice heard

[Synod 2021 - 2023 - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](https://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

A GUIDE FOR CATHOLICS ATTACHED TO THE TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS FROM THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY

Please make your views known

[Synod on Synodality | Latin Mass Society \(lms.org.uk\)](https://www.lms.org.uk)

The deadline is 2nd March 2022: Ash Wednesday 2022

A PLEA on BEHALF of the TRADITIONAL MASS COMMUNITY

As most of you will know, the Pope has brought out a document trying to ban the celebration of the Holy Mass under the Traditional Rite. The Traditional Mass community feel his continued references to us as being 'Rigid' and his attack on our desire to remain in communion with tradition, as "*discrimination and persecution and a denial of our rights and dignity to be recognised*" all of which Pope Francis asked us to pray against in his intention for last month.

As a community we welcome: El Shaddai, The African Mass and the Polish Mass, all of whom worship according to their own traditions and customs, the Traditional Mass is no different, and anyone who prefers to worship in unity with their ancestral heritage ought to be allowed to do so. So we are asking ALL of you to stand up with us and sign the petition in the porch asking the pope to change his directive and to enable us to continue to worship through the Traditional Mass.
Grateful Thanks

Weekly Income for 30th January 2022

St Joseph's

Loose Plate Collection: £312.65

Gift Aid Envelopes: £66.60 Votive Candles: £22.09

Rental income: Room: £24 Car-park - £

Donation: £20 Piety: £6

St Wilfrid's

Loose Plate: £133.20 Gift Aid: £47 Candles: £

Donation: £



Is God calling you to be a Priest?

The Diocesan Vocations Team have organised an overnight retreat for men aged 18+ to discern whether God is calling them to the Priesthood.

Date: Friday 25th February 2022 5.00pm to Saturday 26th February (after lunch)

Place: Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Minsteracres, Consett, DH8 9RT

Cost: £50 (including meals and accommodation)
Spaces are limited.

Please contact Fr Shaun Purdy to book a place or for more information:

vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

01670 812 200

Bookings to be made by Thursday 10th February.

Although the mandatory use of Face coverings and other covid restrictions have been lifted both by the government and the Bishop's of England and Wales, we have to remember that COVID still remains a threat to the vulnerable and unvaccinated and that many people remain very cautious and nervous about being in enclosed public spaces, we therefore ask that everyone thinks carefully about those around them and takes precautions to encourage and support those who are still finding the return to a normal life difficult.

Thank you

[Guidance for Communal Worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

There is also an online petition hosted by the LMS asking for support, please also sign their petition as the more voices heard the more Pope Francis will need to listen.