

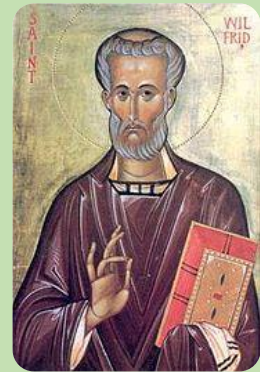
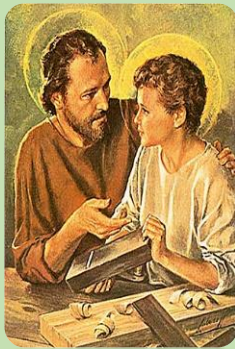
Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic

27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Joint Parishes of St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Gateshead  
Parish Priest Canon Michael Brown, resident at St Joseph's  
Presbytery High West Street Gateshead NE8 1LX

Telephone 01914771631

Email:- [gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk) or [shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk)



Please forward this newsletter to anybody you think may enjoy reading it.

If you know of someone who is not on the mailing list but would like to be please ask them to contact us via one of the above emails.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a slim lined paper version of the newsletter please let me know.

Birthday Thanks from Canon Michael

For all my wonderful cards and presents, I am overwhelmed by your generosity and love.

# Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

## Feast day 1<sup>st</sup> October



(January 2, 1873 - September 30, 1897)

*"I prefer the monotony of obscure sacrifice to all ecstasies. To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul."*

These are the words of Thérèse of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun called the "Little Flower," who lived a cloistered life of obscurity in the convent of Lisieux, France. And her preference for hidden sacrifice did indeed convert souls. Few saints of God are more popular than this young nun. Her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, is read and loved throughout the world. Thérèse Martin entered the convent at the age of 15 and died in 1897 at the age of 24.

Life in a Carmelite convent is indeed uneventful and consists mainly of prayer and hard domestic work. But Thérèse possessed that holy insight that redeems the time, however dull that time may be. She saw in quiet suffering a redemptive suffering, suffering that was indeed her apostolate. Thérèse said she came to the Carmel convent "to save souls and pray for priests." And shortly before she died, she wrote: "I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth."

Thérèse was canonized in 1925. On October 19, 1997, Pope John Paul II proclaimed her a Doctor of the Church, the third woman to be so recognized in light of her holiness and the influence of her teaching on spirituality in the Church.

Her parents, Louis and Zélie, were beatified in 2008, and canonized in 2015.

### Reflection

Thérèse has much to teach our age of the image, the appearance, the "self." We have become a dangerously self-conscious people, painfully aware of the need to be fulfilled, yet knowing we are not. Thérèse, like so many saints, sought to serve others, to do something outside herself, to forget herself in quiet acts of love. She is one of the great examples of the gospel paradox that we gain our life by losing it, and that the seed that falls to the ground must die in order to live.

Preoccupation with self, separates modern men and women from God, from their fellow human beings, and ultimately from themselves. We must re-learn to forget ourselves, to contemplate a God who draws us out of ourselves, and to serve others as the ultimate expression of selfhood. These are the insights of Saint Thérèse, and they are more valid today than ever.

**Saint Thérèse is the Patron Saint of:**

Florists  
Missionaries  
Pilots  
Priests

## Mass Intentions

Mass is offered Daily at approximately 10.00am in private, if you have any intentions please put these in an envelope and pop through the letter box, or place them on the collection plate at the end of Sunday's Mass.

The Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> - September

**Sunday 10am:** Leslie Keeble      **Midday:** People of the Parish

**Monday:** Thanksgiving

**Tuesday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Wednesday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John wall

**Thursday:** Intentions of LMS

**Friday:** Veronica, Catherine, and John Wall

**Saturday:** Golden Wedding (Keith and Pauline McAllister)

**Sunday 10am:** Bell and Cantwell families      **Midday:** People of the Parish

Please keep in your prayers Lorraine Glasgow and her sons, Arthur and Edward whom we welcome into the Catholic Faith today through Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, may God Bless them especially today and keep them close to Him throughout their lives, we pray that we will help them in their journey through our love, support and continued prayers.

Please pray for Deacon Jonathon Bowes who is to be ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle by Bishop Robert on Saturday morning at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of the parish and all those who have recently died and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



## Today is Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(OF) Readings for today are: -

First Reading	Ezekiel 18:25-28
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 24
Second Reading	Philippians 2:1-11
Gospel	Matthew 21: 28-32

A surely familiar situation for anyone who has asked someone else to do something for them. Sometimes we`ll be told the job will be done but then it isn` t and we realise the person we` ve asked to do something has just been fobbing us off, saying what we want to hear to stop us bothering them. Less common is when they will say no to us but then think better of it and go away and do what we asked.

This occurs in a discussion about the teaching of John the Baptist. The chief priests and elders have publicly said yes to God by who they are. They are leaders of the state religion, yet they wouldn` t listen to John. The tax collectors and prostitutes by their very professions have said no to God and yet they hung on His words and took His message to heart. The Lord challenges us to follow through on what we say by what we do. He`s not suggesting we adopt an unchristian lifestyle so that somehow, we will end up doing God`s will. The tax collectors and prostitutes responded to John`s blunt message. The chief priests and elders thought themselves more sophisticated and thus stood back from responding to God`s message given through John. Doing God`s will means engaging our will. Making a decision to do something for God. We need will power in so many of the worthwhile things we try to do in life: getting fit, keeping the house clean, learning a foreign language etc. But we have an end which we wish to achieve and so that desire helps us to keep going. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord. With that love we can stick at things that we need to do to keep us close to the Lord.

Our Lady gives the biggest human yes to God from her undivided heart and continued to say yes to God throughout her life and thus doing all she could for God. Other saints also give us examples of how to say yes and mean it. They were obedient to God. We might not like the idea of obedience and see it as a limitation of our freedom but what is freedom for if not for doing good. The more we act in the way God asks the freer we are. The more we turn to saying no to God and yes to sin the more we are slaves.

But we must be careful that we do not say "yes" to God and do nothing. As Cardinal Newman warned, "how many there are who sit still with folded hands, dreaming, doing nothing at all, thinking they have done everything...when they have merely had these good thoughts, which will save no one!" (Parochial and Plain Sermons I.13)



Today is the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
EF readings for today are: -

Introit	Psalm 118,137.124
Epistle	Ephesians 4:1-6
Gradual	Psalm 32:12,6
Gospel	Luke 14:1-11

Greatest commandment.

A series of tests: Paying taxes, resurrection, and whose wife? And then greatest commandment. Trying to trap Him. Seems obvious today which is the greatest commandment: we are so familiar with the Lord`s response. Yet there could have been different answers: the law regarding the Sabbath or regarding temple sacrifice?

Greatest Commandment for Catholics? On the basis of what gets people to confession, what law they most fear breaking it has to be missing Mass on a Sunday even in circumstances where it would have been impossible for them to get to Mass because of illness or adverse weather. No matter how often a priest will say it`s not a sin to miss Mass when you are too ill to leave the house or you`ve been hospitalised they are not comfortable with these mitigations and say they still feel bad about missing Mass and feel better confessing this non-sin. In desperation the priest asks, "Is there anything else you`d like to confess?" so at least he has something to absolve and often the answer is: "No, there`s nothing else". A blessing is all the priest can give. It`s a strange world where so many are so concerned about missing Mass when they could not reasonably be expected to attend while the majority of Catholics have no qualms in missing Mass week after week. I once preached about the existence of the Sunday obligation in another parish and had people queuing up to complain that they didn`t need to be told this and they thought it was patronising of me to remind them. These were the older people. The younger ones came to me and said they`d never heard about this before and interesting it was to hear! Incidentally there are other reasons apart from sickness or being nowhere near a church which can be legitimate reasons to miss Mass. Fr Davis SJ`s Moral and Pastoral Theology of 1941 says these include caring for the sick, tending infant children at home, mothers after childbirth for some weeks. More mysteriously he includes those who have no suitable clothes or those who would have to forgo, occasionally but not as a general rule, a good stroke of business or considerable gain, such as would be the case with merchants and during the lambing season with farmers!

At the minute, the bishops have lifted the Sunday obligation because of this terrible situation. While it is in their power to do this the command to keep the Sabbath holy is a divine command and so even if we don`t come to Sunday Mass we are still required to make an effort to do something for God on the Sabbath such as watch Mass online, or say the rosary or read scripture or something.

However, the Lord did not say that keeping the Sabbath was the greatest commandment of the law. He said the greatest Commandment was to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul. He then added that the second is like it: love your neighbour as yourself. No-one asked for the second greatest commandment but it`s nice to know which it is. These are not new

teachings. Both were part of the Old Testament, but He gives these laws a new prominence and avoids getting into the pickle His enemies hoped He would find himself in. So, love of God is no. 1. NB love of neighbour is no.2. You can't fulfil no.2 if you're not trying to fulfil no.1 first. That is why we need to experience God. Why we need a liturgy which lifts our hearts to heaven (Sursum corda). Our first duty is to seek God and know his love and in doing so we will want to fulfil no. 2. If we love, we can do what we like because we want to do the things that please God who we love. Thus, the rest of the law is fulfilled, the law which tells us what is right and wrong. Love God and you will want to keep it. No love of God and you will jettison anything that you don't like in it and make yourself your own god. So when we go to confession you must confess the times you've deliberately missed Mass when you were obliged to go, but if you have deliberately missed Mass then love of God is probably not so strong within you. How can a Catholic say they love God and not want to come to Mass, the most beautiful thing this side of heaven, and receive the Lord Himself as our food for this increasingly difficult journey?



### *November Candles*

*Watch this space for further information about candles for your deceased loved ones.*

### Special Mass Collections

Peter's pence - weekend of October 4<sup>th</sup>  
World Mission Sunday - weekend of October 18<sup>th</sup>

### Donations

Thank you to all those who have continued throughout the pandemic to give so generously to the church.

If you would like to continue giving through direct debit, standing order or bank transfer, the details are below.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
St Wilfrid's  
Sort Code 40-34-20  
Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  
St Joseph's  
Sort Code 40-34-20  
Account Number 31164066



To donate via cheque please make out to  
'DHN St Wilfrid's Gateshead' or 'DHN St Joseph's Gateshead'  
These can be posted to the parish address

Please use the reference "Weekly Contribution"

### Lourdes Garden

We are continuing to raise money for the improvement of the 'Lourdes Garden' at St Joseph's, if you would like to help please use the reference 'Lourdes Garden'

### Help for Our Local Homeless and Hungry

Throughout the initial lockdown between March and July, the homeless were housed in vacant hotels and kept off the streets to ensure theirs and others safety, since the restrictions began to lift and the hospitality industry opened its doors once again to the affluent holiday makers, we have seen a steady rise in the number of people calling at the presbytery for food or money. It has been the policy of the Diocese for some time now, not to hand out cash to those calling at the Priest's door, we do not want to add to any addictions present in the homeless, but we do not want to turn them away empty handed either. Here at St Joseph's we have been able to provide help through Joe's place, but sadly this has yet to be given permission to reopen. We have also, in the past been able to provide Greggs food vouchers which have enabled many hungry mouths to be fed. Please consider buying a voucher and donating it to our poor via the collection plate on a Sunday.

A Very Big Thank You to the person who posted over £1,000 through the presbytery door this week in an envelope marked 'for the poor of the parish', this generosity will indeed help many hungry citizens within our parish boundaries.

### Choir Loft/Gallery

We have an open fund for the improvements of the choir loft, if you would like to donate towards this please mark your donation 'choir loft'

### Piety Stalls

Both St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's have items for sale, as we are unable to open our piety stalls at the moment, we are turning to more creative ways in which to reach our market!! Please see Facebook and the Parish website both of which will be updated regularly with details of items for sale. Please get in touch with Rachel Arthurs, via Facebook, or after 10am Mass at St Joseph's for information about items at St Wilfrid's, they have a wide range of interesting and useful stock with Christmas stock coming in the next few weeks, all items are on a first come first served basis!!

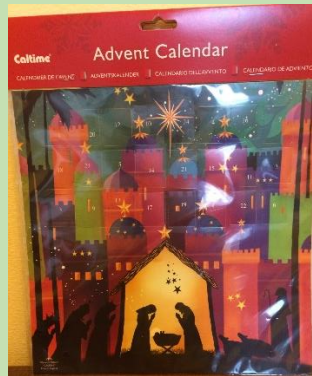
## St Joseph's Piety Items on Sale



£2.00



60p



£2.00

The above items are on sale at greatly reduced prices and are of limited stock so will be sold on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in any please get in touch with me, Shauna Devitt, via the St Joseph's Facebook page or email at [shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk)

I will upload more pictures next week and keep your eyes on our Facebook page.



## Re-Opening Churches

Please see the Diocesan Website for information regarding churches which are open.

**St Wilfrid's is to be amongst the churches to reopen in phase 6, in order to do this safely we need as many volunteers as possible, if you would like to help please give your name and contact details to Canon Michael or to Veronica Georgeson, Health and Safety representative for St Wilfrid's**



"Doors Wide Open" We have to keep doors fully open during Mass, for the circulation of air. You may need warm clothing if sitting near the back of church, especially as we move into Autumn!!

## It Is Up to You!!



The re-opening of St Joseph's for Mass on Sundays continues to be a great success. There is still no need to pre-book a place.

**Trace and Track App** Look out for the NHS QR code which will soon be available to scan as you come into church.

Thank you to everyone already giving up time to steward and clean St Joseph's church so that it remains open for Sunday Mass. Currently we have just enough to cover Sundays so it is unlikely that the church will open for weekday Mass until more volunteers come forward.

Apart from the Covid cleaning that must be done on Sundays, the church still needs its floors, glass and carpets cleaned regularly. We have a small rota of people to undertake this every 3<sup>rd</sup> week. Please think of giving time on Sundays or adding your name to the normal Church cleaning rota.

If interested please give your name to Canon Michael, Shauna Devitt, or Pat Macgregor.

### Toilet Facilities

These are now re-opened thanks to the willingness of volunteers who are willing to clean and disinfect them before and after each Mass. You can do your part to help by only using the toilets if absolutely necessary, sanitising your hands before and after use and remembering to shut the toilet lid prior to flushing. Also, we ask that you please use the disinfectant wipes provided to wipe down any place you have touched - flush handle, door handles, taps, sink etc.

### St Joseph's Hall

The hall has been given the go-ahead to open once again to groups who use its rooms. We need volunteers to help clean the hall on a Wednesday in order to maintain a COVID free environment and enable the hall to remain open. Please give your name and contact details to Canon Brown, Shauna Devitt, or Alan Telford if you can help.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and patience

## Is God calling You?



The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Priestly Vocations Team invite you to a **six-week online Vocations Discernment course for men thinking about becoming a Priest. Beginning Monday 12 October at 7.00pm.**

## Keeping Up to Date

Keeping us updated with your contact information If you are reading this and realise that you have not updated a recent change of address, telephone number or email address, please send an email to the parish with your updated information. If you have recently moved into the parish and haven't yet given us your details, please let us know your details by email.