



ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY - HANDS - FACE - SPACE

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Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley

Retired Priest, Father David Peters and Permanent Deacon, Reverend John Hamilton

Mass Times and Intentions for – TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20th September 2020

Saturday 19th September	6.00 pm	Robert Taylor	
Sunday 20th September TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Turnbull Family Phil & Denis McGinity Elizabeth Dalal (100th Birthday) People of the Parish	
Monday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Priest's Intention Roy Houghton (12th Ann.)	St. Matthew
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Nnena Robinson Catherine (Rena) Nixon	Ferial
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Special Intention (L) Michael Byrne	St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Denis and Maureen Relihan (Ann.) Josie Elliott	Our Lady of Walsingham
Friday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Mary McBride Margaret & John Carroll (B'day Rem.)	Ferial
Saturday 26th September	12 noon	Marlene Barrientos de Klos (1st Ann.)	Ferial
Saturday (Vigil Mass)	6.00 pm	Anastasia Tansey (Ann.)	
Sunday 27th September TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Martin Patrick Quinn (16th Ann.) Margaret Warman Mary McLoughlin People of the Parish	

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
11.00am – 12 noon Saturdays,
observing social distancing.
Or by appointment

**SACRAMENTS OF
BAPTISM & MARRIAGE**
By arrangement with
Father Woolley

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING
With the local lockdown the count at HF
and SJ is currently suspended

QUEUING FOR HEAVEN

One of the most expensive department stores holds a sale and shoppers form a queue. The most ardent bargain hunters bring sleeping bags and queue overnight. Other shoppers arrive five minutes before the sale. When the store finally opens the doors the queue surges forward in a frenzy. Shoppers 'push in' from every direction greedy for the bargains. Does this make us cross? Of course it does and rightly so. The people who arrived first should get the bargains first.

Most of us would agree that that is only fair. The problem comes when we try to use this same sense of 'justice' in earning a place in God's Kingdom. Surprise surprise! Gaining God's grace is not like queuing for bargains, neither has it got anything to do with how many more hours we have worked in a vineyard, nor has it got anything to do with measuring how many years we have served as disciples.

Once again we are reminded that things that count for so much in this world are turned upside down in God's world. We are taught not to think we are worth more as Christians than those who have found Christianity late in life. If we have lived life as God asks from the outset then we should simply count ourselves as lucky. For others, life's paths may have taken more difficult and painful twists.

The employer in today's parable pays his employees exactly the same amount regardless of the time they arrived at the vineyard. Jesus is telling us that there are no 'partial benefits' in God's kingdom. If we have earned a place in heaven we have earned a place, there won't be some places better than others. God's love is God's love. We are each promised the same measure of his grace.

"... So the last will be first and the first will be last." We would be foolish to expect some kind of pecking order at heaven's gates. We would be even more foolish to expect some kind of organised queuing system or loyalty cards for the longest serving. Those who arrive late should certainly not be regarded as somehow cheating the system. We must recognise God's generosity in giving a level field for all and emulate it. We must be happy for the latecomers, especially if we have played a part in attracting them by our shining example!

Entrance Antiphon : I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Responsorial Psalm : The Lord is close to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation : Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Year A

Isaiah 55: 6-9

Psalms 144

Philippians 1: 20—24.27

Matthew 20: 1-16

FATHER STEPHEN WRITES

It is now almost three months since we were able to celebrate Mass together after the Lockdown. Over these weeks the numbers attending Mass in person have increased gradually. However, I appreciate that there are still those who feel apprehensive about being in a large crowd.

It is important, therefore, to continue the live streaming of Mass from St. Joseph's, during the week and the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses on Sunday. The live streaming has been so helpful and positive during these difficult days that I intend to continue the live streaming into the future.

For those attending Mass we do have an upper limit due to social distancing at both Holy Family and St. Joseph's. The use of the hall at Holy Family has been a useful additional space. I have now put in place the ability to live stream the Mass into the parish centre at St. Joseph's. This will give us additional places and so increase the total capacity whilst enabling parishioners to receive Holy Communion. I will carefully monitor the situation for when the time is appropriate to use the hall.

Unfortunately, the infection rate has increased nationwide in the last week. We pray for those who have Covid or are vulnerable to the virus. Please keep the rules - we must consider our community so all are safe and well. Let's hope that the infection rate across the country comes down this week and we will soon be able to meet family and friends in our homes and gardens. Please keep safe and well and keep the rules!

I appreciate your patience and co-operation in trying to return to as normal as possible at this time. Please remember face coverings are now mandatory by law to be worn in church. However, if you have any reason, including medical, which exempts you please let the stewards or me know. Please see opposite about when to take your face covering off to receive Holy Communion.

I hope these bullet points will reassure you and help you on your return back to Mass.

Before You Arrive

- You should stay at home if you are unwell. People who are vulnerable or who feel unsure about returning to Mass need to consider the wisdom of doing so.
- Remember the Sunday obligation has not been reinstated and live streaming of Masses will continue.
- You should avoid bringing any unnecessary items into church, e.g. shopping bags, to avoid contamination or cross infection.

When You Arrive

- You will be welcomed by a volunteer steward.
- You will be directed to the hand sanitiser.
- You will be directed to a bench. It may not be where you usually sit.
- You must adhere to social distancing guidelines in place.
- Any children accompanying you must do the same.
- Baskets will be available at the entrance (and exit) for your weekly envelopes or other contributions.
- Baskets will also be available at the entrance for a candle to be lit on your behalf for your intention.
- Toilet in the narthex will remain closed at all times.
- The repository will be closed.

During Mass

- There will be no Sign of Peace.
- There will be no singing.

- People receiving Communion will be instructed to approach with their arms outstretched so as to maintain a reasonable distance from the priest, deacon or minister.
- You may only receive the Sacred Host in your hand and not on your tongue. Please keep your face covering in place, covering mouth and nose.
- Communicants must avoid skin to skin contact with the minister's hands.
- You must then step to one side, remove your face covering, place the Sacred Host in your mouth and replace your face covering.

After Mass

- Use only the designated exits.
- Please take home any newsletters and other papers you may use.
- Please keep the social distancing as you leave the church and do not gather in the church porch or on church property for conversations.
- Hand sanitiser will be available outside church.

SAINTS CLUB

Many thanks to those who have continued to support the Saints Club through their standing orders over the last few months of 'Lockdown' when we have been unable to make the monthly draw.

We now intend to get 'back on track' by having extra draws each month until we 'catch up'.

As we have been unable to collect cash payments, income has been considerably reduced. Therefore, the new prize amounts will be three prizes of £100, £50 and £25. If people would like to bring their payments up to date or if there are parishioners who are not in the Saints Club and would like to join please contact Father Woolley.

The Saints Club winners for March – May:

March	1 st Prize	St Anne de Guigne
	2 nd Prize	St George
	3 rd Prize	St Grace
April	1 st Prize	St Cyril of Alexandria
	2 nd Prize	St Ethelbricht
	3 rd Prize	Blessed Michael Giedroyc
May	1 st Prize	Venerable Matt Talbot
	2 nd Prize	St Dominic
	3 rd Prize	St Paula

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Warren Francis** who has died recently. May he rest in peace. We extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Samuel Grant Yates** who was baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Samuel into the Church and commend his parents for passing on to him the Faith of the Apostles.

SAINT MATTHEW

Like the first Christian community, we too in the 21st Century face the same challenges to know who Jesus is for us and to understand how we are to live by the example of his teaching. We are called to be committed to the good of others especially to those marginalised in our society because of culture, race, disability or socio-economic circumstances. If we do this we are responding to the words of Jesus, spoken to his critics immediately after he called Matthew, the tax collector: "Go and learn what this means". "I desire mercy, not sacrifice". "For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." (Matt 28:20)