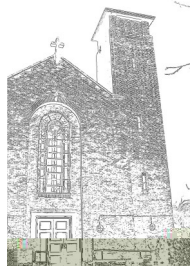


# St Joseph's Catholic Church



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 Parish Safeguarding Reps: Gerard & Grisalda Buffham email: [safeguarding.sjret@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:safeguarding.sjret@hallam-diocese.com)  
 Webpage: [St Joseph's, Retford - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BASSETLAW \(weebly.com\)](http://StJosephs,Retford-CATHOLIC-PARISHES-OF-BASSETLAW.weebly.com)

## Parish Weekly Liturgy

4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) <b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> <i>Collection for Priest Training Fund</i>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am Baptism @ 11.00 am	Jimmy Caulfield (Happy Repose) Arthur Newby & Mavis Newby (Anniversary) Delaney Family
EASTER WEEKDAY <b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>		
ST GEORGE (PATRON OF ENGLAND) <b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	Mass @ 9.30 am	Elizabeth & Allan Meacher (Thanksgiving, Birthday and Wedding Anniversary)
EASTER WEEKDAY <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
ST MARK, EVANGELIST <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
EASTER WEEKDAY <b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament @ 11.45 am Mass @ 12.15 pm	Pray the rosary and spend some quiet time with the Lord. Jacob Crompton (Special Intention)
5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) <b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Collection for Parish Building Maintenance Fund</i>	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Eudora de Souza (Health and Well being) Kristian Macioszek (God's Help in Exam Next month)



Please pray for all those who have passed away recently and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time; our **sick** (Eileen Hannah, Christine Rigby, Delia Davies, Nina Wakelin, Rachel Harvey, M Whitlam, Brigida Lembo, Barbara & Peter Bainbridge, Norah Langley, Fr Bill Bergin, Angela Brown) and housebound parishioners; for peace in the world, for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, families preparing for Sacraments (Baptism, First Holy Communion & Confirmation) and the neophytes, special prayers for the Crompton family. **Special Collections April: 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Priest's Training Fund, 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Parish Building Maintenance Fund.**

**\*\*If you would like to add a person to our sick list, please ensure that the person or their family members have given permission to have their names published in our newsletter/website. This is to comply with GDPR legislation.\*\***

### Ways of Supporting the Parish

- By online banking (Diocese of Hallam St Josephs Retford Sort Code 40-41-07 A/C 51106686) please state what it is for in the reference.
- By debit/credit card on our **Stewardship donation page** which you may access via St Joseph's Retford's page on the deanery website ([www.worksopcatholicchurches.weebly.com/supporting-the-parish.html](http://www.worksopcatholicchurches.weebly.com/supporting-the-parish.html)) or directly from the Stewardship website ([www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)) under causes search for Diocese of Hallam - St Josephs Retford.
- By cheque made out to 'Diocese of Hallam St Josephs Retford'.
- Through easyfundraising: Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for **St Joseph's RC Church, Retford.**



**Discernment event** for any man considering a **vocation to the Priesthood**, on Tuesday evening 14<sup>th</sup> May at St Vincent's Mission Hub Solly Street Sheffield S1 4DE. 5.00 pm Adoration, 6.00 pm Mass, 6.30 pm Food, 7.00 pm Spiritual Talk, 8.00 pm Close. For further details, speak to Fr Lee Marshall.

**Christian Aid Week - Christian Aid Service** at The Grove Methodist Church, Retford DN22 6LB. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May @ 6.00 pm. All welcome.

**Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse** - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.00 pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, in Wombwell (Barnsley Deanery). This is a service (not a mass) for everybody to come together to pray for survivors of abuse and display compassion and unity as a church to survivors. All survivors welcome to attend too.

**Jubilee of Youth - Rome 2025** Are you between 14 to 25 years next year? Come join us in Rome, Italy. 28<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Cost estimate £1,200. (fundraising will be part of the preparation). Under 16's must be signed up with a group (school or parish). Register your interest now with your chaplain or email: [smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com)

**First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation.** Our parish webpage has a section for [Sacramental Preparation](#) with the programme outline for easy reference for parents. **Lessons resume this Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.** This Sunday we will be covering Chapter 24 He is Risen, Alleluia!

**Children's Liturgy.** Open to all children 4 years and older who have not made their First Holy Communion. Sessions are on every alternate Sunday unless it's a school holiday. Session dates: 21<sup>st</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May

**St Joseph's Catholic School, a Voluntary Academy** The Governors seek to appoint a committed and motivated teacher to support our KS2 teaching team. Applications are welcome from those able to commit to a full time position for either an experienced teacher or a teacher at the start of their career. The successful candidate will support the children and the schools mission and vision. This is an outstanding opportunity for a teacher looking to develop professionally and join our dedicated and hard-working team, or a teacher who is able to further strengthen our good school. Please visit <https://stfcmat.com/vacancies/> to obtain the Class Teacher Recruitment Pack. Please complete all relevant documentation by the closing date of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April @ 9am and return them to: [Julie.Sykes@st-josephs.notts.sch.uk](mailto:Julie.Sykes@st-josephs.notts.sch.uk)



**Support our Bassetlaw Foodbank donations this Lent** (collection stand at the back of church). Shortage list for this week: *tinned tomatoes, tinned fish (not tuna), soup, porridge, long life milk, corned beef, curry or pasta sauce, sweetcorn, nappies size 6.*



**Parish Repository.** We have rosaries, religious books, Saints Candles and more ... on sale at the back of church. **New! First Communion Gifts/cards.** All profits from the sale go towards the fundraising efforts of our parish. Please lend your support.

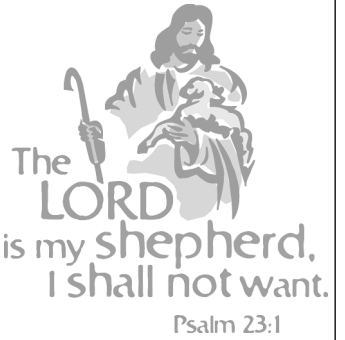
**Places of Welcome: Every Wednesday at St Joseph's Church Hall, from 1.30 - 3.30pm.** We are a very friendly group. We drink tea or coffee, eat biscuits, chat and enjoy ourselves. If transport is a problem we can help. Come and see what you think. Talk to Sally on 07772563499

**Parish newsletter** - limited copies of the weekly newsletter are printed for the benefit of visitors and parishioners who do not have access to the internet. If you have access to the internet please consider receiving an electronic copy of the **parish newsletter** weekly by email or downloading a copy from our parish webpage from the deanery website: [St Joseph's, Retford - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BASSETLAW](http://St Joseph's, Retford - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BASSETLAW (weebly.com)) (weebly.com). Email the parish office to subscribe to our electronic newsletter (you can unsubscribe anytime). Going electronic will help the parish to keep its printing costs down and be more environmental friendly. **If you do take a copy of the newsletter please take it home do not put it back on the fresh pile. Thank you.**

## JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Dearly Beloved of the Lord,

This is the Sunday we traditionally call the **Good Shepherd Sunday**. In the opening chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is about to leave for Galilee, but before departing he finds Philip and says, 'Follow me.' The very first thing that Philip then does is to find Nathanael, and he says to him: "*We have found him of whom Moses and the Law and the prophets wrote, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.*" Nathanael is sceptical: "*From Nazareth? Can anything good come from Nazareth?*" Philip replies, "**Come and see.**" That summons, "Come and see", is addressed not only to Nathaniel, but also to the reader of the Fourth gospel and to all who would later become followers of Jesus. It is an **invitation to discern**, among other things, whether the Jesus whom the reader meets in the story that John is telling is in fact the one of whom "Moses and the Law and the Prophets wrote". Throughout the Old Testament God is repeatedly portrayed metaphorically as a shepherd. This is especially so in the psalms. A good example is in **Psalm 23** where we pray: "*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.*" We also note the same notion in **Psalm 100**: "*Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.*"



However, the text which is undoubtedly the backdrop to today's gospel is **chapter 34 of the Prophet Ezekiel**. The opening verses read: "*The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them, 'Shepherds, the Lord God says this: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not shepherds feed a flock? You feed on the milk, you clothe yourselves in the wool, you slaughter the fattest sheep, but you do not feed the flock. You have not made the weak sheep strong or cared for the sick ones or bandaged the injured ones. You have not brought back strays or looked for the lost. On the contrary, you have ruled them cruelly and harshly.'*" By way of contrast, Jesus does not just make the weak strong, he feeds and cares for the sick ones. This is the **hallmark of the good Shepherd**.

Being a shepherd at the time of Jesus was a laborious job. The shepherd watched over his flock, always on the lookout for fresh pasture, and keeping an eye out for predators. At night time the shepherd protected his sheep by leading them into a sheepfold. If there was no gate, the shepherd would sleep lying across the entrance to the sheepfold. He, quite literally, became the gate to the sheepfold. Sometimes several shepherds would share the same sheepfold, even though that meant that the flocks would intermingle. How, in the morning, did they sort out whose sheep were whose? Usually, in the morning, one shepherd stands at some distance from the sheep and begin to call. First one, then another, then four or five animals run towards him until he had counted his whole flock. This image of the shepherd calling his sheep is the background to Jesus calling his disciples his sheep; **they are the sheep who listen to his voice and follow him**. The bad shepherds abandon the sheep as soon as they see a wolf coming.

Truly, the opponents of Jesus in John's gospel, his most vocal and consistent critics, had a very narrow and legalistic understanding of God's kingdom; they wanted to erect restrictive barriers, granting access only to people who observed the Torah and the oral tradition as strictly and rigorously as they did. God's kingdom is for people who are just like us, they thought. They had a very narrowly focused, self-referring perception of God's kingdom. By and large, people with this mind-set cannot contemplate a wider image of **a loving and caring God** who comes as a dedicated shepherd through and through. Like the hired hand in the gospel, they lack any compassionate relationship with the people they are supposed to be serving.

By way of contrast, **the good shepherd knows his own, and they know him**. But more than that, **he lays down his life for his sheep**. That might seem like a highly improbably scenario for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, but it was not unheard of in Palestine at the time of Jesus, even up until comparatively recent times. Indeed, the fate of the shepherd was very precarious. When the thief and the robber come (and come they do), the faithful shepherd has often to put his life in his hands to defend his flock. There were known instances where the bloke had literally to lay his life down in the contest; where the poor faithful shepherd, instead of fleeing, actually fought some wild beasts until he was hacked to pieces by wild animals employing their sharp claws and devouring teeth, thus, dying among the sheep he was defending.

Going back to the Last Supper discourse, Jesus tells his disciples that **“A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13)**. True love does not turn inwards to satisfy its own desires; true love is the ability to turn outwards towards others. Our English word “love” has a vast semantic range, but the test of authentic love is sacrifice, and **Jesus the good shepherd makes that supreme sacrifice for his sheep**. We have here a striking image of salvation. The one who saves is not a mighty warrior who comes in military array, but rather a lowly shepherd. This Shepherd is our only true guide, protector, healer, career and our divine mercy.

Fr John Nwadike CM

(Good Shepherd Sunday - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year B, 2024)



**SVP School Uniform Project** To help provide free school uniforms to families in need. For more information contact SVP volunteers: 07867 631834 or see SVP Retford or SVP School Uniform Project Facebook pages. **Retiring collection for the SVP after the weekend Masses.** The SVP has a collection box and if you are able to drop in any loose change as you leave it will be deeply appreciated.

### Hallam Bridge

You can subscribe to Hallam Bridge (it's free) on <http://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/> Hallam Bridge would like to dedicate a page in each issue to a parish in the diocese. If someone would be willing to write up something about our parish they would be very happy to include it. The article would need to be submitted as a Word document and be either 300 or 600 words in length which equates to 1 column or 1 page. If possible, it should include a photograph (including appropriate permissions) within the document and an additional copy as an attachment with the article. The name of the author should also be included. The article should be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the Month for consideration in the next edition of the Hallam Bridge

### The Pope's Prayer Intention for April 2024 - For the Role of Women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

### April Devotion - The Blessed Sacrament

O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament divine,  
all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

### Online Parish Family Rosary Devotion

Every Wednesday @ 7.00 pm.

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME TO JOIN IN!**

The link to join can be found on our webpage on the deanery website:

<http://worksopcatholicchurches.weebly.com/st-josephs-retford.html>

Those **without internet** can join in via their telephone using the following information.



Every Wednesday

**Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm**

Call this number: **0207 660 8149** and when prompted

give the meeting number: **163 380 8136** and password: **424 562 79**

All the prayers are on power point to make it easier for those who are not familiar with praying the rosary.

**Pray the Rosary for Peace in the World and end of war - Our Lady of Fatima**