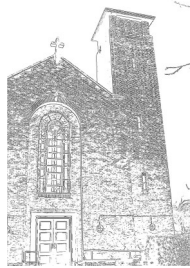


St Joseph's Catholic Church



Parish Priest: Fr John Nwadike CM
 Address: The Presbytery, Babworth Road, Retford, DN22 7BP
 Telephone: 01777 703373
 Office email: saintjosephretford@gmail.com
 Fr John's email: parishpriestsaintjoseph@gmail.com
 Parish Hall Bookings email: bart.hoga@hotmail.co.uk contact: 0780 721 0863
 Parish Safeguarding Reps: Gerard & Grisalda Buffham email: 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

5 TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) Saturday 27th April Sunday 28th April <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)
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA Monday 29th April		
ST PIUS V, POPE Tuesday 30th April	Mass @ 9.30 am	Miss Maureen Brennan (Birthday)
ST JOSEPH THE WORKER Wednesday 1st May	Parish Online Rosary Devotion @ 7.00 pm	Everyone welcome to join in. Sign in info on the back page.
ST ATHANASIUS, BISHOP Thursday 2nd May		
SS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES Friday 3rd May	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament @ 11.45 am Mass @ 12.15 pm	Pray the rosary and spend some quiet time with the Lord. Margaret & Peter Hartshorne (Happy Repose)
6 TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) Saturday 4th May Sunday 5th May	Mass @ 6.00 pm Mass @ 9.00 am	Fr Daniel Clavin (Anniversary) Neil & Susan Grayston (Thanksgiving for 50 years of marriage)

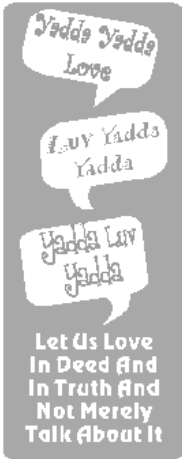


Please pray for all those who have passed away recently and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time; our **sick** (Eileen Hannah, Christine Rigby, Delia Davies, Nina Wakelin, Rachel Harvey, M Whitlam, Brigida Lembo, Barbara & Peter Bainbridge, Norah Langley, Fr Bill Bergin, Angela Brown) 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/May: 27th/28th Parish Building Maintenance Fund, 11th/12th World Communications Day, 18th/19th For Gaza, 25th/26th 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) or directly from the Stewardship website (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 and search for **St Joseph's RC Church, Retford**.



Discernment event for any man considering a **vocation to the Priesthood**, on Tuesday evening 14th 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 12th May @ 6.00 pm. All welcome.

Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse - Tuesday 30th 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. 28th July to 4th 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

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation. Our parish webpage has a section for [Sacramental Preparation](#) with the programme outline—please note that the programme has been updated! **Lesson 17** (*Chapter 27: Jesus Comes to Us*) will now take place on **2nd June** instead of 19th May. There will be a **Day of Reflection** for the candidates and their families on **Saturday 29th June** from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. An opportunity for Confession, Prayer and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. For the candidates, they will make their **First Confession** on that day. The lesson for this Sunday will cover Chapter 25 The Holy Mass.

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: 5th May



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

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.

Solemnity of the Ascension. Thursday 9th May. It's a holy day of obligation and there will be two Masses 9.30 am and 7.00 pm.



Support our Bassetlaw Foodbank donations this Lent (collection stand at the back of church). Shortage list for this week: *chopped tomatoes, tinned sardines, tinned sweetcorn, cooking sauces, tinned meat, biscuits, long life milk, sugar, deodorant.*



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](#) (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.**

REMAIN IN ME AND BEAR FRUITS

Dear Friends in Christ,

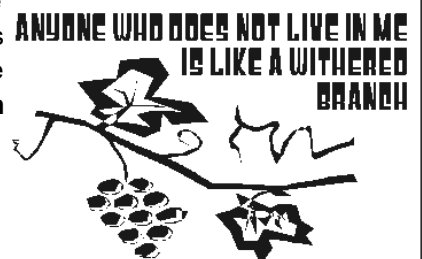
The context of today's gospel is Jesus' long conversation with his disciples at the Last Supper. While fully aware of his enemies' determination to exterminate him, Jesus' concern was not for himself but for his disciples. He wanted to prepare them for the challenges ahead, in bearing witness to him and continuing his mission. In John's Gospel Jesus uses images, such as Light, Bread, sheepfold and Shepherd, to convey his messages. In today's gospel he uses an image familiar to his disciples: **the image of the vine and the branches**. Culturally and economically, the cultivation of vine was very imperative in Israel. Several passages in the Old Testament, refer to the people of Israel as a vine, planted and cared for by God and destined to produce wholesome fruit. Woefully, this particular vine fell far short of the expectations of the gardener (God). In the words of Prophet Isaiah, **"He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave" (Isaiah 5:2).**

In this gospel passage, Jesus applies the image of the vine to himself and his relationship with his disciples. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. Without the nourishment, moisture and support offered by the vine, the branches wither and die. This means that our lives must be **rooted in Christ** – a truth we may find hard to accept at a time when individualism, self-reliance, independence and self-assertion are promoted as the supreme values. Today, we are encouraged to create our own identities. We are told that we are what we make of ourselves. It is, of course, true that we can, and must, shape and direct our lives. But the image of Christ, the vine, reminds us that we are loved, sustained, redeemed, and sanctified through the person of Christ, and that, cut off from him, we are, quite simply, good for nothing (cf. John 15:5).

The image of the vine teaches us that, just as the vine sustains the branches, enabling them to bear fruit, so too Christ sustains and nourishes us, so that we will be fruitful. And, just as the best fruit comes from careful pruning, so we, too, need pruning from time to time. We may have developed habits that are harmful in our lives, unwanted growths that drain our energy and diminish our fruitfulness. Jesus tells his disciples: **"You are pruned already by means of the word that I have spoken to you" (Jn 15:3).** When we listen attentively to the Word of God and let it take root in us, we are pruned to become stronger, healthier, and more fruitful branches of the true vine. The image of the vine also illustrates that Christ needs us. We are the branches and it is the branches that bear the grapes. In the oft-quoted words of St Teresa of Avila: *"Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours; yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands, with which he is to bless us now"* (cf *The Life, Prayer and Writings of St Teresa*). Yes, Christ depends on us to be fruitful – to produce the fruits of love in the world for which he laid down his life. However, being fruitful must not be equated with being successful, or at least what is often seen as success in our materialistic world. Christ is not asking us to be successful or famous, but to be fruitful. This means letting the love we constantly receive from him flow through us and out to others for their benefit and this is something that may often go unheralded and unrewarded. But Christ alone can see and rewards you accordingly.

The secret of bearing fruit is remaining ingrained in Christ, an image that is repeated severally in the gospels. **Remaining in Christ is much more than the keeping of rules**, though this is not unimportant. It means **living in an intimate relationship with Christ** who has made his home in us (cf Jn 15:4) Ultimately it means living in love, the same love that unites the Father and the Son: **"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, remain in my love" (Jn 15:9).**

Theologically, the mystery of the incarnation which John's gospel spoke of in the prologue to his gospel, is taken up again here in a surprising new way. The vine is no longer merely a creature that God looks upon with love, of which he can still uproot and reject. In the Son, God himself has become the vine; he has forever identified himself, his very being, with the vine. This vine can never again be uprooted or handed over to be plundered. It belongs once and for all to God; through the Son God himself lives in it. The promise has become irrevocable, the unity is indestructible. This metaphor differs from most of John's other Christological images because it explicitly includes Jesus' disciples, who are pictured as the branches. They are **bonded in a unity of love and identity with Jesus and with one another**. I am the vine. You are the branches.



Fr John Nwadike CM

(5th Sunday of Easter Year B, 2024)

Fundraiser for the Vincentian Mission in Nigeria

Our parish priest Fr John belongs to the Congregation of the Missions (aka Vincentians). He is a Vincentian missionary priest from Nigeria which by default makes our parish, St Joseph's Retford, a member of the wider Vincentian Family. It is only right that members of a family all support one another and therefore as members of the Vincentian Family, our parish has a duty to support the Congregation of the Missions, specifically the work of their congregation in Nigeria - they need our help for their projects in education, training of seminarians, hospitals, feeding the poor, the internally displaced and street children. To raise essential funds for their mission, **our parish is planning to hold a fundraising event**, therefore we are seeking the help of all parishioners, the parish school community and friends of our parish in Retford to make this event a successful and meaningful one.

Clare Greenwood has kindly offered to help organise the fundraiser. Clare and her husband John, are relatively new to our parish. They moved to Retford in June 2023. For the past 20 years (until Covid) Clare & John have spent a month each year volunteering in schools and children's homes throughout East Africa. In their former parish, alongside a group of friends, they have raised money to take out to the Missions to support their work. Clare would love to make contact with **any creative souls in St Joseph's** who would like to join her in preparing a fundraising event to support Fr John and his fellow Vincentians to care for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. **If you like crafting, sewing, knitting, drawing, baking, making jams/preserves etc or can contribute in anyway** please contact Clare via our parish email or if you would like to chat with her personally she is usually present at the Saturday Evening Mass.

Retford Charter Day - Volunteers Needed

Charter Day 6th May 10.00am -4.00pm. CTiR has booked a 5m frontage pitch in Kings Park and are asking for **volunteers** from the churches to cover their stall throughout the day. Depending on the number of people available, it has been suggested to operate 2 hourly shifts (10am-12 noon, 12 noon-2pm and 2pm - 4pm), or if they have enough volunteers then it will be hourly shifts. Please can you let us know (as soon as possible, charter day is next weekend) if you are able to volunteer and details of your availability in the time slots. It would be good to have a mix of representatives from the different churches serving together. **Also another request from CTiR: Children's activities:** Ben Clayton is making enquiries as to whether there are any volunteers from St Saviour's who would be willing to organise some children's activities (colouring and Lego was suggested). Is any other church willing to take this on and provide DBS checked volunteers?

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