

Whitnash and Bishops Tachbrook

St. Joseph's Parish

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Newsletter

16th August

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today's feast offers a glimpse of the promise for all people by showing us how Our Lady is led by God through her generous love and deep joy when visiting Elizabeth, through her suffering and sorrow at the foot of the cross, to the joys of heaven.

We can see in the life of St. Bernadette that she was chosen by God to show how God's mercy reverses the values of the world so that those who are poor, sick, vulnerable have first place in God's kingdom. Her life and death point towards the fulfilment of life that is to be found in heaven. She offers the same promise to all who trust and through their suffering remain faithful to Christ. Where she has gone, we hope to follow.



In Lourdes itself, we glimpse the values of this kingdom where the sick are those who are exalted and given the front rows. Their heroic suffering and witness of faithfulness in prayer teach us to treasure the gifts we have been given and to be generous in heart. They draw out of the young people who serve them the values of generosity and love. In learning to give themselves away in love, they become who God wishes them to be, since all people fulfil their Christian calling through loving and putting others first. Today's feast, too, offers a vision of God's kingdom and calls us to be messengers of hope and joy.

Announcements

OUR SICK

David Harwar, Roy Stanford, Enda McSharry, Seren Robertson, Eileen Hiorns, Patricia Robinson, Brian McCann, Rory and Peggy O'Rourke, Edna Hales, Sue Cleary, Shelagh Price, Jenny Bamber, Sue Day, Michael Gallagher, Miceal Murphy, Phil Lane

Heathcote	Shane Grogan, Chrissie Fitzpatrick, Paddy O'Connor
Kenilworth Grange	Margaret Handy
The Lawns	Bridget Hunt John L'Estrange Ellen Quinn, May Dorgan, Peggy O'Rourke
Clarence House	Winifred Galvin
Eversleigh N. H.	Mollie Benson
Clarendon Manor	Mary Jenkinson, Marie Kelly
Stratford	Monty Jenkinson
RLS Nursing Home	Bernie & Robbie Burns

Anniversaries

Noel McGrath, Derrick Bowler, Gill Titcomb, Colin Dowling

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

Baptism

Baptism Preparation: In the first instance an application form should be collected from and returned to the parish priest at the presbytery. Once a date has been agreed the parents will be invited to a Preparation Meeting which is normally held on the last Monday of the month at 7.45pm in the Holy Family Room. Please note that the child's Catholic parent/s need to be practising.

Welcome

This weekend, we welcome Canon Stewart, who is to celebrate the 6.30pm vigil Mass on Saturday and Fr. Michael Miners who will celebrate the Sunday Masses.

Next weekend we will welcome Fr. David Oakley who will celebrate the Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday Masses. We are very grateful to them all for enabling us to attend Mass in our own parish in Fr. Bob's absence.

Safeguarding and Documentation

For volunteers within the church, could those who have not yet been given forms please see Fr. Bob or Honor Hynes [safeguarding co-ordinator] so that we can complete the process and make sure all documentation is up to date. Many thanks for your patience and understanding. We do rely upon our generous teams to allow the parish to function. At present we are receiving references.

This item remains because there are still roles which need to be covered by the Safeguarding forms.

Our Website

The new website for St. Joseph's has now been published and has a new look. It is intended to develop the site and to include more information and links etc. Is there is anyone who would like to be involved in providing material for it, e.g. taking photographs of parish events and milestones? Please see Fr. Bob

Scripture Reflection - Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina, or our Scripture Reflection Hour, usually takes place on the third Friday of each month at 10.00am in the Holy Family Room. **However, there will be no meeting in August.** The next occasion will be Friday 18th September. All are very welcome to this gentle reflection on the coming Sunday's Gospel.

Holiday Time

We are already into the holiday period, with familiar faces absent and then re-appearing in the congregation! Hopefully everyone who is fortunate enough to get away will be blessed with good weather and an opportunity to relax and recharge their energies. If you should plan to be away when one of your duties is scheduled, perhaps you could arrange for this to be covered by someone else. This helps everything to run smoothly even when there are fewer people here. Thank you so much.

Next Week—23rd August 2015

Eucharistic Ministers:

6.30pm Vigil	May Murphy, Jill Sheard
10.00am	Adam Borley , John Ireson, David Harwar
5.00pm	Mary Hendry, Kim Kearns

Readers:

Honor Hynes
Alison & Matthew McCleary
Anne Bergonzi

12th Sept	7.30pm	Bingo Night	Parish Hall
13th September	6.30pm	Parish Council	HFR
18th Sept	10.00am	Lectio Divina,	HFR
26th Sept		The Circus,	St. Joseph's School
22nd Oct		Confirmations	
16th Nov	4.30pm	Finance Meeting	

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Archbishop Peter Smith has drawn our attention to the Bill attempting to Legalise Assisted Suicide in England and Wales, to be debated in the House of Commons on 11th September, 2015. This bill will have a free vote, so it is vital that as many as possible make contact with their MP in good time before this debate. Our MP's name is Chris White, address House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. There are sample letters in the narthex to help those who are writing.

Sources of information: www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide and www.bioethics.org.uk

As Archbishop Smith points out - what is needed is more and better palliative care, not assistance with suicide. Please take some sort of action on this very important issue for our Christian society.

Parish Bingo Night

Plans are afoot to hold a Bingo Night on Saturday 12th September at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Tea and Coffee will be provided but please bring something for the supper table and your own drink if you wish. Do put the date in your diary **Saturday 12th September: £3** for a book of tickets—cash prizes! It would be good to have some extra novelty prizes; please bring something along if you can. **It is in aid of our parish maintenance fund so do think about taking part.** It should be fun. More detail to come closer to the time.

Annual Rosary Rally

This will take place at Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire on Sunday 23rd August, led by Fr. John Martin, beginning with Mass at 3.00pm.

Parish Centre



Weekly Events (during normal time)

- Monday:** Dancing
- Tuesday:** Tuesday Club
- Wednesday:** Art /Choir
- Thursday:** Music Group / Weightwatchers
- Friday:** Karate
- Saturday:** Slimming World
- Sunday:** Youth Club

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE

If you check the church noticeboard you will find a programme of events organised by the Birmingham Catholic Youth Service (Kenelm Trust). These run right through from the summer to December.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

The Circus is Coming! This will be at the school, booked for Saturday 26th September with two shows in the day. You can email suzanne@vallins.net to buy tickets and they will be available at some point during the summer holidays here at church. Date to be confirmed.



Harvington Hall

This year's annual pilgrimage to Harvington Hall will take place on Sunday 6th September, starting with Mass at 3.00pm. Please take a chair! Principal celebrant is Bishop Robert Byrne. *There is a possibility of transport from St. Peter's being arranged, if enough people express an interest in going - please write your name on the list in St. Peter's porch. Alternatively call or email their Parish Office (423824) and leave your name and telephone number by 16 August*

Watch this space

Coming in the Autumn.....



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Mary's assumption promises us a share in the hope of the resurrection; in trust we present our prayers to the Lord who protects and cares for his people.

Reader: Mary trusted in the promise of the Lord; we pray for all mothers. May they, like Mary, love and protect their children especially during times of difficulty.
Lord, hear us.....

Mary protected the child in her womb; we pray for the unborn and for respect for the sanctity of human life. May we, by our actions, promote respect for the dignity of human life. We pray that governments will protect human life in all their policies.
Lord, hear us.....

Mary sang her song of joy; we pray for those who strive for justice and peace. May their work be successful so that poverty and disease will be removed from our world.
Lord, hear us....

Mary rejoiced in the deeds of God; we pray for those who are taking holidays at this time of the year. May they have safe journeys to and from their destinations and return feeling refreshed.
Lord, hear us...

Mary's assumption into heaven gives us hope in the promise of eternal life. May the Lord bless all those who have died and take them into their heavenly home.
Lord, hear us.

Celebrant: Father, we ask you to hear the prayers that we make in faith. May Mary continue to be a sign of hope and comfort for your people on their pilgrim way. We ask this through Christ our Lord.