



Our Lady and St. Joseph's Parish Bulletin

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Sunday 5th February

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Clergy: *Parish Priest* Fr. Peter Hart V.F. *Deacons* Revv. John Constable & Kevin Hickey [ret'd.]

Sunday Masses: 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., Mass in Polish at 1 p.m. on Sunday

Weekday Masses: 12.10 p.m. Monday to Saturday followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation

SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

'Life is but a breath and my eyes will never again see joy.' We can all sympathise with Job. He feels so downhearted that nothing seems worthwhile any more. And from time to time we can all end up asking what's the point of life and whether it's worth all the effort. We take our fair share of knocks and it's easy to stay down rather than pick ourselves up and dust ourselves down.

That's why the cures that Jesus worked came as such a bombshell to a people that had grown cynical about life. St Mark tells us that from the outset of his ministry Jesus attracted large crowds eager to see him perform cures on those who were sick.

Of course, Jesus was no doctor. But it was as if, for the crowd, these miracles validated his preaching claims. Anyone can preach, but someone who can back up their preaching with healing is surely worth listening to. And for Jesus these cures were not the be-all and end-all of his mission. They were signs of something else: the setting up of the kingdom of God.

From the start Jesus never claimed any credit for these miracles. He was up-front about where he got his power from: his Father. And it was his Father who had sent him to inaugurate a new way of life, a new style of living according to the values of the kingdom which was about to come. Two thousand years on the Church continues this mission of proclaiming the kingdom to a world that is often as weary as Jesus's listeners. In the midst of war, scandal, opposition and sheer human frailty we keep in mind that we are not trying to compete with other agencies, with governments or lifestyle promoters. Our message is radically different from any other. It says that God intends us to live in a way that puts others first, that thrives on self-sacrifice after the fashion of Christ and that has no time for the self-centred idealism of much of what advertisers and spin-doctors present us with today. For Christians are in the world but not of it. That's because, warts and all, they are part of the kingdom of God. And as Jesus's audience found out, despite the problems that each day might bring, the kingdom is very near.

Prayer for the week

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection.

First Communion

The First Communion Programme for this year will be starting in the near future. Parents of children who are in year 3 or above who would like to make their First Communion are asked to contact Fr Peter, Deacon John or Jacqueline Williams as soon as possible please.

As in previous years the sessions will take place in the Waterton Hall after 10.00 a.m. Mass.

Tea and Coffee

There is an opportunity to meet other parishioners every Sunday morning after the 10 a.m. Mass by sharing a cup of tea or coffee and a chat in the porch at the back of church. **Everyone** is always welcome

New Waterton Hall

If you have a celebration coming up or an event you want to hold then the New Waterton Hall is "The Place".

Contact James for all booking enquiries: e-mail manager.newwatertonhall@live.co.uk or telephone 07952 195274.

Morning Prayer

If you have 15 minutes to spare, why not come along. It's a good way to start the day 9.a.m Monday to Saturday

WORD FOR TODAY

Whenever Jesus encountered suffering he always brought relief. This was a sign that he was establishing the kingdom of God on earth. In our prayer and worship today we ask for that healing presence of Christ and we renew our baptismal pledge to work for the coming of God's kingdom.

Liturgies this week

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|---|--|
| Sunday 5th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10 a.m. Tom Evans Anni D .1 p.m. Mass in Polish 4.30 p.m. Parishes of Our Lady & Joseph & Warwick Bridge |
| Monday Mem SS Paul Miki & Companions | 9.a.m. Morning Prayer 12.10 p.m. Gertude Houghton |
| Tuesday Mem | 9.a.m. Morning Prayer 12.10 p.m. Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| Wednesday | 9.a.m. Morning Prayer 12.10 p.m. Raymund Fitzsimons R.I.P |
| Thursday | 9.a.m. Morning Prayer 9.15 a.m. <i>Convent No Mass</i> 12.10 p.m. Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| Friday Mem St Scholastica | 9.a.m. Morning Prayer 12.10 p.m. Paul Blackshaw |
| Saturday Feast OUR LADY OF LOURDES | 9 a.m. Morning Prayer 12.10 p.m. John Routledge R.I.P 12.40 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Sunday 12th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10 a.m. Mary Strong Anni.D 1 p.m. Polish Mass 4.30 p.m. Parishes of Our Lady and St. Joseph & Warwick Bridge |

Please pray for those who are sick : John Alcock , Joan Brook, Mary Devlin, Elizabeth Donohoe, Mildred Farrell, Joyce Flinn, Edmund Fell, Madge Garner, George Gracey, Maria Harold, Kevin Hickey, Gabrielle Mills, Ann Moore, Bernadette Osman, Nora Reid, Eileen Riordan, Vera Rowell, Ann Schrubba, and Bill Traynor ;

for those lately dead and for those whose anniversaries are about this time: Michael Quinn, Pat Barwise, Mary Strong

PLEASE NOTE.....

Fr. Peter's day off is a Tuesday and, as a rule, is not available on a Tuesday,

| Attendance | Sunday, 29th January | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| | 10 a.m. | 4.30 p.m. | 1 p.m. | Total |
| | 170 | 102 | | 272 |
| Collections | 10 a.m. + 4.30 p.m. | | 1 p.m. | Total |
| | £794.66 | | | £794.66 |

For your diary:

Tuesday 7th February

Zumba Fitness Class in the New Waterton Hall tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. Why not come along and be part of it?

Thursday 9th February

Parents & Toddlers get together from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the New Waterton Hall every Thursday.

Friday 10th February

Beavers & Cubs in the New Waterton Hall at 6.30p.m. to 8 p. m

Vocations Vigil of Prayer & Marian Procession

In honour of Our Lady of Lourdes takes place today at 7pm in Lancaster Cathedral.

Saturday 18 February

Day of Renewal — Kendal

The power of forgiving love is the theme of a day of renewal led by Fr Pat Deegan, at the Salesian convent, Brettargh Holt, Kendal LA8 8EA; 10.00am-4.00pm.

Taizé Prayer

Each Tuesday evening during school term time, there will be the opportunity to join with others in Taizé Prayer at 14, Roseberry Road, Stanwix, starting with a bring-and-share vegetarian meal at 6.30 p.m. followed by an hour of silent prayer and Taizé songs beginning at 7 p.m. **People of all ages are warmly welcome!**

RCIA: "Exploring the riches of the Catholic Faith". A series of sessions looking at various aspects of the Catholic Faith continues Thursday **at 6.30 p.m. (N.B.)** in the Rectory. These sessions are aimed at anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Faith, especially those who would like to be received into full communion with the Church, but all are welcome to come along and join in this journey of Faith.

Diocese's Pilgrimage to Dublin's International



Eucharistic Congress 2012

The Diocese is planning to take a group by coach and ferry to the Pilgrimage from Thursday 14th- Monday 18th June 2012. The 50th International Eucharistic Congress is a golden opportunity for a number of important reasons. It coincides with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Also Diarmuid Martin, the Archbishop of Dublin, has appealed for Catholics around the world to come to Dublin. 'My prayer is that in the current situation the Church in various parts of the world would come now in a particular way in solidarity with the wounded Church in Ireland, as it sets out it's path to renewal.' For information and registration please contact : **Deacon Nick Donnelly, 01229 821866, or email;nickdonnelly@hotmail.com**