

**The Parish of St Joseph &
The Parish of St Charles Borromeo, Sheffield**
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Fourth Sunday in ordinary Time (C)

30 January 2022

Rev Fr Mark McManus *Parish Priest* Rev Mr Simon Hegarty *Deacon* stjosephsden@outlook.com

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound, especially: Arthur Pidcock, Sheila Armstrong, Reece Wilson, Jason Barron, Liz Moran, Elizabeth Dodson, Pat Collett, Eunice Mannion, Madge Wolstenholme, Sue & Frank Rodgers, Jonathan Dempsey, Andy Mitchell, Eileen Valance, Marie Montgomery, John Carroll, Lol Hodges, Sheila Habershon, Rita & Vin Todd, Georgina Shirt, Maria Tarnowski, Elizabeth Barron, Martin Humphreys, Susan De Couto, Jacqueline Wagland, Sr. Teresa Paschal, Tom Bryant. *If you would like anyone included on this list, and the individual concerned or a family member has consented to it, simply write the person's name down and hand it in. Thank you.*

HM Government has now fully lifted the provisions against the Covid virus known as “Plan B.” The scientific consensus and advice of Public Health England is that there is still a risk associated with gathering for sustained periods in enclosed spaces and therefore there needs to be continued caution by all against infection. However, this should be balanced against the need to minimise disruption in our lives as the general situation continues to seemingly ‘improve.’ With this in mind I would note the following:

- If you display symptoms of Covid-19, you are unwell or somebody in your household has coronavirus symptoms, e.g. a cough or high temperature, you should stay at home and not come to church.
- As the main form of virus transmission is via personal oral or nasal aerosol you are still very welcome to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the building. Indeed, the *Guidance of the Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales* offers ‘encouragement to wear face coverings while singing.’
- Although there is no need for formal social distancing please be sensitive to the presence of others around you.
- We are still being asked to ensure there is good ventilation and so the doors will continue to be open while the church is in use (pray for an early and warm Spring!). Also, the toilet will be open again.
- It is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit, however, it is clear from scientific evidence that transmission from surfaces (touch transmission) is now minimal and so the use of our hymn books will be resumed next weekend, 5 & 6 February.
- Likewise, from next weekend, 5 & 6 February, Holy Communion, under the one kind (the Sacred Host), will be distributed at the usual place and in the usual way. Again, please be mindful of others and, while seeking to form an orderly procession, try not to form too large a queue at any one time.
- Finally, I am confident that you are aware that Covid-19 virus is still in circulation and that while you will be conscious of your own personal safety you will also, I am sure, be equally mindful of your care for others.

As we begin to operate more normally we will need to think about our Church Cleaning. Please consider if you can give some time to this important and valuable service. A group of dedicated and faithful people have enabled us to stay open over these past twenty-two months and for this we are all extremely grateful. Going forward however, it is not fair or appropriate to rely on the same people all the time.

First Holy Communion Preparation: Begins after this Sunday's 10am Mass. Meanwhile, please keep the following dates free in your diaries: Sunday 20 February in church, Saturdays 26 February, 26 March & 30 April in school. The class in church will be at 10.50 - 12.00 while the classes in school will be from 09.30 - 12.00. Attendance at all classes is essential. Workbooks and Mass books will be issued at the first class.

The Synod of Bishops 2023

A consultation

Pope Francis has invited us to help prepare for this upcoming synod. As we journey together through life, finding ways to live and communicate the Gospel of the Lord, we discover we are not alone in our Christian Faith. The word *Synodal* means “*journeying together*” and the question Pope Francis has asked us to pray, listen and to discern is:

“How does this “journeying together” take place today on different levels (from the local to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel?”

He has asked the bishops of the world to ask you and then tell him and Bishop Heskett will collect our thoughts and take them to a meeting of the bishops of England and Wales. Later, some of our bishops will go to Rome for the Synod in 2023. Following this Pope Francis will write to the whole Church reflecting what has been discerned from this process.

Questions

Pope Francis has asked us to consider these questions:

- What are your experiences of ‘journeying together’ in your diocese, your parish, for you personally?
- What joys or difficulties have you encountered?
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you in your experiences?
- What steps is the Spirit inviting you to take in order for the Church to grow as a Synodal Church?

You can respond with as much or as little detail as you wish. Simply place your comments in an envelope and mark them as ‘Synod’ and drop them off in church or the presbytery letterbox. You do not need to put your name on your response. Alternatively, you can e-mail ssjosephandcharles@gmail.com and put ‘Synod’ in the subject heading should you wish.

I kindly remind you that your comments should be submitted by next Sunday, 6 February. Thank you.

<i>Mass Intentions</i>	
Sunday 30 January <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.45am Brendan Lynch 10.00am For the People
Monday 31 January <i>St John Bosco</i>	10.00am Joan Gerstel
Tuesday 1 February <i>Ordinary Time weekday</i>	10.00am Ray Brolly
Wednesday 2 February <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	November Memorial Dead List
Thursday 3 February <i>Ordinary Time weekday</i>	10.00am Fr Frank Flynn
Friday 4 February <i>St Gilbert of Sempringham</i>	10.00am Margaret McLaughlin
Saturday 5 February <i>St Agatha</i> <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i>	5.00pm Ints. of Leyton, Jason & Joanne Wilson
Sunday 6 February <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.45am For the People 10.00am Jimmy Cahill

Last week's collection was £447.50 (£276.00 in offertory envelopes, £171.50 in loose). Many thanks for your continuing support!

Our Crib Offerings will be donated to help the Homeless.

This week St Joseph's Sanctuary Lamp burns for:

The sick & the dying

This week St Charles' Sanctuary Lamp burns for:

Healthcare Workers & Carers

Please pray for all who have died recently & for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. *St Alphonsus Ligouri*