



Catholic Parishes of

ST. JOSEPH
Stanley

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SACRED HEART
Byermoor

ST. PATRICK
Dipton

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Listen to the Word **16th April 2023** **2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2: 42-47 | Psalm 117 | 1 Peter 1: 3-9 | John 20: 19-31

We are moving from the season of Lent and the period of Passiontide and embarking on a new journey: a paschal journey with the early church, and an opportunity to re-discover the meaning of Community. Each year we seem to reach this point either exhausted by the intensity of the past seven weeks or exhilarated, ready for a joyous journey through the Easter season reinvigorated by our shared experiences. The early church could have hidden from view after the traumatic events of the last week but, filled with the spirit of God, they began to build, and so must we. We are faced with many problems but we should follow the example of the early church and aim to build not decline.

In today's passage from Acts we meet a vibrant community, working together, teaching each other, sharing their resources to build a church worthy to be called the Church of Christ. This period of activity made a deep impression on those who saw it. Many were drawn to the community because they could see the many acts of kindness, of healing, they had witnessed. This was a community, built on the love of Christ, united by the eucharist, the breaking of bread, and ready to proclaim Christ's message to the world.

Peter writes perhaps twenty years after this explosion of faith and joy that formed the early church. Over the coming weeks we dip into the treasury of his letters to the emerging, growing, communities building up the Body of Christ. His message today is as real and present as it would have been to the communities that received it all those years ago. It is powerful, assuring us that even though we live in difficult times we are held in the arms of our God who will guard and protect us.

John, we believe, was present in the room when Jesus appeared among His disciples. He is our witness to these events. Christ's appearance fills them with joy. The peace of Christ comes upon them to assure them that all will be well, and He gives them a mission: He sends them out to do His work in the world. They will not be alone; the Spirit will be with them, to guide, inspire, and protect them. Even those who are not present, like Thomas, will come to believe in Him. This message is passed on to us today. We are His disciples, we are sent into the world to speak of His love, and *"believing this we may have life through His name."*

David Frank

We welcome Father John Bagnall, who will be celebrating Mass with us at Sacred Heart this Saturday 15th April.

	Offertory Tot. 9 th Apr	Weekly Stand. Order	Good Friday Holy Places
St Joseph's	£615.87	£197.25	£237.97
St Patrick's	£96.05	£157.15	-

Upcoming Special Collections:

N.B.F (Collection for Sick & Retired Priests) – 16th April 2023 until 7th May 2023

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal – 30th April 2023

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE THAT NEED HEALING IN OUR PARISHES:
Anne Kennedy, Margaret Convey, Maureen Dixon, Danny Fagan

SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 15 th April	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: MARTIN BRYCE & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE SMITH FAMILY (Fr John Bagnall)
Sunday 16th April	St Patrick's Church St Joseph's Church	9.00am 11.00am	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Mass: FREDA GIFFORD & MARIE GIFFORD
Monday 17 th April			
Tuesday 18 th April	St Joseph's Church	9.30am	Word and Communion Service
Wednesday 19 th April	St Joseph's Church	9.30am	Word and Communion Service
Thursday 20 th April	St Joseph's Church	9.30am	Word and Communion Service
Friday 21 st April	St Joseph's Church	9.30am	Word and Communion Service
Saturday 22 nd April	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: FR DERMOTT DONNELLY
Sunday 23 rd April	St Patrick's Church St Joseph's Church	9.00am 11.00am	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Mass: CLAIRE MILLS

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Half an hour before Mass at weekends.

MASS INTENTIONS for our parishes are most welcome. Please be aware that weekend Masses are booked at least 3 months in advance. At Sacred Heart Church, there are Masses in for the next 3 months. Please let us know if you are content for Mass to be said in St Joseph's or St Patrick's. We also have gaps in our weekday schedule at St Joseph's.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND Please contact the Parish Office if you know anyone sick/housebound who would like to receive Holy Communion.

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS Any Mass intentions booked for weekdays throughout w/c 9th and 16th April will unfortunately need to be rearranged. Please get in touch with Melissa to reschedule. We apologise for the inconvenience. (Mass intentions for the weekends are unaffected, with the exception of Holy Saturday.)

MILL HILL MISSIONS In 2022 St Joseph's raised £1898.31 through Red Boxes, including individuals giving directly. Thank you to all who help in any way to ensure the Red Box scheme continues in our parish. – Maureen Barron.

A CAFOD WORD OF THANKS Thank you for your continued support and generosity this Lent, with special praise to those of you who took part in the Big Lent Walk – I hope you all had a wonderful Easter within your parish and family life.

Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh who has been very worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, which is supported by CAFOD, Shukla has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "worry has completely disappeared now." People support us in so many ways – giving in church, giving to us by direct debit, or leaving us a gift in their will. This generosity and compassion reaches hard-working mothers like Shukla. Thank you. To read Shukla's story, go to cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill

TURKEY-SYRIA APPEAL Thank you to all parishioners for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donations, which we received on 4th April 2023. Thank you so much for being there for our global family.

Thank you for holding a collection for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal and for your prayers for those affected. Your gift will help provide vital medical help, shelter, food, clean water as well as winter kits to help people cope with the freezing temperatures. Every donation to CAFOD is having an impact on the frontline of this crisis, literally making the difference between life and death for thousands of people over the coming weeks. Please continue to keep all those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria in your prayers. Thank you so much for your support.

If you need anything from us, please do get in touch - we're here for you! Whilst post is a little slower for us, you can call our supporter care team on 0303 303 3030 or email us at cafod@cafod.org.uk. Thank you and God bless - Michelle Oakford, Head of Supporter Relations.

Thought for the week: "The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake." – Basil Hume

