



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH, DARWEN

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5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

4th February 2007

This week's services

Monday	9.00 a.m.	Mass – St. Agatha, virgin and martyr. Martyred in Sicily.
Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	Mass – Saints Paul Miki and companions, martyrs. Japanese martyrs.
Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	Mass
Thursday	9.00 a.m.	Mass – St. Jerome Emiliani. Soldier who left to serve the poor.
Friday	9.00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday	12.00 noon	Mass – St. Scholastica, virgin. Sister of St. Benedict, born in Italy in 480. followed by confessions until 12.45 p.m.
	6.15 p.m.	Vigil mass for Sunday
Sunday	9.00 a.m.	Sunday mass – 6 th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ministries for next week

Readers

Saturday, 6.15 p.m.	W. Godwin
Sunday, 9.00 a.m.	C. Wright

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, 6.15 p.m.	A. Barker
	S. Jackson
	A. Gibbs
	P. Ainscough
	K. Hine
Sunday, 9.00 a.m.	R. Massey
	D. Forbes
	A. Gordon
	D. Beaton
	G. Brindle

Last weekend's collections

Offertory collection	£621.21
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200 Club winners

1 st prize	£40	44	J. Atkinson
2 nd prize	£10	39	C. Upton
3 rd prize	£5	91	Alice Griffin

Next weekend – “Life”

Next weekend we will welcome Elizabeth Parsons who will speak at the masses about the work and policies of “Life”. There will be a retiring collection for the organisation.

Church opening

Please remember that the church is now open each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for private prayer after morning mass until the Angelus at midday.

We are still looking for more people to be around to enable the church to be open more regularly.

Mass intentions received

Lately Dead: James Boyle

Anniversary: Annie Conlon, Wilfred Byrne (2) – 8th Feb, William Fish – 6th Feb

Sick: Thomas Toner, Bill Clarkson, Gail Heys

Other intentions: Joseph Gaffney, special intention to the Holy Family (2), Our Lady of Good Remedy, thanksgiving to Our Lady, Marianne Jarvis, Our Lady for a safe journey, William Fay

“Gay adoption”

I have been asked if people should write to their MP about the “gay adoption” issue. It seems to me that there are several vital issues at stake here and I would encourage people to write to their MP about them.

1. The legislation is anti-religious, of all faiths, and ultimately removes all faith groups from organised or professional work. For instance, the eventual and logical consequence is that religious faiths are not allowed free choice in employing or appointing their own workers, e.g. teachers or even priests.
2. The legislation confuses equality with similarity. All people are equal, but thank God we are not all the same.
3. The legislation is drafted in favour of the person asking for something, rather than working from the need. No person, of whatever sex or sexual orientation has the ‘right’ to adopt a child. If people had the ‘right’ to adopt a child, there would have to be a corresponding ‘duty’ in society to provide spare children for them to adopt. The topic is being approached from the wrong perspective.

Adoption is a privilege and a service to the child, who has the ‘rights’. Every child has the ‘right’ to a mother and a father who love each other and are committed both to each other and to the child. Frequently these rights are not available to the child, sometimes through nobody’s fault. That does not stop them from being ‘natural rights’. The job of the Catholic adoption agencies is to provide the best possible substitute: a loving, committed, mother and father. It is not the intention of the agencies to provide children for couples, whoever they may be. It is the job of the agencies to find ‘mothers and fathers’ for the children who have the ‘rights’ and the needs of mothers and fathers.

If a child was produced by two people of the same sex, then no doubt it would be appropriate to substitute for those two people, but until then, that is not appropriate.

This is not to say that a gay couple could not make even a better job of bringing up a child than some heterosexual couples. I’m sure some could and do! But they do not have a ‘right’ to do so, any more than heterosexual couples have the ‘right’ to adopt a child simply because they are heterosexual.

You can write to our local MP, Janet Anderson, at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. (Telephone: 0207 219 5375 or e-mail: andersonj@parliament.uk)

Is God calling you?

Do not be afraid. If the Lord is calling you to the ordained or consecrated life, do not be afraid. Jesus calls and will give you the grace to respond wholeheartedly.

If God is calling you, call the Salford Diocese Vocations Director, Fr. David Featherstone, on 0161 681 1410.

Weddings – urgent!!!!

If you know anyone called Lucia or Francesco or Nicola or Patrick who think they are going to have a wedding at St. Joseph’s this year, please tell them to get in touch as soon as possible or they are going to have a terrible shock when they turn up and it is not going to happen.