



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH, DARWEN

Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Wilkinson

St. Joseph's Presbytery
Bolton Road
Darwen
BB3 2PG

Telephone: 01254 702026
www.stjosephsdarwen.org.uk

e-mail: priest@stjosephsdarwen.org.uk
newsletter: news@stjosephsdarwen.org.uk

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15th July 2007

This week in St. Joseph's Parish

Sunday	9.00 a.m.	Sunday mass – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday	9.00 a.m.	Mass – Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Principal Patron of the diocese
Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	Crossroads Mass in Church (for primary school leavers)
Thursday	9.00 a.m.	Mass – St. John Plessington, priest and martyr. From Plesington.
Friday	9.00 a.m.	Mass – St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr. First Bishop of Ravenna.
Saturday	12.00 noon	Mass, followed by confessions until 12.45 p.m.
	6.15 p.m.	Vigil mass for Sunday
Sunday	9.00 a.m.	Sunday mass – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Joseph's is your Church and everything which happens in it is part of your relationship with God.

Many of the 'extra' services in our churches, such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, are being conducted for people who have little sense of faith or church. Very often the people they invite have even less understanding of what a church building is all about. We get phone calls asking, "How much is it to hire the church for a christening?" and similar questions about weddings and funerals. It seems that more and more people see these occasions as something private for themselves and this gives them the right to decide what happens during the service. Some people seem to think that they have the automatic right to stand up and speak about whatever they like during a funeral, or to take photos or videos even if it is distracting to others. Some people are offended when they are told that they cannot play secular songs during a service. A priest in this diocese was recently abused for trying to stop someone using offensive language during a "tribute" during a funeral.

We need to reclaim the territory.

Every service in this church is part of the worship of this whole community offered to God. In practice this means that if we have a wedding, it is not a ceremony which belongs to the bride and groom. It is a ceremony which belongs to the parish at which the bride and groom invite us to worship God along with them in celebration of the love which they have found and which they recognise as coming from God. If we have a baptism, it is not a private ceremony for that particular family. It is a celebration of this parish, that the church is welcoming a new member and we share in the joy of the child's family. If we have a funeral, it is not primarily that family's event. Primarily it is a celebration of the parish that one of ourselves is going to God and that this is what membership of the church has been all about ever since that person first went into a church to be baptised. The parish and the person's own family combine in an act of parish worship. What happens during the service must be in keeping with all our other services and worship and that includes the music and addresses. **Music must raise the mind and heart to God**, rather than be someone's favourite song. **What is said must celebrate the FAITH and VIRTUE of the person** and not "be a laugh" about how much they drank etc.

Over the coming weeks, I would like to look at ways in which we can reclaim the territory. In other words, I would like us to see how we can make baptisms, weddings and funerals more obviously a part of parish life. Perhaps we could look at baptisms first and think about ways in which regular members of the parish could play a part in the preparation for and celebration of our baptisms to make a clear link with the parish community and to make it obvious that it is not something separate from the life of the parish.

Parish walk and picnic

Next Sunday, 22nd July

We will leave from the church car park at 10.30 a.m.

Anyone who does not have transport but who would like to come along, please put your name on the list at the back of church so that we have an idea of the transport needed. Remember to bring your own picnic.

HELP NEEDED It has been pointed out to me that the church windows are very dirty, presumably inside and out. We have the ladders, the buckets etc. Does anyone have the time and inclination to offer to clean all/some/inside/outside? Clearly all appropriate safety considerations will apply.

Bold Venture Park Scouts have expressed their thanks for the use of our hall for their Troup Night after thieves had taken lead from their Scout HQ roof making the premises unusable and doing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Mass intentions received

Lately Dead: Catherine Simpson x2,

Anniversary: Kathleen Taylor 6 July, Eileen Mears 9 July, Charles Butcher 18 July, Peter Holden, Marta Gajkis 15 July x4,

Sick: Gail Hayes

Birthday: Winnie Foster x2, Mary Ellen Taylor, Thomas Taylor, George McCann 22 July, Carmela Testa 22 July,

Other intentions: Terry Harwood x2, Our Lady of Good Remedy, Special Intention (Holy Family), Special Intention (St Anthony & St Jude), Michele Defalco, Stephania Biancospino, Carmela Biancospino

Last weekend's collections

Offertory collection £593.45
Retiring collection (Sea Sunday) £270.81

200 Club winners

1 st prize	£40	82	Terry O'Neill
2 nd prize	£10	48	D Wardle
3 rd prize	£5	74	Joan Kershaw

Is God calling you?

It's a simple concept: love God with your whole being and put that love into practice. How is God calling you to love? Have you considered the way of loving called "priesthood" or "religious life"?

If God might be selecting you for the special life of priest or religious, call the Salford Diocese Vocations Director, Fr. David Featherstone, on 0161 681 1410.

Ministries for next week

	Saturday, 6.15 p.m.	Sunday, 9.00 a.m.
Reader	B. Hughes	D. Ross
Eucharistic ministers	T. McIver R. Knowles A. Barker S. Jackson A. Gibbs	M. Alvarez J. Briggs R. Massey D. Forbes A. Gordon