

St Peter's/St Joseph's Bidding Prayers

20th / 21st June 2020

Priest:

In our liturgical cycle we are back to Ordinary Time. Today Jesus helps us to deepen our relationship with the loving Father in heaven.

Reader:

An earthly father would grant his son whatever he asks for: We pray for confidence to ask for the gifts we need, knowing that our prayers will be answered.

Lord in your mercy.

Today is father's day: We pray that God will bless our fathers, those living and those who have passed away.

Lord in your mercy.

Many people are now suffering economically because of the Coronavirus lockdown: Let us ask the Lord to help us to recover swiftly.

Lord in your mercy.

Many of our children and grandchildren are now back in education: We ask the loving Father to keep them in his special care.

Lord in your mercy.

We commend to the loving mercy of the Father in heaven those who have died recently, especially Maureen Golding. We also pray and those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: May they enjoy communion with all the saints in heaven.

Lord in your mercy.

The Father knows our innermost secrets. Let us share with him all of our hopes and all of our fears.

[After a pause]

Lord in your mercy.

Mary taught Jesus how to trust in God. We can ask her to intercede on our behalf.

Hail Mary....

Priest: Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, who we encounter everyday of our lives. We make these prayers in his name because he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

Reflection for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, 21st June 2020

If you do not have a copy of the missalette, you can find today's readings at www.universalis.com

Today is Father's day. It is the day we choose to honour our earthly fathers. Dads don't get as big a deal as mums do, but let us find some way of remembering them in prayer today.

Alas, we know very little about the relationship between Jesus and his father, Joseph. However, we can make some deductions from what we do know. Jesus was trained by his father to be a carpenter and was able to take over the family business when Joseph died, and in this way he was able to support his mother.

Perhaps the most significant fact that opens up this relationship for us is the choice of word Jesus uses to describe God. The Hebrew word for "father" is "ab", but Jesus chose to call God by the diminutive of this word, "abba", which we would translate in English as "daddy". Jesus teaches us that we are loved by our Father in heaven in a similar way to the love we receive from our earthly dads. They provide for us and make sure we are brought up in a respectful way. The use of this word was unique to Jesus. In the Old Testament God is: "I am who I am", or "the one" or simply "Lord". Jesus is the first to call God "daddy" marking the familiarity of the relationship he felt towards God.

In the gospel today Matthew has collected together a number of sayings of Jesus which reflect his teaching on who the Father is. To begin with, God is our security. As a child feels secure being protected by his dad, so we should never let ourselves be overcome with fear. We have a deeply concerned protective figure in the Father in heaven. We hear children boast: "My dad is bigger than your dad!" Well no one is bigger than the Father in heaven.

Then Jesus goes on to describe how we are known by our Father in heaven. He knows every single little detail of our lives. Even the hairs on our head are counted. The Father in heaven feels for a worthless sparrow that falls to the ground: How much more is his concern for us who are made in his image?

Sometimes parents unwittingly distort the aspect of God's ever present concern for us. Perhaps we hear an exasperated parent warn: "Don't do that, darling, remember God is always watching you". But the Father's concern is not censorious, rather it is intimate and loving. We should never have the feeling that God is there trying to catch us out when we do something wrong. No, he is there to help and support us. Yes, indeed the Father does know all of our secrets, but not so that he can expose us and embarrass us, but so that he can love us intimately.

Jesus knew that he would have to suffer grievously at the hands of those incapable of comprehending his message, and that sadly too, many of his followers would suffer the same fate. Many Christians in the early Church were destined to witness to Jesus by being persecuted by others who could not accept the reality of the gospel being preached. So Jesus declares that the Father is definitely on the side of those who make Jesus their friend, and will come to their assistance. Alas, those who reject that friendship will not enjoy similar acceptance from the Father.

Of the Old Testament prophets, the one who had the hardest time of all was Jeremiah. Not his fault. At the time he lived, Israel was about to fall. It was the job of the prophet to explain that their current predicament was the fault of their own actions. This did not exactly make him flavour of the month. Despite the unpopularity of his message, Jeremiah feels close to God. In the first reading he is aware of how God is personally able to deliver him from the machinations of those who want to do him harm. He is not able to call God "Father", but he is aware of his father-like care for him.

Nowadays we have become so used to calling God "Father" that we tend to use the simile the other way around. God is the true Father, and our earthly fathers need to be like who we think God is. Not all of our earthly fathers are able to live up to these high expectations! Nevertheless, today is the day we celebrate fatherhood and today is the day we have the opportunity to pray for our dads. *May God bless them all!*

ST PETER'S CHURCH

(with St Joseph's, Hurst Green)

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Registered Charity No 2500374

21st June 2020

THE NEWSLETTER

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

Mass Schedule for this week

Fr Tim will offer a private Mass each day for the following intentions

Date	Time	Fr Tim's Private Mass Intention	Feast
Sa 20 th		For those affected by the pandemic	Vigil 12 th Sunday of OT (Yr A)
Su 21 st		For the parish	12 th Sunday of OT (Yr A)
M 22 nd		Private Intention	Sts John Fisher & Thomas More
T 23 rd		Alan Jackson	Weekday in Ordinary Time (week 12)
W 24 th		Private Intention	Birthday of St John the Baptist
Th 25 th		For SMH	Weekday in Ordinary Time
F 26 th		Private Intention	Weekday in Ordinary Time

(No Holy Hour or Benediction until further notice.)

L = Lately Dead, A = Anniversary of Death, R = Remembrance M = Martyr, V = Virgin, B = Bishop, Pp = Pope
P = Personal Intention, S = Sick, B = Birthday F = Founders Mass D = Doctor, P = Priest, R = Religious

Please pray for the following, the anniversary of whose deaths occur at this time. Fr George Carry SJ, Fr Archie Prime SJ and Frank Brown. *May they rest in peace.*

Readings at Mass

	12 th Sunday of OT (Yr A)	St Peter and St Paul
First	Jer 20; 10 - 13	Acts 12; 1 - 11
Second	Rom 5; 12 - 15	2 Tim 4; 6-8, 17-18
Gospel	Matt 10; 26 - 33	Matt 16; 13 - 19

Diocesan Website:

<http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk>

for information on our Diocese and what is happening.

Prayers Please

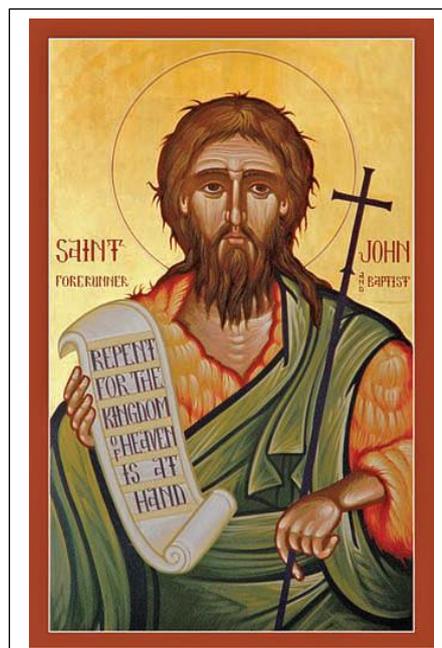
Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Maureen Golding** (Debra Nutter's mother) who passed away peacefully on Thursday. Keep the family in your prayers too.

Also please keep in your prayers **Arthur Maxwell Macfarlane** (Niall's father) who is also seriously ill.

Praying with the Pope in June 2020

We pray that those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the heart of Jesus.

Look at www.ThePopeVideo.org for more information



We shall continue to send out the newsletter until we are able to gather again in church. Together with other resources, it is also available on line on the parish website and in the parish resources box by the Cenotaph.

Fr Tim's availability

Each day Fr Tim will be in the Parish Office from 9am to 10am and available on the parish number (01254 826268). At other times, leave a message on the parish answer machine, which will be responded as soon as possible.

A daily prayer sheet is now available on-line and in the box by the cenotaph in the village.

Today

Is the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time. Back to green vestments once more! In the gospel Jesus encourages us to be bold. Today is also Father's Day. Fr Tim will say Mass in St Peter's at 5.30 pm on Saturday and in St Joseph's at 9.30 am on Sunday.

Parish 1st Holy Communion

Was due to take place today. We hope to complete the course with the children as soon as it is safe to do so, then we shall fix a new date for this celebration. I'm sure our children will be sad today, so please keep them in your prayers.

Return to School

SMH pupils are doing assessments this week, some in the school, others via the internet. Stonyhurst are holding teacher/parent consultations this week. At last Lancashire County Council have given permission for St Joseph's to open for years 1 and 6 and reception. We keep all of our children in our prayers

Feast days in the Week

Monday is the feast of St John Fisher and St Thomas More, both executed during the reign of Henry VIII. As the last descendent of St Thomas More was a Jesuit, the collections have many relics of this saint. Wednesday is the feast of the birthday of St John the Baptist.

Guild Day

Saturday should be Guild Day. Obviously we can't celebrate in the usual way. However, the Guild is seeking a safe and legal way to mark the occasion.

Next Sunday

Is the feast of St Peter and St Paul. This is the patronal feast of the parish. It is a shame that we still cannot have Mass.

Box by the Cenotaph

Contains daily reflections and some booklets. This week there are some copies of the *Jesuits and Friends* magazine. A small selection of cards are available in the parish box by the cenotaph.

Statistics

Last week we delivered 120 copies of the newsletter (thanks to those who deliver them) and 90 people accessed it on line. 8 people took printed copies of the daily reflections and 20 people read these on line!

Book of remembrance and prayer

Many people have sent in names for the book of remembrance and prayer for those connected with the parish and the Stonyhurst/SMH community who are sick or who have passed away. If you would like some names to be added to this book, let Fr Tim know. They will be remembered at Mass every day.

Preparing for the reopening of churches

The government has permitted Catholic Churches to open for private prayer. For St Peter's to open we need:

- + To have the church deep cleaned
- + To put a covid-19 risk assessment in place
- + Introduce a one way system in the church
- + Have 2 volunteers on duty while open
- + Be inspected by the diocese.

It will be some time before we can fulfill all of these conditions. *Offers of help welcome!*

Churches now open for private prayer:

St Mary's, Bamber Bridge (10 to 12 and 5 to 7)
St Wilfrid's, Chapel Street, Preston (10am to 2pm)
Opening soon: St Michael and St John, Clitheroe
(Best to check before making the journey)

Donating to the parish on line

The Diocese of Salford has put a donate button on their website, so that you can donate to individual parishes. Click on the link, and type "Stonhust" in the parish box, and your donation will end up in our parish bank account. Go to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/>