

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

19 July 2020



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Hello and welcome to all our friends. We hope you are all keeping well.

Today's gospel tells us the sower sows good seed and as it grows, weeds come up as well. The parable tells us that the good seed is left until the harvest. Then the good seed will be separated from the weeds which will be bundled up and burnt and the good seed will be put in the barn. The interpretation means in our world there are good and bad people alike. The good people are the wheat. However, Jesus constantly reaches out to those who live constantly for themselves and ignore the teachings of Jesus. God our Father loves us all. So much so that He became a man, suffered and died and rose again and sent the Holy Spirit to help us to love our Father and care for each other. Our Father looks on us with human feelings. He sees us as human beings. He wants us to accept his love and to try our best to be faithful to Him.

Last Wednesday I celebrated my ordination anniversary. Thank you for the cards. I was amazed that it was remembered. Being your priest and the many years which have passed has been a great joy and very humbling as we strive to bring God's love and peace into many lives. I invite you to pray for many vocations to the priesthood and religious life especially from your families. St Paul says "I have never stopped thanking God for you. I remember you in my prayers.....I ask that your minds may be opened to see His light, so that you will know what is the hope to which He has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings He promises His people, and how very great is His power at work within us who believe" (Ephesians 1 16-18).

Every blessing on your families and stay safe.

Fr. Leslie

MASS UPDATE

It was great that just under 50 parishioners attended our first "lockdown reopening" Mass on Saturday 4 July. It was all a little strange after our enforced absence but there is no doubt, it was good to be back! We were ably supported by 4 Stewards who made the Mass possible; without Stewards, we would be unable to reopen at all. The call goes out therefore for more Stewards (aged between 18 and 69) to come forward so that we can move towards a Mass on Sunday as well as retaining the Mass on Saturday evening.

Thanks for all your support. The cash collection at the back of the church on Saturday 4 July was £78.00. Gratefully received.

Then last Saturday 11 July the collection amounted to £122.00 with £48.00 being Gift Aided. Gift Aid is always important to our parish, never more so than now, so if you are a tax payer, then please pick up and complete a Gift Aid form.

Thanks and God Bless.