

Dear People,

Our Lourdes pilgrimage was wonderful. The journey out was pleasant and easy and we saw our only rain on the road from the airport. We settled in at the hotel, went to the afternoon procession of the Blessed Sacrament, had a good evening meal, went to the Torchlight procession and our day was complete.

On Friday we went to the Domaine for a tour together - the basilica, the statues, Grotto, baths, Blessed Sacrament and St Bernadette chapels, and then an hour of our own, exploring. A good lunch (all the meals were good throughout the week), mass in our own chapel (the Upper [dining] Room) at 2.30 and then the Blessed Sacrament procession and Holy Hour in the underground basilica, supper, Torchlight procession or quiet prayer at the Grotto.

Saturday saw us walking up into the town - the Statues factory, Kim's shop and tea room, the Cachot (the awful prison cell where Bernadette and her family had to live for a while), the parish church, the other places where the family lived in their poverty, but including the Boly Mill where Bernadette was born and lived for ten happy years.

We now had a good outline of Lourdes and people were confident of making their own ways and planning: time together and private time. We shared our various experiences and our pilgrimage had its pattern: mass and meals together and then much to choose from to make our own prayer - Stations of the Cross, the prayer chapels, the Grotto, etc. The days were sunny and warm.

Christine was with us often. Chris made her home in Lourdes many years ago but still feels she belongs to St Joseph's parish. We sang with her in the basilica choir, visited the tea shops of her English friends and shared their stories of loving and settling in Lourdes. We felt at home. That's Lourdes, linking us all, pilgrims from around the world. Shall you/we go (again)?

God bless you, Fr. John

<u>Shadow over Lourdes</u>. You can't miss the beggars. They were everywhere. We were warned they weren't genuine. We saw for ourselves. We saw them arriving in the people-carrier behind the hotel and then disperse to their allotted places. We filmed them from the hotel, counting large amounts of money. We saw the "minders", tough young men, doing their rounds. We know there are genuine poor and needy everywhere in Europe but they could not dare beg in Lourdes because the Syndicate organises and controls the begging.

21st May 2017 (Prayer Week 2) "The month of Our Lady, and still days to come to remember her"

Mass Times and Intentions 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

9.00 am at Rosary Church 10.30 am at St. Joseph's 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm) (Intentions for Sunday Mass) for Colette Wright, John Sellears, Jack Laing, Thanksgiving, Fr John Abbott

MONDAY 22nd MAY (St Rita) 7.00 pm at St. Joseph's *for Brendan Ford*

<u>TUESDAY 23rd MAY</u> 10.00 am at St. Joseph's *for Patricia Russell*

<u>WEDNESDAY 24th MAY</u> (Our Lady Help of Christians - Australia & New Zealand) 10.00 am at St. Joseph's *for Brian & Pat Morgan*

THURSDAY 25th MAY

(St Bede the Venerable : St Mary Magdalen of Pazzi, St Gregory VII, Pope) 10.00 am at St. Joseph's *for Peter Walsh*

FRIDAY 26th MAY

(St Philip Neri, Priest) 7.00 pm at St. Joseph's *for The Horan Family & Friends*

SATURDAY 27th MAY (St Augustine of Canterbury) 9.30 am at The Rosary Church *for The Hiles Family*

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

SUNDAY 28th MAY

9.00 am at Rosary Church : 10.30 am at St. Joseph's 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm) (Intentions for Sunday Mass) for Geraldine Lynch, Family Blessing

CONFESSIONS EACH WEEK SUNDAY 5.15 pm at St. Joseph's SATURDAY 10.00 am at the Rosary Church and 5.15 pm at St. Joseph's

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL open every day this week from 10.30 am - 6.00 pm.

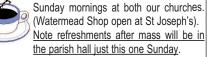
Amanda

Today makes her First Holy Communion. We pray for her and her family.

The Parish on Sundays



Hot (and cold) drinks after mass on



Parish Diary This Week

Tuesday 23rd May St JOSEPH'S TABLE, Home from Home,

and library <u>closed today</u> whilst kitchen is being refurbished (this week only).

WATERMEAD SHOP OPEN 10.30 am-3.30 pm

CHOIR PRACTICE tonight, 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 24th May

<u>St JOSEPH'S TABLE</u>, Home from Home, and library <u>closed today</u> whilst kitchen is being refurbished (this week only).

WATERMEAD SHOP OPEN 10.30 am-3.30 pm

<u>MEDITATION</u> in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel,10.50 am. All welcome.

<u>Thursday 25th May</u> <u>PARISH OPEN DAY</u> - hot drinks in the parish hall after the morning service.

WATERMEAD SHOP OPEN 10.30 am-3.30 pm

Friday 26th May

THE MIRIAM PRAYER GROUP meet in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 6.00 pm for faith-sharing and Rosary. All welcome.

St Paul's School Damascus Project

The school invites a volunteer to work within the school chaplaincy for the year 2017-18 (18-25 years). Please contact

solooskan@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk

"TWILIGHT" RETREATS Our evenings of talks, prayer and music Wednesday 14th June Wednesday 12th July Wednesday 13th September Wednesday 18th October

Now on display - a large selection of Holy Communion Gifts and Cards



OPENING TIMES Tues, Wed, Thur from 10.30 am-3.30 pm Sun 11.45 am-12.15 pm (closed Sunday 14th May only) More nformation from 0116 220 7880 www.watermead-apostolate.com

Last week's collection was safely counted and banked. £1,067 *(Special RASH Collection £144) Thank you. *Counters : Gail & Keith* (Next week : Terry)

*RASH stands for our regular giving for Leicester's Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Homeless.



Fabian, Declan, Jenny, Jonathan, Jennifer, Pat, Mary, Patrick

> Prayers for: Fr John Bland, Margaret, Ellen McAteer

The McCann family and all missing children

The peoples and countries of the world, especially of IRAN

POSTBAG

Dear Friends, we had a wonderful time with the children in Zimbabwe once again, though circumstances in the country are heartbreaking. There are literally no dollars to be had and people queue outside banks.

You may guess how welcome were the dollars we took on your behalf. They went immediately on general welfare; school clothing, etc, for the new term; bicycle repairs for the boys who cycle to school; postage for the memory books we have created over the years so that each child has a record of their childhood (some children have left without being given theirs); a party for the children, which served to benefit and heal all the community; a couple of dollars each for the children to spend at the pop-up shop we set up for them in order that they learn how to use money.

Besides this, on behalf of donors, we paid in fees for Blessed's special schooling (he is deaf), oversaw the arrival of 2 tonnes of maize (accompanied by much singing!), had the carpenter install new shelves for the library area we cleaned up, setting in motion a reading scheme which should continue with the help of a volunteer teacher.

There is so much pain, but successes big and small continue to delight. Ngoni achieved 10 GCSEs, 7 with distinction. He will stay in education, hoping to be an engineer. Emmanuel, our Callum's pen friend, has studied so well he is going to boarding school (he is so proud that WE are proud of him), Blessed took full part as a team member for the first time in games, Jessica, severely disabled, sang "Happy Birthday".

Since I returned, there is another £500 to bank.

Without being asked, Emmanuel wrote a letter to St Joseph's parish to thank you for your support. He says the parish is a gift from God, *"I love St Joseph's parish as I love myself. May the God bless you and keep you safe wherever you are."* Thank you, Lynn.

PS. Emmanuel's full letter is on the notice boards.

CHURCH ROTAS FOR NEXT WEEKEND		
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat. 6.00 pm	Doreen	Cecilia
Sun. 9.00 am	Luke	-
10.30 am	Theresa	Anne G / Sister Lelia
6.00 pm	TBA	Vincent

Dates for Diary

DoCat Study day with Mr. Paul Michael "Welfare and Justice for All" at Rosmini Centre Saturday, 27th May 10.30/11.00 – 1.30 pm, followed by a shared table (Mass at 10.00 am). All are welcome. Please do phone or email if you are attending.

rosminicentreinfo@gmail.com; 01509 813078

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE, RAMSGATE 3RD ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION Saturday 3rd June, 8.30 am - 5 pm Coach if enough people interested

Details from Lucy, Sr Lelia & Mercy

Conference promoting Evangelisation through FORGIVENESS, PEACE AND HOPE Saturday 10th June

10.00 am – 3.30 pm (Mass at 9.30 am) An inspiring day with input from guest speakers, including Barry & Margaret Mizen (parents of murdered 16 year old Jimmy) and Julia Palmer. Prayer and Worship with discussion and resources to take away. Register at:http://bit.ly/conference-2017

Diocesan Pllgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 17th June

For many years the pilgrimage has been on a Sunday but this year we are trying a Saturday. We shall organise a coach if enough people want to come. Please tell Fr John if you are interested.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 10th - 15th July 2017 By air: £649, by train: £569 : See notice boards

Retreat for Young Adults 21st-24th September at Minister Abbey in Kent. More information from sraelrederwin@gmail.com

FATIMA 100 YEARS

at the Cathedral Church of St. Barnabas. North Circus Street, Nottingham NG1 5AE Friday 2nd June, 1.00 pm - 8.00 pm Veneration of Relics of Blessed Jacinta & Francisco, Talk on the Message of Fatima Divine Mercy Chaplet, Fatima Little Shepherds DVD Holy Hour with Rosary and THE RELICS OF BLESSED JACINTA & FRANCISCO Saturday 3rd June, 10.00 am - 9.00 pm Veneration of Relics of Blessed Jacinta & Francisco Talk on the Message of Fatima Procession with Statue 6.30 pm Mass: celebrant, Bishop Patrick McKinney, and Act of Consecration Fatima Books : Holy Hour with Rosary : Fatima DVD Sunday 4th June, 8.00 - 10.00 pm

Veneration of Relics of Blessed Jacinta & Francisco Talk on the Message of Fatima : Fatima DVD (See posters on notice boards)

Pilgrimages 2018

The suggestions so far are: Winter - Malta, 8 or 12 days Autumn - Rome, 7 days Late Spring or Summer: (a) Rome & Assisi, 7 days, or (b) Padua, Venice & Assisi, 8 days Malta Note: recently we have flown from East Midlands with Ryanair, but the price has gone up considerably for 2018, £100 more than flying EasyJet from Gatwick. Both flights are afternoon flights and I strongly suggest we fly EasyJet. Please tell me if you are interested.