

**Parish Priest**  
Revd W. G. Bergin

**Address**  
Babworth Road  
Retford, DN22 7BP

**Telephone**  
01777703373

**Mass Attendance**  
263

**Please Pray for the sick of our Parish and for those who have died**

*Feast of  
Ascension*



*Next weekend we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost*

*Novena to the Holy Spirit during Mass this week*

**Anniversaries**  
John Cadman  
Maria Grassi  
Catherine Hearty  
Helen McGarvey



# St Joseph's RC Church

WITAMY W PARAFII ŚW. JÓZEFA

**Email:** [frbill@stjosephsretford.co.uk](mailto:frbill@stjosephsretford.co.uk)

**Parish Website:** [www.stjosephsretford.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsretford.co.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stjosephsretford](http://www.facebook.com/stjosephsretford)

**Support our fundraising efforts through easyfundraising**  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephsretford](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephsretford)

Weekly Schedule	Time	Intention
Ascension Day Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am 2.00 pm 5.00 pm 5.40 pm 6.00 pm	Rampton Hospital Rampton Hospital Confessions Benediction Helen Inman & Helen Watt
Ascension Day Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am 2.00 pm	James & Kitty Brennan Ranby Prison Mass
Eastertide Weekday Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	9.10 am 9.30 am 2.00 pm	Marian Devotions Marie Grassi Cremation: Michael Duke
Eastertide Weekday Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	9.10 am 9.30 am 2.00 pm	Marian Devotions People of the Parish St Swinhun's Church
Eastertide Weekday Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	9.10 am 9.30 am	Marian Devotions Thanksgiving
Eastertide Weekday Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9.15 am 7.15 pm 8.00 pm	Martin Butler Choir Practice Prayer Meeting
St Bede Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	11.45 am 12.15 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Marian Devotion Fr Devine
St Philip Neri Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am 11.00 am 2.00 pm 5.00 pm 5.40 pm 6.00 pm	Rampton Hospital Mass Gringley Hill: British Legion Rampton Hospital Mass Confessions Benediction Mr & Mrs T Hurst

	Greeters	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat 26 May	Elaine and Patricia	Oonah and Cameron R	John Grassi
Sun 27 May	Allison and John	Robert and Aleks M	Sam Stringfellow

This weekend we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Ascension** of our Lord. It marks the completion of the paschal saving events: His Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. The church embarks upon a novena (nine days of prayer) in preparation for the Solemnity of Pentecost. Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival one of the most important in the Jewish calendar. Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after the Jewish Passover. The Acts of the Apostles tells us of an incredible event that happened on Pentecost Day. We will celebrate Pentecost next weekend. The liturgy of the church has been very rich since Ash Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> February). It is always wise to reflect upon all those weeks when we celebrated Lent, Passiontide, the Easter Triduum and the Season of Easter and to thank God for the many graces granted to the parish during the period of involvement. Do you feel that you have grown and matured in your discipleship during this period of grace?

The **Diocese of Hallam Caring Services** are organising an event in the parish hall on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Mary from 3.00 pm to 5.30 pm entitled 'How Our Marriage Leads Us to God'. The guest speaker is Fr Paul Williment. School age children are welcome. Booking is essential. Contact [suetym@btconnect.com](mailto:suetym@btconnect.com) or telephone 0114 2554790.

We have received a letter of thanks from **CAFOD** for the parish Lenten Alms of £2,249.73. Representatives of CAFOD will be coming to the parish at the beginning of July to express their thanks for such a generous amount of money.



A small library of **children's books** is now available for families to use during our Masses. These will enable children to become acquainted with stories from the bible and prepare them for the time when children are old enough to attend Children's Liturgy on their own. We hope that parents will use these books. They are much more preferable to using hard toys that damage the benches and make a lot of noise. The books are available at the back of church and can be returned there at the end of Mass.

Could people with the **APF (red) boxes** please bring them back to church for counting. The boxes may be left at the back of church.

Next Saturday evening's Mass will be taken from the text of the Mass of the **Vigil of Pentecost**.

**T**he **Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen**. The first weekend of the month of June will be highlighted with an extended Bank Holiday to commemorate and celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. Churches Together in Retford are celebrating a special **Unity Service** at 11.00 am on Sunday morning (3<sup>rd</sup> June) to which everyone is invited. In order to allow parishioners the opportunity to attend this event, we will make changes to the timing of our weekend Masses. On Saturday Evening Mass (2<sup>nd</sup> June) will be at 6.00 pm and this will be the principal Mass of the weekend. **First Communion Preparation Class will take place that evening instead of Sunday morning**. On Sunday Morning Mass will take place at 9.00 am. There will be no Children's Liturgy and less singing than usual. The organisers are inviting all Children's Liturgy groups to participate in the event. A **planning meeting** will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30 pm at St Saviour's Church Hall.

**P**ilgrimages to **Medjugorje**:  
13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May depart from **East Midlands Airport**.

6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September depart from **Manchester Airport**.

Cost per person £534. Single room supplement £120. Insurance (unless you have your own) £30. Deposit £80. For more details please contact **Pete and Sue**: 01302 885358 (telephone), 07807 955836 (mobile).

To **Lourdes**: Hallam Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July. Cost £635. Contact: Jim Ashmore 01302 390010. Leaflets at the back of church.

**A**s we approach the **Solemnity of Pentecost** we are reminded of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the completion of the Initiation Sacraments of the Church. We will celebrate Confirmation next summer. However let us continue to give the Sacraments the honour and respect they deserve. It is not a case of "getting children done". Furthermore there must be no pressure. If children do not want to make their Confirmation they do not have to. There is nothing worse than an unhappy disgruntled child who is being made to prepare for sacraments simply because their parents told them. As with First Communion, children should be coming to Mass for a year before they make their Confirmation. When a family is not involved in the life of the parish before Sacraments there is every chance they will not be involved after the Sacraments. **Better to wait until ready!**



# PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*The following prayer is strongly recommended to the members of the parish in preparation for the Solemnity of Pentecost. The role of Confirmation in our Spiritual journey reminds us of the role of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Remember this: the Sacraments of the Church are not 'one offs'. They must have an application for real life in the here and now. Our consciousness of them must be kept sharp and alive. We will use this prayer for Emma Nuttall who will be received into the church and Confirmed on Trinity Sunday. We will remember candidates preparing for Confirmation at this time and young men preparing for the Ordination to the Diaconate and the Priesthood.*



Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, You promised to send the Holy Spirit to Your apostles and disciples.

Grant that the same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love presented to us through seven gifts.

Grant us the **Spirit of Awe and Wonder** that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You;

the **Spirit of Piety** that we may find peace and fulfilment in the service of God while serving others;

the **Spirit of Fortitude** that we may bear our cross with You and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;

the **Spirit of Knowledge** that we may know You and know ourselves and grow in holiness;

the **Spirit of Understanding** to enlighten our minds with the light of Your truth;

the **Spirit of Counsel** that we may choose the surest way of doing Your will, seeking first the Kingdom;

Grant us the **Spirit of Wisdom** that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with Your Spirit.

Amen.