



HEARTBEAT

News Notes and Inspiration

For the People of Sacred Heart Parish

Volume 1 – No. 1

March 4/5, 2017

GREETINGS AND HAPPY LENT!!

As we begin this special season of preparation for the great celebration of Easter, I am delighted to come among you as the new nominated Pastor for the English-speaking Church here in Amman. I say “nominated” because my position only becomes official when the Patriarch formally appoints me. But the Jesuit Provincial has sent me, Fr. Michael approves me and I am delighted to be here, so I am hopeful that I will be able to be with you for many years to come.

You will get to know me and more about me during the coming weeks and months but let me introduce myself a little. I am American, born in New York City. I have been a singer since I was a boy soprano and I have one of the first three degrees in theatre ever awarded by the University of Notre Dame. I worked in professional theatre and broadcasting for ten years before entering the Jesuits in 1980. After I was ordained in 1992, I was sent to Nigeria where I worked for almost 12 years doing a number of different jobs. After that I was the Catholic Chaplain on a military base in the South Pacific, in the Marshall Islands, and for the past nine years I have been running the Xavier Society for the Blind in Manhattan.

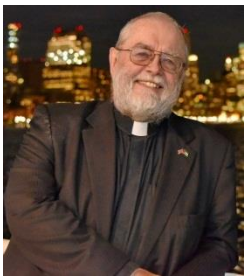
I did one year of undergraduate study at the University of Innsbruck in Austria, one of my Philosophy years at Milltown Institute in Dublin, Ireland, my theology study was in Toronto Canada and I have worked or lived for longer or shorter periods in Rome, London and many different cities in the U.S. Living in new places is always exciting, and in a very short period of time, I have come to have a great affection for Amman, and for what I have had the chance to see of Jordan.

Let me say at the very beginning that however long I may be here, this is YOUR parish, no matter what physical Church you worship in, and I am here to help you in whatever way I can. I am not the servant of the people – we are all of us servants for the work of God – but I will always work with you and I welcome suggestions and ideas and even complaints. I may not always use your suggestions but I will always listen to them. I am very aware that no priest – and certainly not I – can do it alone, and so I will ask for your help and your support, your energy and your participation, and always, always, always for your prayers. As long as I am here, I will pray for you each and every day without exception.

I will be putting information on the web site on a regular basis, so please drop in and see what's going on. In addition to Mass schedules and the announcement of events, during Lent, for example, there will be a new short reflection added each day, to help you in your prayer during this special season. I need to receive information, prayer requests, etc. NO LATER than 10 AM the Thursday BEFORE each weekend.

Please feel free to email me (PastorSH@jordanjesuits.org) or call me (079 013-8985) or come and see me (it is always good to call ahead). I like surprises, but if I am away from the office when you come, the surprise will be yours and I would hate to disappoint you.

Thank you for the warm welcomes I have already received and I look forward to getting to know more of you personally and praying with you.



Fr. John

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A REMINDER

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Saturday – 8:30 AM – Jesuit Center, 43 Al Razi Street, Jabal Hussein
3rd Friday, 12 Noon - Jabal Luweibdeh, St. Mary of the Annunciation
Every Saturday at 5 PM– Sweifieh, St. Mary of Nazareth
3rd Sunday – Jabal Amman, St. Joseph – 11:30 AM
Every Sunday – 6 PM - Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle

Most Masses have confession for 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Mass. Fr. John or other Jesuit priests are available to hear confessions by appointment as well.

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NOVENA TO ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

St. Francis Xavier actually has two novenas during the year, and one is the Novena of Grace from March 4 up to March 12. March 12 is the day that he and St. Ignatius Loyola were canonized. The Novena Prayers for each day are available at the web site and in our Facebook group, if you would like to join in praying this novena to the patron saint of missions.

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A REMINDER ABOUT ABSTINENCE AND FASTING DURING LENT

The Patriarchate observes the following:

All Fridays of Lent are considered days of "Fasting," which in the Latin Church means that those persons from around age 7 through 60th birthday will reduce consumption of food to the equivalent of one full meal on those days.

Good Friday - full Abstinence from Meat and meat products, and alcohol is often added in some local churches.

There can be confusion, since we are in an environment where there are differing norms of Fasting and Abstinence.

The Muslim practice of a total fast in Ramadan....we don't do this.

Orthodox Christians abstain from animal products, including milk, for the full season of Lent, every day... we do not do this.

We are obliged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a year, at some point between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday (This year on June 11, the first Sunday after Pentecost.) Confession is usually available before the public Masses, sometimes with additional times during Mass, and always by appointment.

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Even though we celebrate in several different locations, we are one parish and so I will share special events for all of our locations and communities. If you know of an event coming up, please do NOT assume I know about it. Tell me, and I will find room for it. In addition to the weekly HEARTBEAT, events can be posted on the website and on our new Facebook group if I know about them. If you are on Facebook, search for Parish Group and you will be taken to our page. It is a private group, so you have to be admitted – which you will be.

FIRST RECONCILIATION – 4:30 PM – Saturday March 18 – Sweifieh

(Tentative – Awaiting Final Approval)

All are invited to join the candidates for First Holy Communion and their parents as we celebrate their receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. There will be a short ceremony, the children will make their First Confession, and there will be a special blessing. The candidates will be formally presented at Mass that evening as our candidates for First Holy Communion.

It is a special event in the life of our Church and of these children, so please try and come early on this Saturday to be part of the ceremony.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Saturday May 7 – Sweifieh

(Tentative – Awaiting Final Confirmation)

We will be celebrating the First Holy Communion of two children of our parish on this day, which is a very special event.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

PALM SUNDAY – April 8/9 - The usual weekend schedule, 2nd collection for the English Parish

HOLY THURSDAY – April 13 - No morning Mass at the Jesuit Centre. Evening Mass at 5 PM at Freres Church, Jabal Hussein

GOOD FRIDAY – April 14 – No Masses are celebrated on this sacred day
Solemn Liturgical Service at Noon, Freres Church, Jabal Hussein.

HOLY SATURDAY – April 15 – 5 PM Sweifieh, - An abbreviated Easter Vigil Service
10 PM – Freres Church, Jabal Hussein – Full Easter Vigil.

EASTER SUNDAY – English and Tagalog at Jabal Amman at 11:30 AM
6PM – Mass at Jabal Hussein as usual

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PRAYERS AND INTENTIONS

St. Ignatius always said that God listens to our prayers, and when something important was coming up, he would encourage the early Jesuits to “storm heaven with our prayers.” If you have someone who needs prayers, or for a particular special intention, they can be included here and all of our parish will join in praying with you.

For Ginger Grogan, mother of Dennis Grogan, who died on February 20

For Theresa Sheehan, Fr. John’s sister, who is awaiting word about an angioplasty, a valve replacement and possible by-pass

For Henry Iseicz, in poor health and facing surgery

For Fred Schwally, diagnosed with a returning cancer, the doctors give him 2 to 3 weeks to live.

For Christopher Perkins, who is suffering with an undiagnosed illness.

Sunday Mass is always offered for the intentions of the community, and individual intentions for other Masses often cannot be announced. If you wish to have a Mass celebrated for a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, memorial of a death) or to have a Mass said for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, there are envelopes at the rear of the Church or ask one of the Fathers. There is no charge for a Mass (you cannot “buy” a Mass!) but it is customary to offer a stipend, usually the equivalent of a meal out.

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PLEASE REGISTER!!!
There are registration slips at the back of the Church and I’ll have them there for the next several weeks. If you have already registered – please do it again, so we can verify email addresses and phone numbers. There are three ways to register:
1) Fill out the slip of paper and give it to me.
2) Go onto the website and there is a space where you can register online.
3) Send me an email with the basic information.
4) If you are on Facebook, go to Parish Group and leave me a message. I will admit you to the group and you can leave your details in a private message there as well.

Printing and duplicating is expensive. Communicating is important, but if there is a way to reach you without the expense – ie by email or by using the website or the Facebook page – these are always better ways. This weekly bulletin will be available on the website, on our Facebook Group Page and if you wish, I can send it to you via Email. Let me know so I can print fewer copies.

In the next day or two, I will send a short email to everyone for whom I have an email address from our records. If you do NOT receive an email from me – and if you wish to be on our contact list – please send me an email at johnrsheehan13@gmail.com or at pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org. Include your name, since email addresses do not always reflect the person sending the message and I will be sure you are added.

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Fr. John's Email: pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org
Fr. John's Phone: Office: 06 461-4190, Ext 29
Mobile: 079 013-8985

Website: Jordanjesuits.org and there is a separate section for the Sacred Heart Parish
Facebook: If you are on Facebook, go to Parish Group and on your first visit you will request to be admitted. After that the system will recognize you.

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FIGIAT

FIND GOD IN ALL THINGS

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PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR MARCH

Support for Persecuted Christians.

That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

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AN EXPERIMENT

Beginning next week, we are going to try an experiment. I have done this in other places and I will be interested to see if it works here.

For the remaining Masses in Lent, there will be no musical accompaniment. Only our own voices. And we will sing the same hymns each week, so everyone will get to know them and will hopefully feel more comfortable singing. The choir will continue to provide the leadership in the singing – but I want to encourage everyone to join in.

Singing is an important way of praising God, and it is not something that should only be done by professionals. St. Augustine had the famous comment, “He who sings, prays twice.”

As a singer myself, let me give you a couple of tips.

First – the more people who sing, the better it sounds. Even if you are not a great singer – and you might be better than you think you are - if you join others, all your voices blend and it starts to sound better and better. More people = better sound.

Second – OPEN YOUR MOUTH. I know that sounds silly, but when people aren't sure about singing, they tend to be shy. And whisper. Whispering isn't singing. Open your mouth and take a chance.



Third – When in doubt, sing louder. True. People who have never studied singing, when the notes go higher, they try to sing softer. The hardest thing in the world is to sing high notes softly. You will find, as the notes go up, if you sing louder, they will come more easily.

Finally – it's not a concert. We are not trying to impress anyone but rather to praise God. God hears your hearts, whatever may come out of your mouth. So take a chance, trust in God, and let the praise pour forth.

We are very lucky because we have musicians who have been leading us in song and they will continue to be our leaders during this experiment. They deserve our support. I have asked them to abandon their instruments for Lent to help put the emphasis on the rest of the community – we have to step up and sing. And I have asked them to sit in the middle of the church rather than the front, so we can benefit from their voices coming from the center rather than the front.

I admit – I do not know many of the songs, so I will be learning along with you. But by the end of Lent, I predict that the sound in our Church will be extraordinary. Let's take a chance this Lent and open our mouths, trust in one another and sing out!

