



# HEARTBEAT

*News Notes and Inspiration*

*For the People of Sacred Heart Parish*

*Volume 1 – No. 3*

*March 18/19, 2017*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

## 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 (and you will be) if you want to post something. If you can't find it, go to the Sacred Heart English Language Parish website and you should be able to access it through the posting on that site. If you still have problems, send me an email.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Saturday May 6 – Sweifieh**

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

### **SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

*I am pleased to note that these days and times have been confirmed.*

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

**HOLY THURSDAY** – April 13 - No morning Mass at the Jesuit Centre. Evening Mass at 5 PM  
at St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, Jabal Hussein

**GOOD FRIDAY** – April 14 – No Masses are celebrated on this sacred day

Solemn Liturgical Service at Noon, St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, Jabal Hussein.

**HOLY SATURDAY** – April 15–5 PM St. Mary of Nazareth, - Abbreviated Easter Vigil Service  
10 PM – St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, Jabal Hussein – Full Easter Vigil.

**EASTER SUNDAY** – English and Tagalog at Jabal Amman at 11:30 AM

6PM – Mass at St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, as usual

### **JUNE 3 AND 4 - IN BOTH**

### **ST. MARY OF NAZARETH and ST. JEAN BAPTISTE de LaSALLE**

That weekend we will be celebrating the great feast of Pentecost. At both Masses, we will also celebrate the renewal of marriage vows. There will be more details forthcoming, but mark your calendars for this very special occasion.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day  
Fr. John at Jabal Weibdeh – 12:00 Noon
- March 18 – St. Mary of Nazareth, Sweifieh  
4:30 – First Reconciliation – All are invited  
5:00 – Mass of 3rd Sunday of Lent
- March 19 – Solemnity of St. Joseph (Not celebrated because the Sunday Mass takes precedence)  
11:30 AM - Fr. John at Jabal Amman  
6:00 PM - Mass of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Jabal Hussein
- March 20 – Solemnity of St. Joseph celebrated
- March 21 – Mother’s Day celebrated in Jordan – at the Jesuit Center, a “modest display” of arts and crafts by JRS students in the picnic area.
- March 24 – Anniversary of the death of Archbishop Romero
- March 25 – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Celebrated at the 8:30 Mass at the Jesuit Center – other weekend Masses will celebrate the Sunday Mass.
- April 1 – Social Gathering after Mass, Sweifieh
- April 7 – First Friday. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:30 Mass.
- April 8/9 – Second Sunday Collection at St. Mary of Nazareth and St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle
- April 9 – PALM/PASSION Sunday
- April 13 – Holy Thursday - No morning Mass at the Jesuit Center  
(See above for the schedule for the Triduum and Easter Sunday)
- April 16 – Birthday of Pope Benedict XVI
- April 21 – Fr. John at Jabal Weibdeh – 12:00 Noon
- April 22 - 6:00 PM - Mass of 4th Sunday of Lent, Sweifieh
- April 23 - 11:30 AM - Fr. John at Jabal Amman  
6:00 PM - Mass of 4th Sunday of Lent, Jabal Hussein

### PREPARING FOR CONFESSION

The celebration of First Reconciliation at St. Mary of Nazareth reminds us that this is a special sacrament, that has its own grace and its benefits that are both sacramental and personal, some might even say psychological. Confession is the practical sacrament that works with us as we try to become better people. Not only does it forgive us our sins – no small thing – but a good priest working with you can help you identify what one act of contrition calls “the near occasion of sin” and develop ways to combat those temptations in your life.

For those who may have not been to confession in a while, here are some reminders about what you can expect, and how you can prepare yourself for a good confession.

Preparation is important – Spend some time before approaching the confessional reviewing your life. Don’t just list your sins – look at your whole life, and if you are moving closer to God or drifting away. What are the most important moments of weakness?

Focus on what is most important – Some people try to bury their “worst” sins in the middle of a list of smaller sins. You can’t fool God and you probably won’t fool the priest. It’s like going to a doctor and not telling him or her about the pain in your side, because you’re scared of what the doctor might say. Or you don’t go to the doctor at all because you’re embarrassed that you still haven’t lost that extra weight. You KNOW that’s silly and yet we all are tempted to do it.

Don’t worry about the ritual – The formula is not important. Your being present is. The priest will help you if you have forgotten the routine or the Act of Contrition.

Relax – the priest is not there to judge you. He is there to offer God’s love and forgiveness, and maybe he will be able to offer some practical suggestions about ways you can strengthen your life against the temptations you’ve given in to that have brought you to confession in the first place.

Final thought – while confessions are available before Mass, it is MUCH better if you can find a time to meet with a priest without him or you having to worry about time. You can always call and schedule a confession with Fr. John or any priest. Sometimes we can meet earlier prior to a weekend Mass, or arrange some other time. The time before Mass can often get pressured and busy and it is not always the best time for either you or the priest.

There is a great grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and great wisdom in the help it can give you in regular examination of your life.

## **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 prayer” and all of our parish will join in praying with you.*

For Theresa Sheehan, Fr. John’s sister, who will have an angiogram on March 20, and surgery to follow within two weeks.

For Fred Schwally, diagnosed with a returning cancer, the doctors give him a short time to live.

For the repose of the soul of the father of Fr. Matt Cassidy, SJ

*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 they will be 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.

This weekly bulletin is available on the website (look at the section “Latest from Our Pastor”), 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.

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## A REMINDER

### ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Saturday – 8:30 AM – Jesuit Center, 43 Al Razi Street, Jabal Hussein

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 12 Noon - Jabal Luweibdeh, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Every Saturday at 5 PM– Sweifieh, St. Mary of Nazareth

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Jabal Amman, St. Joseph – 11:30 AM

Every Sunday – 6 PM - Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle

Most weekend 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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Fr. John’s Email: [pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org](mailto:pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org)

Fr. John’s Phone: Office: 06 461-4190, Ext 29

Mobile: 079 013-8985

Website: [Jordanjesuits.org](http://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 so you can post.

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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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If you are interested in helping out with the Holy Week Services, drop me a note or give me a call. We have special needs during this time and your help is most welcome.

## **WAYS TO SERVE OUR CHURCH**

At Mass each week, I always try and say Thank You to the many people who make our weekly celebration possible.

If you would like to become more active, please step up. We cannot have too many people involved in what we do – and quite honestly there are things we COULD be doing if we had more people. We already have Coordinators who will integrate you into service in the Church.

**LECTORS (Readers)** – Each week we need one or two people to read the Word of God. Sometimes we have to “draft” people at the last minute. Obviously this is not the best practice. A Lector should know in advance if he or she is going to read, so the reading can be practiced and prepared. There is some training but Fr. John can arrange a session to help prepare you. Once you have been approved as a Lector, one of the Coordinators will set up the schedule to be sure you are notified in advance.

**CHOIR** – Music is an important part of our celebrations, and it would be lovely to have more people involved. Again – a training session to go over the basic theology behind music and how we can best use music in our worship, and to make sure you can sing on pitch and then you can be added to the choir roster. We are not looking for opera singers or even night club talent, just people who can carry a tune. Some training can be provided for nervous singers. Talented singers can also serve as a Leader of Song, to help focus the singing of the community.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** – Our parish has a special dispensation to have Eucharistic Ministers. It is not the norm in this diocese, and ministers must be Catholic men and expatriate, ie not Jordanian. If you think you would like to help with this sacred task at Mass and in the Church, please get in contact with me. We can arrange a class and install you usually in a couple of weeks.

**MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY** – The people who greet you at the door, pass out programs, help distribute the bulletins at the end of Mass and sometimes help with “traffic” are a vital part of making both visitors and regular members feel welcome each week. More than just “ushers,” they provide the special feeling of being welcome that is an important part of Mass.

If any of these appeal to you, if you think this would fit with your schedule and your personality, let me know. We have coordinators already in place in each Church who will arrange schedules, but as the Pastor, I get to do the first interview and take part in your training. And if there is some way you would like to contribute to the Church that I have not listed, please make your suggestion. There may be wonderful ways we can help one another that I have simply not thought of. Help me out. Not everyone has the time to engage in a ministry – but there may be other things you can contribute,

## **MUSIC IN THE NEWS**

On the website, and at the Parish Group there is a talk the Holy Father gave to a group of musicians about the importance of music in the liturgy, and an article about a survey done among parishioners in one section of the U.S. about their preference in Church music. Interesting reading.



## Ramblings of the Reverend Redactor

This weekend around the world, those of Irish descent but also many others will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a day when "Everyone is Irish."

The story of the Irish is one of the great diaspora stories in the history of civilization, and their influence around the world certainly belies the small island from which they came and the small population they represent. One of the unifying factors for the Irish for many years was their faith, the Catholic heritage that they took with them wherever they went. Certainly, throughout Africa, the influence of the Irish missionaries continues to be felt in all levels of society.

We here in Amman are, for a large part, a people in diaspora. However we define "home" (and that is an interesting item for reflection in today's modern and increasingly flexible society, what defines the concept of "home" for you? For more and more people, it is no longer the place where we grew up but a place where people gather. My parents are dead – my only sister lives in a place where I have never lived. In the last 25 years I have lived in 13 or 14 different places. Home is where the suitcase is?), our time in Amman is time away. We are "strangers in a strange land," but unlike the early Jews, we do not await the Messiah. We know that the Savior has come, and that sure and certain knowledge binds us together, and makes any place where we go to share our faith a temporary home.


Which leads me to several thoughts:

- 1) Just as we do in our homes, so too we need to help out at the church that is our home. In the next days, as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, there are calls for volunteers to help with events, and the call to come and participate. This is a call from your family for your help – you ARE needed, not just to be present but to take part.
- 2) A home is place where we feel comfortable inviting our friends. This is a time of the year when we should be conscious of opening our home – our church – to those who may be feeling alone, who may be nervous about taking the first step. Invite someone to share our celebrations during these holy days. Remember we are not trying to convert, simply to be welcoming.
- 3) We all make a special effort to be present to our families for special events – a birthday, an anniversary, a graduation. There is no more special event in the Church year than the Easter Vigil. This celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord is the central ceremony of worship from which all other ceremonies flow. It is important for each of us to be present, and it is important for the Church to have all its members present. Make the extra effort to come "home" for this moment.


These next days can be very rewarding. What happens between now and Easter can confirm your Lenten experience, deepen your spiritual life and provide a richness that can sustain you for the year to come. The reward will depend on what you bring to these days, and how deeply you decide to enter into our celebrations.

*Fr. John*

I continue to try and provide other resources for Lent. In addition to the daily reflections from the writings of C.S. Lewis, I occasionally add reflections I have found in other places and Fr. Peter will also be contributing some reflections as the Spirit moves him. All of the Lenten reflections are available on the website (in the section “Feasts and Seasonal Schedules”), on the Facebook group (Parish Group), and I am delighted to send things to you directly by email.



**Come and join us and be a part of a cultural experience  
with dance instructor and choreographer  
Michael Marrah from Kingston Jamaica.**



**You will be taught different genres of dance and this will end  
with a cultural showcase.**

**Our first meeting is Friday March 17, 2017 @ 7 pm sharp  
@ The Jesuit Centre, Al Razi Street Amman - Jordan**

**For more information, Please call Raed Awwad: 0796793436**

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#### **AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FATHER JOHN**

On the next page I am pleased to share with you the first piece of mail I have received since moving to Amman. It is the formal appointment from the Patriarchate naming me as Pastor of the English Language Church in Amman. In the near future I will meet with the Bishop, and hopefully he will agree to preside at a formal Mass of Installation. I will keep you informed as I learn more. The reason that it is only for three years is that in 2020 there is going to be a change in the Jesuit structure in Jordan, and so when the new system is in place, God willing, I will then get a new appointment to continue our work here in Amman.

One day at a time, and for me, today is a day of rejoicing.



PATRIARCHATUS LATINUS - JERUSALEM

بطريركية القدس للاتين

DECREE No 4/2017

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN

We, **Pierbattista Pizzaballa**

Apostolic Administrator  
Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

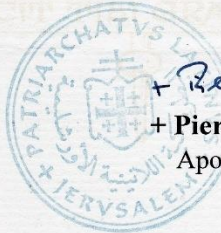
upon endorsement of Rev. Fr. John A. Hanwell, SJ, Acting  
Provincial of the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus,

with this decree present, appoint, and constitute

**Rev. Fr. John R. Sheehan, S.J.**

as PARISH PRIEST for the Sacred Heart (English Language) Parish under  
the Latin Patriarchate Vicariate in Amman, to serve the pastoral needs and  
liturgical services of the English-speaking community in Amman. We grant him  
all the rights, faculties and privileges that are attributed by Canon Law §518 and  
§519, for a period of three years until March 2020.

Given in Jerusalem, on the 9th day of March 2017.



*Pierbattista Pizzaballa*

+ **Pierbattista Pizzaballa**  
Apostolic Administrator

By order of the Apostolic Administrator

Rev. George Ayoub  
Chancellor *A.*