

The week ahead...

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| Saturday 31 March The Great Easter Vigil | 5:00pm | Mass: Private Intention (to Our Lady of Mount Carmel) |
| Sunday 01 April Easter Sunday | 10:00am | Mass: Joseph & Dorothy Dowdle and pro populo |
| Monday 02 April Easter Monday | 9:30am | Mass: Private Intention |
| Tuesday 03 April Easter Tuesday | 9:30am | Mass: Pro populo |
| Wednesday 04 April Easter Wednesday | 9:30am | Mass: Private Intention |
| Thursday 05 April Easter Thursday | 9:30am | Mass: Pro populo |
| Friday 06 April Easter Friday | 9:30am | Mass: Private Intention |
| Saturday 07 April Easter Saturday | 9:30am | Mass: Pro populo |
| Saturday 07 April Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Easter | 5:00pm | Mass: Carey & Wilson families and pro populo |

MINISTRIES

Saturday 31 March

Eucharistic Ministers
Helen Musham, Jane Smith
Wilf Lavery

Readers
Claire Lavery
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy
(Resumes on 14 April)

Welcomers
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

Music
All musicians

MINISTRIES

Saturday 07 April

Eucharistic Ministers
Gordon & Angela Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers
Brendan Payne
Greg Mearman

Children's Liturgy
(Resumes on 14 April)

Welcomers
Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

Music
TBC

Easter Sunday

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin. Items need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday**.

We pray for our beloved deceased, including....



Joseph & Dorothy DOWDLE

Elaine WRIGHT

Edward MEARMAN

Alan CUNNINGHAM

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....

Maureen McCrann, Doreen Carroll,
Margaret Pouton,
Pat Harrison,
Sylvia Kelly,
Mary Spears and
Rose Crick



St Patrick's R.C. Church

A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ

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Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully Ph: (0191) 526 5131

Easter Sunday

01 April, 2018

The Empty Tomb...

A HAPPY AND HOLY Easter to each of you on this highlight of the Church's year, the Feast of the Resurrection, better known to us, of course, as Easter.

"The Empty Tomb" may sound like the name of a short story in the detective fiction or horror genres but it does in fact describe something far more puzzling, far more significant and far more glorious: the resurrection of Jesus and the very reason over two billion Christians throughout the world gather to celebrate the feast of Easter.

Of course, the tomb visited by the three women on that Sabbath day was not really empty. It was, as we hear, occupied by "a young man in a white robe" but this man certainly wasn't the one they were looking for. These three loving, dedicated and faithful women were looking for the body of Jesus, crucified just two days earlier, that they may anoint his body as was the custom of the day. On reaching the tomb they found that their concerns about how to access the burial place which was sealed by a heavy stone were pointless - the stone had been rolled away and the body of Jesus was gone! Stolen? No. The "young man in white" tells the women that Jesus of Nazareth has risen and is making his way to Galilee "just as he told you."

What we don't hear today is the reaction of the women after their encounter with the man in white. If we read on we learn that "...the women came out and ran away from the tomb because they were frightened out of their wits; and they said nothing to a soul, for they were afraid..." In fact, there is a lot of disbelief in Mark's version of the Resurrection, with many failing to believe the accounts of those who had witnessed the risen Jesus.

What has brought us here today? Clearly we have witnessed something of the reality of the risen Jesus in our own lives or else we wouldn't be gathering to rejoice this Easter Day. It may be recovery from illness, some consolation after the death of a loved one, an opportunity given when all seemed lost, a sense of peace in a time of suffering or some other experience of light shining when it seemed darkness would prevail. What Easter reminds us is that because of the work of God in our lives we ought to have the loving devotion of those women who went to the tomb on that first Easter Day, but not imitate their fear and silence. Rather, our response should be one of rejoicing and telling others the Good News that the tomb was empty for one reason only - Christ has risen and we are redeemed!

Once again, a happy and holy Easter to all of you gathered here today. If you are not a regular visitor to the parish but live in the area, we'd love to know how we can welcome you and get to know you better. Please make yourself known to me or one of the welcomers or other ministers in the church. We're here to serve you!

Wishing you blessings during the Easter season,

Fr Robert



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £242 Loose Plate: £208

TOTAL: £450

Mass Attendance: 169

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Lenten Alms Collection: Thank you for your contributions to the Lenten Alms retiring collection which was taken up last weekend to assist the wonderful work of St Cuthbert's Care. A total of £285.15 was raised.

Easter Week Service Times: Please note the changes to the regular weekday Mass times for the coming week. Mass is offered daily at 9:30am only. There will be changes over the two weeks following Easter week due to my annual leave as noted below.

Annual Leave: Please note that I will be away for a little under two weeks in April. This will not affect Easter or the Easter Octave, I will be away from 08 April and returning on 20 April. Fr Brian Murphy will celebrate the Vigil Mass on 14 April and there will be the usual service of the Word with Communion on the two Wednesdays of my absence, 11 April and 18 April.

Practical Steps for Parishes and Partnerships: A conference will take place on Saturday 12 May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn to help parishes and partnerships engage with young people in their communities. The keynote speaker is Fr Dominic Howarth, responsible for Youth Services in Brentwood Diocese, and the programme includes 12 workshops. The conference is for everyone who is concerned about our young people and will offer inspiring examples of good practice. The conference fee is £10 and includes lunch. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from www.ymt.org or contact admin@ymt.org.

"Joy" – The Surprise of the Gospel: The Bishops' Conference Scripture Working Group has been working alongside the Northern Dioceses and religious orders to organise events celebrating the Word of God – one in the north-east, the other in the north-west. The event closest to our own diocese is to be held on Saturday 12 May at All Saints School, York (5 minutes from the railway station). It is open to all but might be of special appeal to clergy, school and university chaplains, readers and students (6th form and above). More information

on the flyer on the noticeboard or from Kathryn Turner who can be reached by email at spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk.

Missio/AFP Mill Hill Missionaries: The March quarterly Red Box/ Brown Envelope collection was £841.44. Thanks for such a generous amount for overseas missions in the most needy communities.

Celebration of Marriage: Bishop Séamus will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 05 May at 11:00am to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage. He has invited each parish community to be represented by at least two couples, young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary. In addition, everyone is welcome to attend. This promises to be a wonderful celebration and will provide affirmation and support for Marriage across the diocese and to the wider North-East community.

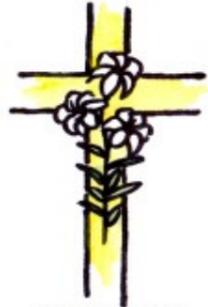
A Day of Reflection: We are planning a Day of Reflection at the Parish Centre in Newhouse, Esh Winning on Saturday, 28 April, 10:30am – 3:30pm. In this Easter season Fr Jeroen (Minsteracres) will lead us in thinking about 'Discipleship'. This is for all of us in our partnership of parishes. We'd like to extend a special invitation to those who have been received into the Church over these past few months, and at Easter. The day will be free of charge but we ask that people sign up to give us an idea about numbers.

Partnership Matters: The latest edition of the bi-monthly Partnership Matters news update is now available on the front page of the diocesan website (www.rcdhn.org.uk) and on the noticeboard. Items highlighted in this edition include: ideas for how parishes can involve young people, the Council of Laity, how to develop spiritual discernment and an update on the Communications Project. There is also some clarification on the Property and Community Review and key events.

The Kids' Bulletin

Easter Word-Find

J E L O V E D S T U
C L O T H S I M O N
F I R S T C S A M A
B N I T D R C G B P
E E S O A I I D E K
L N E N R P P A M I
I W E E K T L L P N
E D E A D U E E T S
V I S M A R Y N Y R
E I S E P E T E R N



Find the words in CAPITALS and use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

Early on the FIRST day of the WEEK, when it was still DARK, MARY and Mary MAGDALEN and some other women went to bring spices to Jesus' TOMB. They wondered who would roll away the STONE. But when they got there, they saw it was already moved, and the tomb was EMPTY! They ran and told the disciples. SIMON PETER and the other DISCIPLE, whom Jesus LOVED, ran to the tomb and found it as the women had said. The LINEN CLOTHS were lying there, and the NAPKIN that had been on Jesus' head was folded up. Then they began to BELIEVE, because they hadn't known the SCRIPTURE that said that Jesus must RISE from the DEAD.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Benedict "The Black" - 04 April

Benedict was born in 1526, the son of Christopher and Diana, an Ethiopian couple who were kept as slaves in Sicily. When Benedict reached the age of 18, he was set free and after a while joined a hermit called Jerome. His reputation for holiness spread throughout the area and people flocked to him all the time. Eventually he moved to a Franciscan monastery where he spent the rest of his life serving his brothers as a cook. Even though he was a lay brother and without education, he was chosen to be their Superior and, at the end of his term of six years, he went back to the kitchen. People kept on visiting him seeking his advice and the help of his prayers. He died on 04 April, 1589. Humility, spirit of service, wisdom and powerful intercession were the special gifts bestowed on Benedict "The Black".



(Information taken from Universalis)

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for April:

For those who have responsibility in economic matters: that leaders in financial affairs may have the courage to reject economic measures that exclude people and seek new inclusive approaches.

"We must not turn our backs on the new forms of poverty and the marginalisation that prevents people from living a life of dignity."

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Housebound

Do you know someone who lives in the parish but cannot get to Mass and is in need of the sacraments? It is our responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters who cannot gather with us each week. If you know someone in this situation who is in need of pastoral care, please pass their details on to Fr Robert.



Visit the sick

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I know what humility means'. We reflected on the significance of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and on what it means to serve others.

Egg Decorating Competition

Father Robert judged our Egg Decorating Competition this week. The winning entries from each class are below.

- Class 1 - 1st Lewis, 2nd Isobelle and 3rd Nicole
- Class 2 - 1st Jack, 2nd Leo and 3rd Jessica
- Class 3 - 1st Lily, 2nd Lewis and 3rd Chloe
- Class 4 - 1st Philip, 2nd Charlie and 3rd Bethany

Stations of the Cross

Thank you to all those who joined us in Stations of the Cross on Thursday morning. Particular thanks to the pupils from Class 1 who led the prayers and reflections.

Thanks

Thank you to Joe Lennox for his support of our children last week, when they took part in the procession at the beginning of Mass on Palm Sunday.

Easter Break

School closed for the Easter break on Friday of this week and re-opens on Monday 16 April. We wish all our families, governors and parishioners a happy and holy Easter.



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that Easter Sunday can occur as early as 22 March and as late as 25 April?

Easter is what is known as a "moveable feast", meaning that, unlike Christmas, it does not fall on a set date. Easter Sunday is determined by the phases of the moon: Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring Equinox. The full moon this year was on Saturday, 31 March, and so Easter Sunday falls the next day, 01 April. This year the Orthodox Churches celebrate Easter Sunday next week, 08 April, as they use a different (Julian) calendar as opposed to the Western Church's use of the Gregorian calendar.



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

English translation of the traditional Paschal greeting common among many Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Christians



PLEASE PRAY... for the following intentions throughout the Easter season as requested by Bishop Séamus: new members of the Church; vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....**

