

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 31 December</b> Weekday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Sarah Tracey and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 01 January</b> Mary, Mother of God	10:00am	Mass: <b>Marie Wilson</b>
<b>Monday 02 January</b> SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	9:30am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Tuesday 03 January</b> Weekday before Epiphany	6:30pm	Mass: <b>Bill Burn</b>
<b>Wednesday 04 January</b> Weekday before Epiphany	9:30am	Mass: <b>Fr Tony Battle</b>
<b>Thursday 05 January</b> Weekday before Epiphany	9:30am	Mass: <b>McGough &amp; Duffy Families</b>
<b>Friday 06 January</b> Weekday before Epiphany	7:00am	Mass: <b>Hutchinson &amp; Marshall Families</b>
<b>Saturday 07 January</b> Weekday before Epiphany	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Teresa &amp; Walter Drane and pro populo</b>

**Ministries for this week**  
Saturday 31 December

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Jane Smith & Helen Musham  
Wilf Lavery

**Readers**  
Claire Lavery  
Margaret Purdom

**Children's Liturgy**  
(In recess till school resumes)

**Welcomers**  
Halina Holman  
Janet Harrigan

**Ministries for next week**  
Saturday 07 January

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Gordon & Angela Tosley  
Angela Harmston

**Readers**  
Greg Mearman  
Pat Middleton

**Children's Liturgy**  
(In recess till school resumes)

**Welcomers**  
Paul & Anne Kelly

**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION (Christmas)**

**Gift Aid: £323      Loose Plate: £913**

**Total: £1236**

**Mass Attendance: LOTS!**

**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE**  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

Have you an item for the parish bulletin? Please contact Judith Bulmer on (0191) 378 3544 or 07980 481 858 or send an email to her at [judithbulmer@rocketmail.com](mailto:judithbulmer@rocketmail.com).

*Please remember in your prayers people who are sick and housebound in the parish....*

*Pat Curran, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Dorothy Dowdle, Tom Tracey, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Michael Kane, Pat Harrison, Ohwyn Morris and Bede Anderson.*



**Emailed Bulletin** – If you would like to have the parish bulletin emailed to you each week please email Judith (details opposite) and you will be added to the mailing list. Parish Council minutes are also available electronically.



## St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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**Hospital Chaplain:** Ph: (0191) 526 5131

### Mary, Mother of God

**01 January, 2017**

#### Mary pondered these words in her heart....

EACH YEAR when we reach the end of December we tend to look back at the past year and remark on what an extraordinary year it has been, noting the number of major events that have punctuated the past twelve months, be they global, local or personal incidents, positive or disastrous. We will, of course, be doing the same as we move into 2017, though I believe that it is fair to say that we can label 2016 as "extraordinary" with more justification than usual. Without having to rack our brains too much it is easy to recall various words and phrases which are markers for some of the more exceptional occurrences of 2016: Brexit, Trump, ISIS, terrorism, refugees, migrants, celebrity deaths, Zika virus, police shootings, and earthquakes.

And so we begin the new year praying that in twelve months' time we can look back as normal and say that the year that has passed, 2017, was better than the one before it.

Yet we must consider that for many people in the world, especially those of underdeveloped nations, Brexit, the election of Trump and those other events mentioned above, will have little or no impact because for them every day is a struggle to survive and every day brings with it little prospect of change for the better, and thus, little or no hope. These are the people who will never make the headlines because they have no status or voice in a world which places great importance on those with material wealth, learning and power.

And so, on this Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we can learn something by reflecting on Mary's response to the visit by the shepherds, the first to hear of the birth of the Saviour. The shepherds of the first century were not very well liked by most people and so are representative of the powerless and marginalised in our world today, yet it was to these before all others that the angel made known the news of the birth of Jesus. Mary's response to their message about Jesus' identity as the Messiah was to listen to them and we hear that she "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." She was open to the possibility of even lowly men such as shepherds being messengers of God.

We must consider the possibility that God's messengers about the state of the world today are those very people despised and marginalised by the rich and powerful. Yes, celebrity deaths and political manoeuvrings may grab our attention but perhaps God is saying something important about our focus for the year ahead through the witness of the powerless, the marginalised and the poor. The only way to find out is to be like Mary, to listen and ponder.

What message of God are the poor seeking to deliver to us as the year begins? How will we respond?

Something to consider amid the seasonal festivities....

*Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,*

*Fr Robert*



## What's going on...?

**Friday Mass Intentions:** Please don't forget that each Friday there is a 7:00am Mass for which there is rarely an intention requested. Whilst I understand that many people wish to be present when a Mass intention they are offering is being celebrated, this is not essential. If it is not important for you to be present at a Mass for which you are asking an intention, consider asking for it to be celebrated on Friday morning. The intention will be printed on the back page of the bulletin and the Mass announced and faithfully offered.

**Christmas Crib donations:** You will notice that there is a collection plate adjacent to the Christmas crib at the base of the altar. All donations will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land, an organisation which helps the poorest Christians in the Holy Land, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. Donations can be made as long as the nativity display is up, which will be for another week or so.

**Pope Francis's Mission Statement for January:** "That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving to restore ecclesial communion through prayer and fraternal charity, working together to overcome the challenges facing humanity."

**Churches Together Prayer Group:** The prayer group will meet in St Patrick's presbytery during the winter months, each third Tuesday, 9:30am—10:00am. Next meeting will be on 17 January.

**Churches Together Bible Group at St Andrew's Methodist, Brandon:** Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 09 January from 3:30pm—4:45pm. All are welcome and Bibles are available if you don't have access to one.

**Lunch at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon:** A free lunch is provided on Tuesday, 03 January at 12:00noon and a vegetarian option is available. Come and meet new friends. Donations passed on to other charities. Next meal: 07 February.

**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.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen - 02 January

Basil was born in 330 at Caesarea in Cappadocia (modern-day Turkey), of a Christian family. A brilliant scholar and a virtuous man, he started by becoming a hermit but was made bishop of Caesarea in 370. He fought against the Arians (heretics) and wrote many notable works, in particular the monastic rule that bears his name. He was also generous to the poor. He died on 01 January 379.

Gregory was born in 330, near Nazianzus (also in modern-day Turkey). He travelled widely in search of knowledge. He followed his friend Basil into the wilderness, but he too was ordained and later made a bishop. He was elected Bishop of Constantinople in 381 but because of factional fighting within the Church he retired to Nazianzus, where he died on 25 January 389 or 390. He is known as "Gregory the Theologian" in honour of his learning and eloquence.

(Information taken from *Universalis*)



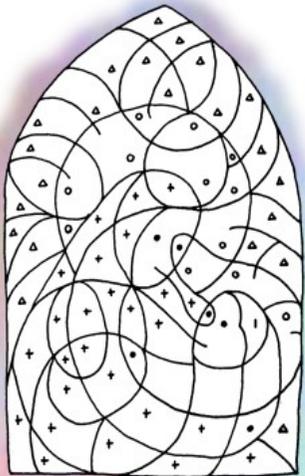
## THANK YOU...

I want to sincerely thank you all for your very kind Christmas wishes, prayers, cards and gifts over the past week or two. I am very grateful for your loving kindness and generosity. I would also like to thank all those parishioners who gave of their time and talent in various ways throughout the year serving on various committees and councils, serving at liturgical celebrations, cleaning, welcoming, doing administrative tasks, volunteering at short notice for various roles, and so on. Your service does not go unnoticed or unappreciated! I realise that whatever efforts I make I cannot thank everyone as personally as I would wish and so want to acknowledge and thank you for your service publicly via the bulletin. I do hope that your generosity will continue into 2017! Thank you once again and many blessings upon you, your family and loved ones.

## Mary, Mother of God

### The Kids' Bulletin

Mary the Mother of God  
January 1, 2017



Whose feast is it on New Year's Day?  
Colour in the spaces to see! Here's the code:

+ Blue    ▲ Pink    ○ Yellow  
┆ Brown    • Skin colour

### Octave of Christmas Word-Find



Can you find all the words in the list in the puzzle below?  
Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

ANGELS	GLORY	PRAISE
ANIMALS	GOD	SAVIOUR
BABY	HOLY	SHEEP
BARN	JESUS	SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SING
BORN	MANGER	SKY
COLD	MARY	STABLE
FIELDS	MOTHER	WONDER
FOUND	NIGHT	WORSHIP

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

On the eighth  
day of  
Christmas we  
honour in a  
special way

## DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the understanding of Mary as the  
"Mother of God" was a controversial  
truth in the early Church?

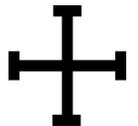
The Council of Ephesus decreed in the year 431 that because Jesus is both fully human and fully divine, Mary is therefore the mother of not only Jesus as a human child but also of Jesus as God. Though the first of January has had a long history associated with the motherhood of Mary, the feast day was formally declared only in 1969.



## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Our task is to seek and find Christ in our world as it is, and not as it might be. The fact that the world is other than it might be does not alter the truth that Christ is present in it and that his plan has been neither frustrated nor changed: indeed, all will be done according to his will...What is uncertain is not the "coming" of Christ but our own reception of him, our own response to him, our readiness and our capacity to "go forth to meet him. We must be willing to see him and acclaim him, even at the very moment when our whole life's work and all its meaning seem to collapse."

Thomas Merton, Trappist Monk  
(1915-1968)



**PRAY FOR... PEACE** as the new year begins. Pray that this year will see God work in ways that will motivate those responsible for violent conflicts to open their hearts to possibilities for true and lasting peace. Peace is not the mere absence of war but comes about through an attitude of tolerance, understanding and respect for the dignity of all. May it start with us!

