

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 01 April</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 4	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Frank &amp; Marie Wilson and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 02 April</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent		
<b>Monday 03 April</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 5		
<b>Tuesday 04 April</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 5	6:30pm	Mass: <b>Kath Hamilton</b>
<b>Wednesday 05 April</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 5	9:30am	Mass: <b>"A sick friend"</b>
<b>Thursday 06 April</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 5	7:00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
	9:30am	Mass: <b>George Harland</b>
<b>Friday 07 April</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 5	7:00am	Mass: <b>Joseph Dowdle</b>
<b>Saturday 08 April</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 5	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Frank &amp; Marie Wilson and pro populo</b>



## St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

02 April, 2017

### "I am the resurrection and the life."

THE DEATH of a loved one is always, of course, an occasion for grieving. After the initial shock and disbelief, those left grieving often move to the stage of wishing that the person who had died could be brought back to life, even for a moment. In our Gospel this weekend we witness a scenario where this wish for a second chance at life is granted by Jesus as he raises from death the beloved brother of Mary and Martha, Lazarus. This miracle of a second chance at life is reminiscent of what happens to us when we are baptised, for it is in baptism that we are born again and given a chance to start afresh. Clearly this Gospel is given to us in anticipation of those many baptisms which will occur at Easter, most especially for those adults who have been preparing for baptism over many months or years and will receive this sacrament of new life at the great Easter Vigil on 15 April. We must not overlook too the chance at new life that is given to us repeatedly in the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist.

It is interesting to note the reaction of Jesus on hearing the news of his friend's illness. He doesn't really focus on Lazarus at all but rather proclaims that this situation is one which will result in God's glory. As with all of Jesus' actions, especially his miracles (or 'signs' as they are referred to in John's Gospel), the emphasis is more on God and less on the individual concerned. This is not to suggest that Jesus had no love for Lazarus or his sisters (indeed, we hear that "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus") but rather that Jesus had the focus right: love God above all else, and this love will flow freely through words and actions. Jesus is the epitome of this divine dynamic.

Though we have a remarkable event in this Gospel passage in the raising of Lazarus, the actual event is underplayed. The emphasis is not so much on the "resurrection" of Lazarus (which is actually resuscitation, for Lazarus will die again) but rather on the words of Jesus, for he proclaims himself to *be* the resurrection. It is important to note that Jesus does not claim to merely point the way to the resurrection or have knowledge of the resurrection: "I am the resurrection and the life." Elsewhere in John's Gospel we hear Jesus make a similar claim about his very nature: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." (14:6) This is the key message of the Gospel and one meant to encourage us as we draw ever closer to the great Feast of the Resurrection, Easter.

Because Lazarus is not mentioned again in the scriptures we can only assume that his new lease on life engendered in him a desire to follow Jesus as a disciple, to follow the one who *is* the resurrection and the life. The Gospel challenges us to ask ourselves how we respond to being given a new lease on life through the sacraments and via our faith generally. Indeed, do we *want* the fullness of life that comes with a relationship with Jesus, the resurrection incarnate, or are we content to "remain in the tomb" where there exists a perverse comfort with the familiarity of darkness and sin? How do we respond to the constant call of Jesus to emerge from the tomb that represents all that is not of God?

Some food for thought as we draw nearer to Easter and celebrate the resurrection of the one who embodies that very miracle.

*Wishing you a blessed week,*

*Fr Robert*



*Lazarus, come out*

#### Ministries for this week Saturday 01 April

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
John & Irene Carey  
Kevin Boyle

**Readers**  
Marie Pailey  
Judith Bulmer

**Children's Liturgy**  
Maria Griffiths  
Michelle Dennis

**Welcomers**  
Paul & Anne Kelly

#### Ministries for next week Saturday 08 April

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

**Readers**  
Ann Canavan  
Angela Tosley

**Children's Liturgy**  
Maria Griffiths  
Carol Bainbridge

**Welcomers**  
Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

#### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £283 Loose Plate: £203

**Total: £486**

**Mass Attendance: 158**

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, Linda Carter, 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, Jim Patterson, Denise Oxberry, and Imelda Graham.*

#### CAFOD: FAST DAY ENVELOPES

As is customary during Lent, we are called to extend our focus beyond ourselves to assess how we care for the less fortunate in our world. To this end, you will have the opportunity to return a Fast Day envelope during Lent to enable you contribute to CAFOD that they may continue their great work. So far, we have raised around £375. There is still time to contribute if you wish.

**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.

## What's going on...?

**Scrutinies:** We continue to pray for Brendan PAYNE, a parishioner who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil next month. The scrutinies are basically preparatory rituals which will assist those seeking entry into the Church to look into themselves and ensure that they are best prepared to take this important step in their faith journey. Please pray for Brendan and his family over the next couple of weeks leading up to Easter!

**Stations of the Cross:** This devotion is being offered each **Wednesday evening** in Lent at **7:00pm**. Reconciliation will be offered afterwards until 8:00pm. Final date is Wednesday, 12 April.

**Missio (APF/Mill Hill Missionaries):** The March quarterly collection for Overseas Mission raised £728.24. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**Pope Francis' Mission Statement for April:** *That young people may respond generously to their vocational call and may also seriously consider offering themselves to God through the Priesthood or Religious Life.* "Following Jesus demands a good deal of courage , a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths."

**'The Way We See It': A Response:** As we move into new partnerships, an important emerging priority is our relationship with young people. The report of the young people's survey 'The Way We See It' and Pope Francis' call for a Synod on Youth invite us to reflect on this relationship. All adult parishioners and young people of sixth form age are invited to a diocesan conference at the Newcastle Academy Rooms on **Saturday 13 May**. Further details are in the booking form available from the parish priest or from the Youth Ministry Team on 01207 592244 or [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org). Details also on YMT website [www.ymt.org](http://www.ymt.org).

**Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Please see the noticeboard for details of this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes which takes place from 28 July - 04 August. Direct flight from Newcastle to Lourdes with an overland Jumbulance option too.

**St Patrick's Social Committee:** Our Senior Citizens' Spring Party will be on Saturday 22 April at the Royal British Legion, Meadowfield, from 12:30pm. If you would like to attend please put all names on the list at the back of the church. We will be selling raffle tickets after Mass from next Saturday. Any donations for prizes would be most gratefully received.

**Churches Together in DH7:** Senior Citizens' Lunch on Tuesday 04 April at 12:00noon in St Andrew's Church, Brandon. Also, don't forget the Lenten York Course in the Village Hall at Brancepeth @2:00pm on Friday 07 April. This is the final meeting before Easter. Refreshments served . All welcome!

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement of the Week

This week's statement to live by is: *"I know what humility means"*. The Gospel story of the last supper was shared with the children and we talked about the importance of serving each other, in order to bring about God's kingdom on earth.

### First Holy Communicants

Please continue to keep our young people preparing to receive First Eucharist in your prayers. Thank you.

### Easter Egg Competition

The children took part in an egg decorating competition this week and produced a lovely display. Father Robert judged 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each year group, while Carol Bainbridge, Chair of Governors, chose a winner from the infants and the juniors. Names will be announced, and prizes awarded, next week.

### Thank You

Many thanks to Father Robert who visited our infant class to support their topic work on Australia this week. Grateful thanks to Mrs Staff and Mrs Rowe, who continue to support our school by listening to the children read.

### End of Term

School breaks up for the Easter break on Friday of next week and resumes on Monday 24th April.



## The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
April 2, 2017



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died. Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?

## ~ Holy Week Schedule ~

**Monday, 10 April:** Mass @ 9:30am

**Tuesday, 11 April:** Mass @ 9:30am (no evening Mass)

**Wednesday, 12 April:** Mass @ 9:30am

Stations of the Cross @ 7:00pm,  
followed by Reconciliation

**Thursday, 13 April:** Maundy Thursday Mass @ 6:30pm

**Friday, 14 April:** Stations of the Cross @ 10:00am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion @ 3:00pm

**Saturday, 15 April:** The Great Easter Vigil Mass @ 5:00pm

**Sunday, 16 April:** Easter Sunday Mass @ 10:00am



## SCHOOL LITURGIES - All welcome to attend!



**Thursday 06 April, 9:30am** - Class 2 at Parish Mass followed by penitential service

**Friday 07 April, 9:15am** - Stations of the Cross service in school

## DID YOU KNOW...?

...that resurrection and rising from the dead is a phenomenon also found in religions other than Christianity?

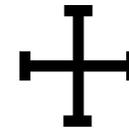
In other religions the idea of death, rebirth and subsequent immortality is not uncommon. In ancient Greek religion there were a number of ordinary people who died, were raised from the dead and then became immortal gods.

Resurrection is also known in Hinduism and Buddhism. The idea of a day of resurrection is central to Islam too. The Jewish scriptures (Old Testament) feature a number of people being raised from the dead, most notably in 1 Kings and 2 Kings.

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Jesus lived his life with the trust that God's love is stronger than death and that death therefore does not have the last word. He invites us to face the painful reality of our existence with the same trust. This is what Lent is all about."

Fr Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)  
Dutch priest and spiritual writer  
*Gebete aus der Stille*



**PLEASE PRAY FOR....** those who have recently married here at St Patrick's. Please pray for Scott BRYDEN and Caroline DOVE who were married here on Friday, 24 March and for Stefan O'NEILL and Clare TAYLOR who were married here on Saturday, 01 April. Pray that they will have both the practical and prayerful support necessary to sustain a loving and committed lifelong relationship, most particularly during those times when things become challenging.

