

The week ahead...

Saturday 03 February Vigil Mass for 5 th Sunday of the Year	5:00pm	Mass: Alice Egglestone and pro populo
Sunday 04 February 5 th Sunday of the Year	NO MASS	
Monday 05 February <i>St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 06 February <i>St Paul Miki & Co., Martyrs</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Marie Carey
Wednesday 07 February Wednesday of Ordinary Time 5	9:30am	Mass: Harry & Teresa Coad
Thursday 08 February Thursday of Ordinary Time 5	9:30am	Mass: Teresa Drane
Friday 09 February Friday of Ordinary Time 5	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 10 February Vigil Mass for 6 th Sunday of the Year	5:00pm	Mass: James & Mary Reynolds and pro populo

Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES

Saturday 03 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Angela & Gordon Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers

Judith Bulmer
Marie Paily

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers

Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

MINISTRIES

Saturday 10 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers

Angela Tosley
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers

Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

The fifth 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....



Alice EGGLESTONE

Bob ROSS

Jimmy WALLACE

Joan DAWSON

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

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



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £284 Loose Plate: £245

TOTAL: £529

Mass Attendance: 165

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



St Patrick's R.C. Church

A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

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St Patrick's R.C. Primary School: Ph: (0191) 378 0552

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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

04 February, 2018

"Everybody is looking for you."

OUR JOURNEY through Mark continues this week, following on immediately from last week's Gospel in which we witnessed Jesus teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum and healing a man possessed by an unclean spirit. The action never stops in Mark and so we hear this Gospel begin with the words: "On leaving the synagogue Jesus...went straight to the house of Simon and Andrew." Note the word "straight". Jesus did not saunter aimlessly and happen upon the house but, with the conviction that is familiar to us, went there without delay. He had a role to fulfil and knew that his time would be limited: there was no time to waste.

On arriving at the house he heals the mother-in-law of Peter (telling us therefore, that Peter was, or had been, a married man) by simply "helping her up" and then heals many of the locals who arrive at the house after sunset (thus after the sabbath), cleansing them of disease and unclean spirits. After an undoubtedly well-earned rest, we hear that Jesus got up early to go and do the very thing that he needed to regularly – pray.

Yet even this is interrupted by the disciples who tell him that "everybody is looking for you." And so Jesus is again on the move and travels to the Galilean synagogues, preaching and casting out devils as he had done in Capernaum. There is no let-up in the pace.

All this activity is in stark contrast to what we witness in this weekend's First Reading from the Old Testament Book of Job, composed some five or six hundred years before Christ's birth. Job, a devout, righteous and very wealthy man has everything taken from him, including the deaths of his many children, and is struck by a terrible disease. As he lies on his bed he does a lot of thinking and converses with God, lamenting his misfortune. We hear him today reflecting on human existence which seems to him to be without meaning, where each day is drudgery and people are constantly restless, wanting the day to end so they can end their work, yet restless at night too and so waiting for the daylight. Surely we all feel this at times, maybe a great deal of the time.

Yet we don't see this in Jesus. Jesus is no Job - quite the contrary. Though Jesus is constantly busy (especially in Mark's Gospel) all of his work is meaningful and so Jesus is never inclined to despair. He is able to live this way because of his relationship with his heavenly Father. Note how Mark, writing the shortest of the Gospels, still takes time to tell the reader that Jesus went to a lonely place to pray. The writers of the Gospels never wasted words and so we are sure that Mark mentioned this because of its importance to Jesus' mission. If we follow Jesus' example and have a strong relationship with God, we too will find all that we do, even the most mundane task, will be filled with meaning. After all, what is important is not what we do, but rather how we do it.

This is surely the path to true contentment and it begins for us, as it did for Jesus, with prayer.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert



What's going on...?

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday is just a week and a half away on 14 February. Though not a holyday of obligation, many people like to mark the beginning of this penitential season by coming to Mass. Like last year, there will be **two Masses** celebrated on this day: **9:30am** and **7:00pm**.

"Walk With Me" Lenten booklets: As always, there are some daily prayer booklets for Lent available for purchase at the rear of the church for £1.00 each. We have only 25 available, so get in quick!

Stations of the Cross: We will be conducting the Stations of the Cross during Lent as usual on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, beginning on **21 February**. This will be followed by opportunity for Reconciliation.

SURVIVE-MIVA Appeal on 10 February: SURVIVE-MIVA (UK Registered Charity No. 268745) is a Catholic lay Association, based in Liverpool and founded in 1974, which provides grants to fund essential transport for health outreach work in isolated rural areas, and for the Church's pastoral care in places of difficult access, across Africa, Asia and Latin America. We will hear from a representative and a retiring collection will be taken up next weekend, 10 February. Find out more at www.survive-miva.org and see the flyer on the noticeboard.

Gathering after Mass this week: As always on the first weekend Mass of the month, we will be gathering in the school hall after Mass today for fellowship over some drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome and it would be wonderful to meet up with any parishioners new to the parish too!

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): The PPC will be meeting this **Wednesday, 07 February** at **7:00pm** in the presbytery. Should you have any items to raise, please see a PPC member or Fr Robert.

Women's World Day of Prayer: Will be held this year on **Friday, 02 March** and the theme is "All God's creation is very good!" The day will be held at **St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon**. There will be three preliminary meetings at **10:00am** on **13, 20 and 27 February** at St Andrew's. All are welcome!

Monthly Bible Study: Don't forget the monthly Bible studies that are held at **St Andrew's Methodist at Brandon**. The next one is being held on **Monday, 12 February**, 3:30pm - 4:45pm, preceded by refreshments. Other meetings are scheduled for **12 March, 14 May** and **11 June**. There is no April meeting.

The Finchale Partnership: Development Plan: Our Partnership was set up at Pentecost 2017, and we have made good progress in getting to know each other and starting to work together. But it's important that we agree what our priorities are, so that the Partnership takes forward the right things to support and build the church across our nine parishes. The Partnership Development Group (PDG) have drafted a development plan, but we need your views on whether we have included the right things, and we need you to get involved with taking forward all that needs to be done. Please take a copy of the summary draft development plan, and let us have your views, by attending the open meeting at St. Leonard's School on **Thursday 22 February at 7:00pm**, speaking to Fr Robert, or emailing the PDG secretary, Margaret Doyle, at margaretdoyle1066@sky.com. The full draft development plan can be viewed at the back of church or on our Partnership webpages, hosted at <http://www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk/the-finchale-partnership/partnership-development-plan>.

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I know we are happiest when we are united'. We talked about the importance of each unique individual, praying, working and playing together well, in order to strengthen our school community.

Baby News!

Mrs Turnbull, who left us at the end of the Autumn Term, is expecting a baby. We wish her and her family well.

First Holy Communicants

Our children, preparing for First Eucharist, join us in the celebration of Mass this evening. They have just completed another session of preparation, and have learnt more about the significance of the Offertory. Please continue to keep Cassidy, Christina, Harris, Imogen, Jim and Sara in your prayers.

Celebration Assembly

During our weekly Celebration Assembly, class teachers give awards to pupils, in recognition of particularly good work and positive attitudes. There is also an award for the class with the best attendance. Last week's recipients were:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Class 1 | Ella for Mathematics
Vanessa for English
Isaak for Citizenship |
| Class 2 | Oliver for Mathematics
Imogen for English
Ella for Presentation of Work |
| Class 3 | Jenson for Mathematics
Luke for English
Matthew for Citizenship |
| Class 4 | Laura for Mathematics
Freya for English
Isla for Citizenship |
| Class 1 | Attendance – 100% |



The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 4, 2018



At the end of today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells Simon that they will go to the nearby villages to preach. Can you find your way through the maze to the nearby village?

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St Paul Miki and his Companions - 06 February

Paul was the son of a Japanese military leader. He was born at Tounucumada, Japan, was educated at the Jesuit college of Anziquiama, joined the Jesuits in 1580, and became known for his eloquent preaching. He was crucified on 05 February with twenty-five other Catholics during the persecution of Christians in the name of the emperor.

Among the Japanese laymen who suffered the same fate were: Francis, a carpenter who was arrested while watching the executions and then crucified; Gabriel, the nineteen year old son of the Franciscan's porter; Leo Kinuya, a twenty-eight year old carpenter from Miyako; Diego Kisai (or Kizayemon), temporal coadjutor of the Jesuits; Joachim Sakakibara, cook for the Franciscans at Osaka; Peter Sukejiro, sent by a Jesuit priest to help the prisoners, who was then arrested; Cosmas Takeya from Owari, who had preached in Osaka; and Ventura from Miyako, who had been baptized by the Jesuits, gave up his Catholicism on the death of his father, became a bonze, and was brought back to the Church by the Franciscans. They were all canonised as the Martyrs of Japan in 1862.

(Information taken from Universalis)



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for February:

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist the lure of corruption.

"Love requires a creative, concrete response. Good intentions are not enough. The other is not a statistic, but a person to take care of."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

PRAYER GROUP & BIBLE STUDY

The Churches Together prayer group will meet in St Patrick's Presbytery on **Tuesday, 20 February** from **9:30am to 10:00am**.



The next Bible study will be at **St Andrew's Methodist** on **Monday, 12 February**, **3:30 - 4:45pm**.

ALL WELCOME!

DID YOU KNOW...?

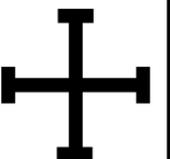
...that the season of Lent, which is soon upon us, is marked by austerity, even with regard to church decorations?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (2010) which gives the regulations for the Church's liturgical celebrations, states that "During Lent it is forbidden for the altar to be decorated with flowers. Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and Feasts. Floral decoration should always show moderation and be arranged around the altar rather than on the altar table." (n. 305)

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"If through one man's life there is a little more love and kindness, a little more light and truth in the world, then he will not have lived in vain."

Last words of Father Alfred Delp, (1907-1945), Jesuit priest, before being hanged by the Nazis for his opposition to Adolf Hitler.



PLEASE PRAY... for the following intentions over the next couple of weeks leading up to Lent, as requested by Bishop Séamus: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; the Unemployed. **Lord, hear our prayer.....**