

The week ahead...

Saturday 04 February Saturday of Ordinary Time 4	5:00pm	Mass: Alice Egglestone and pro populo
Sunday 05 February 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 06 February <i>St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs</i>		
Tuesday 07 February Tuesday of Ordinary Time 5	6:30pm	Mass: A sick person (KH)
Wednesday 08 February Wednesday of Ordinary Time 5	9:30am	Mass: Harry Coad
Thursday 09 February Thursday of Ordinary Time 5	9:30am	Mass: In thanksgiving
Friday 10 February <i>St Scholastica, Virgin</i>	7:00am	Mass: Veronica and David Parkinson
Saturday 11 February Saturday of Ordinary Time 5	5:00pm	Mass: Tom & Jenny Dowson, Norah Pinkney and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

05 February, 2017

“Your light must shine in the sight of all people....”

LAST WEEKEND we heard that “seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.” For us, hearing that Jesus went up a hill or down a valley seems a petty detail not worth mentioning. For the Jewish audience for whom Matthew was writing however, the significance of Jesus going up a hill or a mountain was clear: climbing up a mountain brought one closer to God. We think of some of the great characters and events from the Hebrew scriptures which occurred on mountains – Noah, Moses, Elijah, David and Mount Zion, and so on, to say nothing of the encounters on mountains in the Christian scriptures. Whenever we hear of a mountain in the scriptures, we can be sure that something significant is about to happen!

Once up the hill Jesus sits down with his disciples and teaches them. He begins his teaching, of course, with the famous Beatitudes. It is important to bear this in mind because our Gospel this weekend follows on immediately from the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes (‘blessings’) mark the beginning of the great Sermon on the Mount from which we will hear excerpts over the next three Sundays leading up to the commencement of Lent.

The Beatitudes are sometimes understood as a New Testament version of the Ten Commandments. Whilst the Ten Commandments (or ‘Ten Words’ to give them their correct name) are important for us as Christians, they make little demand on us in terms of positive choices. They call us, for the most part, to avoid sinful behaviour. Jesus, as always, invites us to go one step further and make the effort to actively do good, because doing good is what brings us true fulfilment and happiness, (or blessedness if we choose to follow this theme). Seeking to avoid what is sinful saps a great deal of our time and energy and never brings true happiness. It is rather like forcing yourself to tiptoe through a minefield and heaving a sigh of relief when you reach the other side unscathed - relief is the dominant feeling, not joy. Jesus instead asks us to see not a minefield but rather a beflowered meadow, inviting us to feel joy as we cross it without fear or trepidation. Certainly we may stumble occasionally and bruise ourselves with sin but this is preferable to an existence (for it can hardly be called ‘life’) characterised by apprehension and fear.

It is only via these positive choices to do good, as opposed to an obsession with avoiding sin, that we can live as Jesus calls us to in this weekend’s Gospel. Jesus uses the images of salt and light to make his point. Salt improves food by giving it seasoning and better taste: we are called to live in the world and make it a better place through our words and actions as disciples of Jesus. Our light shines when we live this way. Is this meant to bring attention to ourselves? Certainly not! The sole reason we strive to be salt and light to the world is to bring others to God. Being salt and light brings us true happiness but also gives others the chance to experience the same joy as they come into a realisation that a life of fulfilment is found in an intimate relationship with the living God.

How will you be salt to the earth and light to the world in the coming week?

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



Be these.
Matthew 5:13-16

Ministries for this week
Saturday 04 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers
Margaret Purdom
Greg Mearman

Children's Liturgy
Anna Davies
Anglea Harmston

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

Ministries for next week
Saturday 11 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Angela & Gordon Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers
Pat Middleton
Claire Lavery

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dannis

Welcomers
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £227 Loose Plate: £171

Total: £398

Mass Attendance: 155

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.

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.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Thank you to our Ministers of Holy Communion who do a terrific job each week assisting in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ. **Please note**, if you are approaching the tabernacle to retrieve the ciborium, **please do not remove the lid until the ciborium is placed on the altar and the base is secured with your hand**. This not only looks more reverent but will ensure that there is no danger of the consecrated hosts ending up on the floor. Thank you!



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...?

Gathering after Mass: We will be gathering after Mass on the first Saturday of each month for an opportunity to deepen our unity by getting to know one another better. Again, this is not about fundraising or an opportunity for speeches: just for a chat, a cuppa and a snack! Our first gathering of the year will be after Mass this weekend on **Saturday, 04 February**. Come along!

St Patrick's Social Committee Fundraising Night: Tickets are on sale for our next fundraising social night on **Friday, 24 February** at the Royal British Legion, Meadowfield. Raffle tickets will also be available in the narthex over the next few weeks. Thank you for your support!

Women's World Day of Prayer Update: The final meeting and rehearsal for WWDP will be on **Wednesday, 15 February at 11:00am** at St Patrick's Presbytery. It would be helpful if all those parishioners who are involved (eg. caterers, singers, readers) could be present. WWYD takes place on **Friday, 03 March** here at St Patrick's.

Churches Together Bible Group: Meeting on Monday, 13 February, 3:30pm—4:45pm at St Andrew's Methodist, Brandon.

Mass Intentions: A gentle reminder that if you wish to have a Mass said for someone, please use the **Mass Offering** envelopes at the rear of the church. Also, it would be most helpful if you would place the envelope on the collection plate during Mass. Alternatively, give the envelope to Fr Robert or Mr Kevin Coad. Thank you!

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for February: "That all those who afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and the marginalised, may find welcome and comfort in our communities." *God wants you to be signs of his merciful love for our time!*

Liturgy Meeting: There will be a meeting to plan for the seasons of Lent and Advent held in the presbytery this **Tuesday, 07 February**, immediately after the evening Mass.

SCHOOL NEWS

First Holy Communicants

The children preparing to receive First Eucharist have met this afternoon. The focus of their learning this week has been "Gifts We Offer - The Offertory." Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Church Visit

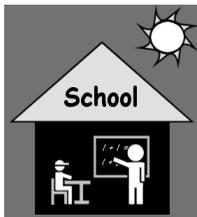
Our infant class visited church this week with Father Robert leading the session, during which the pupils learnt about the books used in church. Thank you, Father Robert.

Religious Education Inspection

The inspection that took place this week was a very positive experience and celebrated all that we do well. The full report and the grades awarded will be published in a couple of weeks' time, following quality assurance and moderation checks. Thank you to Father Robert, Carol Bainbridge (Chair of Governors), parents and pupils who met with the inspector to give their views of the school.

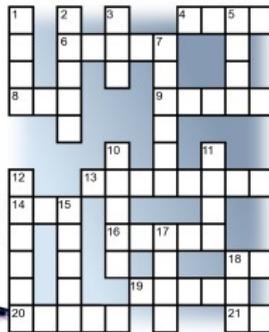
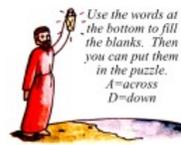
Fairtrade Conference

Edward, Emily, Tiana and Leo attended a Fairtrade Conference hosted by Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning, joining pupils from other primaries in our cluster. They took part in a range of fun activities aimed at promoting Fairtrade products and pupils shared their experiences of how Fairtrade operates in their own schools.



The Kids' Bulletin

Salt and Light Crossword Puzzle



2D _____ 5D to his disciples: "You are the
11D of the _____ 6A But if salt _____ 15D its
20A with what can it be seasoned? It is no
longer _____ 17D for anything but _____ 21A be thrown out
and trampled underfoot. _____ 8A _____ 3D the light of
the _____ 10D A _____ 1D set on a _____ 13A
cannot be _____ 7D Nor do they light a lamp and
then put it under a bushel _____ 12D; it is _____ 18D
on a lampstand, where it gives _____ 16A to _____ 14A
in the _____ 19A Just _____ 18A your light _____ 4A
shine before others, that they may see your good
9A and glorify your heavenly Father."

MUST JESUS MOUNTAIN CITY LIGHT
SAID DEEDS BASKET EARTH WORLD
GOOD HOUSE HIDDEN YOU SET ALL
SALT TASTE LOSES ARE SO TO

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Josephine Bakhita - 08 February

Born in 1868 or 1869 into a wealthy Sudanese family, Josephine was kidnapped by slave traders while still a child and was sold several times in the slave markets of Africa, but was eventually rescued and taken to Italy to work as a nanny. She converted to the faith in 1890, taking the name Josephine, and entered the Institute of the Canossian Daughters of Charity some three years later, where she worked unstintingly for the next fifty years at Schio, a small village near Vicenza.

Josephine died in 1947.

She was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and is believed to be the only saint to have originated from the Sudan.



(Information taken from *Universalis* and the *Diocesan Ordo*)

~ FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE ~

During this evening's Mass a pastoral letter from Bishop Séamus will be read outlining the results of the meetings that have taken place over the past few weeks to determine the future look of the Diocese as a result of the consultations over the past two and a half years. Meetings are scheduled for **Thursday, 09 February at 7:30pm** (refreshments available from 7:00pm) in two different locations, open to all people, to hear about the new partnerships that are proposed and the principles used to determine the decisions that have been made. The two locations are:

1. The Lancastrian Suite, Lancaster Road, Dunston NE11 9JR
2. John Caden Hall, Carmel College, The Headlands, Darlington DL3 8RP

DID YOU KNOW...?

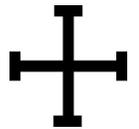
...that salt, a key theme of this weekend's Gospel, was commonly added to water when it was blessed?

Though the practice is not so common today, it was regularly added to blessed water in accordance with the older liturgical books. This practice was to acknowledge the protective powers of salt and so their power to drive out evil, a reminder of the exorcism rite which is a part of every baptism. Salt was also commonly used at the reconsecration of altars and in the baptism ritual.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"I love the saints because they are loveable; and I love the sinners because they are like me."

Raissa Maritain
(1883-1960)
Poet and Philosopher



PRAY FOR... the unemployed. Those without work often suffer from the stigma of being perceived as lazy and unmotivated, living off government handouts which derive from the labour of others. Pray that those fortunate enough to have work will seek a deeper understanding of the psychological and physical effects of long-term unemployment and that the government will take this problem seriously, embracing practical solutions.