

## The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 05 August</b> Saturday of Ordinary Time 17	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Kathleen Caisley and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 06 August</b> Feast of the Transfiguration	NO MASS	
<b>Monday 07 August</b> Monday of Ordinary Time 18	NO MASS	
<b>Tuesday 08 August</b> <i>St Dominic, Priest</i>	6:30pm	Mass: <b>McGough and Duffy families</b>
<b>Wednesday 09 August</b> <i>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Virgin, Martyr, Patron of Europe</i>	9:30am	Mass: <b>Kathleen Caisley</b>
<b>Thursday 10 August</b> <i>St Laurence, Deacon, Martyr</i>	9:30am	Mass: <b>Noel Tuason RIP</b>
<b>Friday 11 August</b> <i>St Clare, Virgin</i>	7:00am	Mass: <b>Veronica &amp; David Parkinson</b>
<b>Saturday 12 August</b> Saturday of Ordinary Time 18	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Pauline Pepper and pro populo</b>



### St Patrick's R.C. Church

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## Feast of the Transfiguration 06 August, 2017

### “Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here...”

WHEN I DID MY training as a teacher some thirty years ago, one of the very first things I remember learning in terms of classroom practice was the strategy of “positive reinforcement”. Another way of phrasing it might be simply “encouragement”. The idea was that by positively reinforcing a child’s work or behaviour (when warranted) a teacher would help a child work towards their potential as well as enjoy the benefits that come with good classroom management. I suppose having had the chance to put the idea into practice for a few years as a teacher has helped ensure those few lessons in first-year university have stayed with me many years after leaving a brief teaching career.

This weekend we diverge from our liturgical schedule of celebrating Sundays in Ordinary Time to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. This feast could also be referred to as the Feast of Encouragement because though there is much happening in this familiar little scenario, one of the most obvious effects of Jesus’ transfiguration is the encouragement it gives the three disciples present at a time they sorely needed it.

That they need it is evident in the events leading up to the Transfiguration. Just prior to Jesus leading Peter, James and John up the mountain for this momentous episode, Peter experiences some serious emotional turmoil in his interactions with Jesus. Peter declares to Jesus, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ (16:16). Jesus then gifts Peter with the leadership of the disciples and ‘keys of the kingdom of heaven.’ Things change very quickly for Peter, for Jesus next outlines the suffering that he as the Messiah must undergo and Peter’s response is one of horror, telling Jesus, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ (16:22). Jesus reacts by rebuking Peter: ‘Get behind me, Satan!’ (16:23). He then adopts a gentler tone in outlining to the twelve what discipleship means. It is only six days later, after the disciples had been given time to reflect on this important lesson that he leads the three disciples closest to him up a mountain to encourage them through his transfiguration.

How is this encouraging? Though there is no consensus amongst biblical scholars about the meaning of the Transfiguration, for Peter, James and John, the appearance of both Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) and the voice of the Father, would have given them a great boost at a time they were seeking the meaning behind following Jesus. They had witnessed many great things thus far in their journey, and would witness many more, but to what purpose? At the Transfiguration they are given insight into the identity of their master as Messiah and encouragement from two great Hebrew figures and God himself, coming to understand that some unbelievably marvellous awaited beyond the horror and scandal of the cross.

Though we will not experience anything quite as dramatic as the Transfiguration, God nonetheless allows us to experience moments of encouragement as we, like the disciples, journey with Jesus. This may take the form of something as simple as an encouraging smile or word from someone we encounter, or something more dramatic such as a tangible sense of God’s presence which may even be life-changing. Either way, let us be thankful for the fact that God never abandons us but is always seeking to encourage us on our Christian journey, recognising the need we all have for some ‘positive reinforcement’ so that we may reach our potential as disciples of Christ.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,  
Fr Robert



He was transfigured before their eyes

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.

### Transfiguration

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



John HOWARTH (Recently Deceased)

Kathleen CAISLEY

Ann KEENAN

Kenneth STOREY

Veronica HUTTON

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

Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Dorothy Dowdle, Margaret Pouton, Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris, Imelda Graham, Jim Patterson, Linda Carter and Tom Taylorson.



#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 05 August

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Malcolm & Teresa Wass  
Andrew Aberdeen

#### Readers

Greg Mearman  
Pat Middleton

#### Children’s Liturgy

(In recess during the summer holidays)

#### Welcomers

Pat Middleton  
Mary Kitching

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 12 August

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Irene & John Carey  
Kevin Boyle

#### Readers

Maria Griffiths  
Angela Harmston

#### Children’s Liturgy

(In recess during the summer holidays)

#### Welcomers

Halina Holman  
Janet Harrigan

#### LAST WEEKEND’S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £238      Loose Plate: £152

Total: £390

Mass Attendance: 112

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



## What's going on...?

**Mill Hill Mission and Thank You Appeal:** This weekend we welcome Fr Dermot Byrne MHM who will take the opportunity to thank the Parish for its support via prayers and donations to the 1,069 World Missions. Please note that there will be **NO** cash collection as the thank you and appeal is to inform you of the work carried out by APF-Mill Hill and to ask for continuing prayers and financial support which can be given through their Red Boxes.

*"Truly nothing is more beautiful than to know Christ and to make him known to others."* - Pope Benedict XVI

**A Parish Prayer:** Included in the Partnership Guidelines of *Forward Together in Hope* is a suggestion that partnership parishes make a list of the patron saints of churches and use it at the end of Mass and at meetings and prayer groups. In considering how to take this forward, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) have suggested that we incorporate the litany within a parish prayer. To that end, the PPC has drafted a prayer for consideration by our parishioners which was recently included as a bulletin insert. The prayer is based around St Patrick's Breastplate also known as St Patrick's Hymn. The PPC would like to hear your views on the draft prayer and would welcome suggested amendments or additions, or indeed an alternative prayer. Your comments and observations can be left in the box located at the rear of the church, via an email, or verbally.

**Blessings:** Having been afforded recently the privilege of celebrating the renewal of wedding vows of Phil and Jan Lumley on the occasion of their fortieth anniversary, I was reflecting on the fact that priests are rarely asked to do this, which is a great shame! Many couples will celebrate a party with their family on significant anniversaries but what a great witness to faith it is when that party is preceded by a short but significant service in church, whether it was the church the couple were

married in or not! What about a blessing of your home? The Church has blessing liturgies for so many occasions that I can't list them here but why not consider how you might express your faith and give thanks to God by utilising the services of your friendly Parish Priest in this regard? You have only to ask!

**Annual Leave:** I will be returning home for a few weeks later this month on annual leave. Like last year, this means that there will be Mass only on the Saturday evenings during my absence. Fr Brian Murphy has once again very kindly offered to celebrate these Masses. During the week there will be a Service of the Word with Communion each Wednesday at 9:30am. This means that there will be Mass offered for particular intentions only on Saturday evenings whilst I'm away. Any intentions for weekdays between 25 August and 22 September will need to be held over until my return. Please continue to keep an eye on the back page of the bulletin to keep informed about these changes. Thank you for your understanding.

**Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** If you are a Minister of Communion you have made a commitment to attend a period of formation each year. Please see the noticeboard for one such opportunity on Saturday 09 September, 10:30am - 4:00pm at Ushaw College. The parish will cover the cost. Please email or see Fr Robert personally to register your interest. It would be great if all involved in this ministry in our parish could attend together!

**Fr Ejaz Report:** You will find on the noticeboard at the rear of the church the latest report on Fr Ejaz's mission for the quarter ended 30 June, 2017.

# LOVE

## The Transfiguration

*Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain where He had a surprise for them.*

*How well do you know the story? Sort the pictures by putting the numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes.*



## The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Transfiguration  
August 6th, 2017

Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly His robe became dazzling white, like the sun. Jesus began to speak with Moses and Elijah, who appeared beside Him. Peter, James and John were terrified. Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. Shall we build three tents: one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah?" Then a cloud came over them, and a voice came out of it and said, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." Then only Jesus was there with them. Coming down the mountain, He told them not to tell anyone what happened until after He rose from the dead.

*Use the pictures to help read the story from today's Gospel reading!*

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Joseph, Patron of the Mill Hill Missionaries

Joseph could trace his ancestors through his father Jacob's lineage back to King David and to Abraham (Mt 1:1-16). His family home was in the city of Bethlehem yet he lived in an insignificant little village called Nazareth in Galilee. Here the Holy Family lived subject to Roman rule.

In his community, 'a small remnant of Israel', Joseph was known as 'a just and righteous man' (Mt 1:19), a rare description for anyone besides God. Joseph lived his Jewish faith in humility and in fidelity to the teaching of the prophets - observing the laws (Lk 2:22), celebrations (Lk 2:41) and taking pilgrimages to Jerusalem.

He overcame many difficulties in guarding his family (Mt 2:13-14). Today we acclaim him as Protector of the Universal Church. We share in his paternal protection. Being the foster father of Jesus, the Son of God, he is also father and protector of us who have become sons and daughters through our baptism.

Cardinal Herbert Vaughan, founder of the Mill Hill Missionaries (known as St Joseph's Missionary Society) declared St Joseph to be the first missionary taking Jesus and Mary as refugees into Egypt.

*St Joseph, Patron of the Family and of Missionaries and Protector of the Universal Church, pray for us!*



## CONGRATULATIONS!

to

Joshua & Marianna, parents of  
Lyla Isabelle GREGORY

baptised here last Sunday.

With every blessing for a  
faith-filled future as a  
disciple of Jesus!



## ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

**Pope Francis' Mission Statement for August:** That through their creativity, artists of our time may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

**Prayer Group:** Will meet on **Tuesday, 22 August** from 9:30am - 10:15am in **St John's Church** at Meadowfield. Please note the change from the usual scheduled third Tuesday for **this month only** because of the Feast of the Assumption celebrated on 15 August.

**Bible Group:** Next meeting will be in September.

**Craft Groups (Tues & Thurs):** These take place at the usual times. Please see noticeboard for details.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

...that there are seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer which we pray each time we attend Mass?

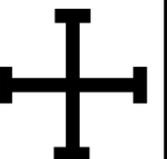
These seven petitions are outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (s. 2803-2806). The first three petitions carry us towards God (thy name, thy kingdom, thy will) whilst the second series offers up our own expectations ("give us...forgive us...lead us not...deliver us"). These petitions go up from us and concern us at this present time in the present world, in recognition of our need for the loving mercy of God.

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"All rational creatures, whether angels or men, have within them the capacity to love. In the exercise of the power of knowledge God must ever remain incomprehensible, whereas in the exercise of love he may be fully comprehended."

Anonymous (late 14<sup>th</sup> century)

*The Cloud of Unknowing*



**DON'T FORGET....**that we will be gathering after Mass this weekend as it is the first weekend of the month. As the school is currently having the hall renovated we will be gathering out side on the lawn behind the church or, in the case of wet weather, we will gather in the presbytery. Come along and join us!