

The week ahead...

Saturday 06 May Weekday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: Jack & Sheila Wilkinson and pro populo
Sunday 07 May 4 th Sunday of Easter	NO MASS	
Monday 08 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Tuesday 09 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Wednesday 10 May Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Service of the Word with Communion
Thursday 11 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Friday 12 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Saturday 13 May Weekday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: Pat Openshaw and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ

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4th Sunday of Easter

07 May, 2017

"I have come so that they may have life..."

THE SEMINARY which I attended in Sydney, The Seminary of the Good Shepherd, has as its motto "Ut Vitam Habeant" ("That they may have life"). These words are those of Jesus which constitute the final verse of this weekend's Gospel, "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10) There is a clear link drawn between Jesus referring to himself as the Good Shepherd and his mission of bringing life to people. This weekend, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is often referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday" though there is a problem...

The problem is that Jesus does not call himself the Good Shepherd in today's Gospel. Rather, he refers to himself as a gate, "the gate of the sheepfold". He states that no one can come to him except through this gate, that is, through him. Anyone who enters into the sheepfold via another way will not know fullness of life. The only way is through the gate that is Jesus.

And when we do make the effort to enter this way we will know the peace and fulfilment of which Jesus speaks. Jesus assures us that he will give those who enter through him safety ("he will go freely in and out") and abundance ("...and be sure of finding pasture.") If we extend the metaphor used by Jesus a little we might imagine ourselves jumping over the fence or squeezing under it rather than going to the trouble of unlatching a gate, opening it, walking through it, closing it and then latching it once again. We are often tempted to take shortcuts in our life and perhaps our spiritual pursuits are no less prey to this temptation. Being a disciple of Jesus is not easy. We cannot take "shortcuts" for in doing so we make Christian faith a veneer which covers our life but does not permeate it as it should.

Entering the sheepfold through the gate which is Jesus means taking our commitment of discipleship seriously and being prepared for the struggles, disappointments and so on which will inevitably come our way, to say nothing of the sheer hard work and discipline which is a part of Christian discipleship. Though such a way of living does not sound too attractive at first, Jesus promises us that it is this manner of living, in imitation of him, that we find the fulfilment that we all long for.

If we were to read on from the final verse of this weekend's Gospel then we *would* encounter Jesus telling us that he is indeed the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). Jesus refers to himself in many ways and the wonderful thing about this is that all of us at one time or another can find an image of Jesus to which we can relate fruitfully.

Whether we see Jesus as a sacrificial lamb, the gate of the sheepfold, the Good Shepherd, a teacher, a preacher, a healer, the light of the world, or relate to him via some other image, may our response to Jesus be one which ensures that we are spreading God's word and building God's kingdom here and now in the communities in which we live, work and play. In doing this we will know the fullness of life with which Jesus wishes to grace us.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,
Fr Robert



MINISTRIES

Saturday 06 May

Eucharistic Ministers

Helen Musham, Jane Smith
Wilf Lavery

Readers

Judith Bulmer
Marie Pailey

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Helen Riddles

Welcomers

Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

MINISTRIES

Saturday 13 May

Eucharistic Ministers

Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers

Angela Tosley
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers

Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

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.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £205 Loose Plate: £205

Total: £410

Mass Attendance: 146

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

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

Denise Oxberry, Pat Curran, Linda Carter, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Dorothy Dowdle, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris and Jim Patterson.



Fourth Sunday of Easter



Special Collections

Thank you for your generosity toward the collection for the **sick and retired priests** last weekend. The parish raised a total of **£312.35**. The collection for **Little Sisters of the Poor** will be taken up this weekend. Please be as generous as you can! The Sisters do wonderful work which you can read about on page three of this weekend's bulletin.

What's going on...?

Fr Brian's Golden Jubilee: An invitation has been received inviting parishioners from St Patrick's to Fr Brian Murphy's Golden Jubilee Mass at Willington on Friday 16 June at 7:00pm. Refreshments will be offered in the school hall after the Mass. There is an attendance sheet in the narthex for you this weekend and next weekend for you to indicate your attendance so that I can pass the approximate numbers onto the parish.

Changes to Mass schedule: As I will be on the annual diocesan retreat next week, there will be no Masses celebrated during the week, only a Communion service celebrated on Wednesday, 10 May at 9:30am. Thank you for your understanding.

Churches Together in DH7:

Our Prayer group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month this summer in St John's Church, Meadowfield at 9:30am.

Ushaw College Events: Speaking of wonderful resources on our doorstep, have you checked out all the changes at Ushaw College of late? Ushaw is now open more frequently to visitors, conducts more concerts and guided tours and has a revamped café and plenty more on offer. Go to www.ushaw.org for more information. Perhaps we can organise a trip by interested parishioners one day? If interested, please send me an email or chat to me.

Parish Partnerships: You will receive an insert in the bulletin next weekend with an information update on the Parish Area Partnerships.

May Procession and Parish Family Picnic: Advance notice of the May Procession which is scheduled for Sunday 21 May at 3:00pm followed by another Parish Family Picnic which, weather permitting, we hope to hold in the grounds behind the church. Burgers, hotdogs and a variety of drinks available! Mark the date in your diary!

Pilgrimage to Ladyewell, near Preston, Lancs: Saturday 24 June 2017, (Nativity of John the Baptist). Cost £20 approx. Rosary and packed lunch required. For details please contact Jose Blay on 0191 2678693.

Day on the Ministry of Consolation: In response to feedback from Forward Together in Hope, there will be a day on Ministry of Consolation, focusing on support for people and their families during terminal illness, or the journey through dementia.

Date: Saturday 10 June 2017

Venue: Ushaw College, Durham, DH7 9RH

Time: 10:00am for 10:30am start.

Refreshments will be served on arrival. Lunch is provided. There is no charge for this day but booking is **essential**, no later than Friday 02 June 2017. Please contact spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk or phone 0191 243 3302.

Mental health peer support group: For those with mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression. Now running in Newcastle at Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle, NE1 7BJ every Thursday evening, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. This PeerTalk project is underpinned by the Methodist Church and offers a safe space to share without being judged. Be heard, respected and accepted, and receive peer support to help you work through mental health concerns.

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.

The Kids' Bulletin

Fill-in-the-Blanks

The letters in squares fit into the spaces at the bottom.

GATEKEEPER	HIS	THIEF	
REALIZE	WILL	DRIVEN	
SPEECH	YOU	CLIMBS	
ENTERS	AMEN	VOICE	

Jesus said: "Amen, ¹² [] [] [], I say to ⁹ [] [] [], whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but ¹¹ [] [] [] over elsewhere is a ⁵ [] [] [] and a robber. But whoever ² [] [] [] through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The ¹ [] [] [] opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls ¹⁰ [] [] [] own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has ⁸ [] [] [] out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his ³ [] [] []. But they will not follow a stranger; they ⁴ [] [] [] run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of ⁶ [] [] [], the Pharisees did not ⁷ [] [] [] what he was trying to tell them.

The sheep 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Pancras - 12 May

This Roman martyr is buried on the Aurelian Way just outside Rome. Some legends say that he was born in the East, orphaned, brought to Rome by an uncle, and martyred at the age of fourteen, but there is no particular reason to believe them.

The cult of St Pancras spread widely in the sixth century: in England, the first church that St Augustine built in Canterbury was dedicated to him.

In England today, St Pancras is not much revered, and people no longer name their children after him. This is not due to any major theological shift: it is simply that St Pancras gave his name to a parish in central London, and the parish gave its name to a major railway station terminus next to King's Cross. And who would want to be named after a railway station?

We do not suggest that English parents should inflict on their children the continuing humiliation of a name whose associations have become so bathetic; but all of us, everywhere, can honour the memory of St Pancras (about whom so little is known) by not letting the fear of ridicule dissuade us from doing what is right.

(Information taken from Universalis)



Little Sisters of the Poor

As we are taking up the collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor **this weekend**, I thought I would include a few small extracts from a talk by Sr Marie Claire from the Little Sisters of the Poor. Some material is also available free of charge at the rear of the church to help you be better informed of the Little Sisters' work.

The Little Sisters of the Poor have nursing and residential homes for the elderly in thirty-one countries world wide....In our own Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, St Joseph's Home, which is run by the Little Sisters, is situated in the west end of Newcastle on Westmorland Road. It is here that they, along with a team of dedicated staff, care for 57 residents who require nursing or residential care. The Little Sisters go to great lengths to create a home-from-home environment so that the residents feel comfortable, safe and at ease rather than 'institutionalised'....The Sisters rely enormously on the continuing generosity of their benefactors...If you are able to help the Sisters help the elderly, both the residents and the Sisters would be forever in your debt. They would also be hugely grateful if you would please remember them in your prayers....

LOVE

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement is - "I understand what trust means". After sharing a passage from Scripture (Luke 12:22-31), we talked about how useless it is to worry and how we should, instead, put our trust in God.

Easter Eggs

Many thanks to Malcolm Wass for the Easter eggs he so generously provided for the children. They were very well received!

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Thank you for the donations of Sainsbury's vouchers, which will help our school obtain sports and cooking equipment. While the stores have stopped issuing these, if you have any left to donate, please leave these at the back of church. We must redeem them before the deadline of 30th June.

First Holy Communicants

This evening is the final teaching session for our group of children preparing for First Holy Communion. Thank you for your support of these children and their families. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. They receive the Eucharist for the first time during Mass on Saturday 17th June.



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Fourth Sunday of Easter, commonly known as "Good Shepherd Sunday" because of the Gospel theme, is the traditional Day of Prayer for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life?

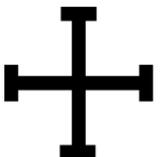
The theme this year in England and Wales is "Called: extra-ordinary", with the emphasis on the word "Called" since the call to all vocations comes ultimately from God, though the call is felt within the individual. As Fr Christopher Jamison OSB notes, "We need to be people who listen to God, who respond to him in love and who live out that response day to day."

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"The woman is essential for the church. Mary, a woman, is more important than the bishops. I say this because we must not confuse the function with the dignity. We must therefore investigate further the role of women in the church. We have to work harder to develop a profound theology of the woman. Only by making this step will it be possible to better reflect on their function within the church."

Pope Francis

In *A Big Heart Open to God: A Conversation with Pope Francis* (2013)



DON'T FORGET....gathering after Mass! We will be gathering in the school hall 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 next gathering will be after Mass **this evening**. Come along!