

The week ahead...

Saturday 10 June Saturday of Ordinary Time 9	5:00pm	Mass: Fr Brian Murphy (Golden Jubilee of Ordination) and pro populo
Sunday 11 June The Most Holy Trinity	NO MASS	
Monday 12 June Monday of Ordinary Time 10	NO MASS	
Tuesday 13 June <i>St Anthony of Padua, Bishop, Doctor</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Frank & Marie Wilson
Wednesday 14 June Wednesday of Ordinary Time 10	9:30am	Mass: Fr Brian Murphy (Golden Jubilee of Ordination)
Thursday 15 June Thursday of Ordinary Time 10	9:30am	Mass: Les & Audrey Riedling (60th Wedding Anniversary)
Friday 16 June Friday of Ordinary Time 10	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 17 June Saturday of Ordinary Time 10	5:00pm	Mass: Duffy & McGough families and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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The Most Holy Trinity

11 June, 2017

Caught up in love: The Most Holy Trinity

AS CATHOLICS we regularly invoke the Trinity through making the sign of the cross and so are reminded frequently of the nature of God. Whether at Mass, saying grace before meals or saying private prayers, we mark ourselves with the sign of the cross and utter the words: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." In short, we invoke the Trinity and so acknowledge God as trinitarian in nature.

Of course, the danger with such frequent invocation of the Trinity (or anything else for that matter) is an indifference to it along the lines of the old adage of familiarity breeding contempt. How often do we make the sign of the cross in an off-hand manner as we enter the church or at the beginning of Mass, doing it hastily so that it looks as though we are swatting away a pesky fly rather than boldly acknowledging our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier?

You won't hear the word "Trinity" in the scriptures proclaimed this weekend for the simple reason that this word is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible. The truth of God as Trinitarian in nature came about through serious theological reflection on the part of the Church Fathers in the early centuries of Christianity. Though the word "Trinity" is not found in the scriptures, there are frequent references to all three Persons of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and so it was inevitable that the true nature of God would be understood as trinitarian by the Church as it developed its doctrine.

The key question for us: how does an understanding of God as Trinity impact on my life as a disciple of Jesus? Our readings on this Trinity Sunday give us the answer: in short, love. It is no coincidence that the Church gives us three readings in which God is revealed as a God of love above all else. In the First Reading from Exodus we hear of "a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness." In our Second Reading Paul refers to "the God of love and peace" and in the Gospel we hear the very famous words of Jesus to Nicodemus: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son..."

Much has been written about the Trinity, a lot of it very philosophically and theologically complex, and it is important that we continue to depth the mystery of God through rigorous theological and philosophical reflection. We are already aware however of where this contemplation will lead: to a God whose essence and *raison d'être* is love. And when we consider this great love, made clear in very concrete terms for us in today's Gospel in particular, we can hardly fail to feel a desire to respond to that love with our own individual and corporate acts of love, compassion, mercy and justice, all inspired by the very same Holy Spirit we focused on last weekend at Pentecost.

Next time you go to make the sign of the cross, pause and reflect on what you are about to do: you are about to invoke a God who is infinitely complex, omnipotent (all-powerful) and omniscient (all-knowing) but, through his mercy as revealed in Jesus Christ and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, all-loving beyond our wildest imaginings.

And for that, let us give thanks.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert



MINISTRIES Saturday 10 June
Eucharistic Ministers Jane Smith, Helen Musham Wilf Lavery
Readers Marie Pailey Judith Bulmer
Children's Liturgy Maria Griffiths Carol Bainbridge
Welcomers Pat Middleton Mary Kitching

MINISTRIES Saturday 17 June
Eucharistic Ministers Ambrose & Pauline Burnside Judith Bulmer
Readers Ann Canavan Maria Griffiths
Children's Liturgy Cancelled this week due to First Eucharist celebration.
Welcomers Halina Holman Janet Harrigan

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.

Trinity Sunday

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £228 Loose Plate: £194

Total: £422

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....

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



Special Collections

Our retiring collection for **Fr Brian** last weekend raised **£335.15**. This will enable us to present him with a monetary gift on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee on Friday, 16 June at Willington. Thank you for your generosity! There is still a chance to contribute after Mass this weekend if you wish.



Feast of the Trinity

What's going on...?

Kathleen Caisley (née Drane) RIP: The funeral Mass for Kathleen will be held here at St Patrick's this Tuesday, 13 June at 11:00am. Please continue to pray for the repose of her soul and for the family at this sad and difficult time.

Pat Curran RIP: Sad news this week of the death of Pat Curran on Thursday. Please keep Pat's husband Harry and the rest of the family in your prayers. Funeral details will be announced when they come to hand.

Kevin MacMahon RIP: Please pray for the family of Kevin McMahon who died late during the week too. Kevin came to Mass here occasionally and was a member of the West Durham family of parishes. Again, funeral details as they come to hand.

Gathering after Mass: Thank you to all those who took the time to enjoy the beautiful weather after Mass last Saturday and join in the gathering on the lawn. I hope we can get even more to come along next month! Thank you in particular to those who assisted with setting and clearing up, serving and providing the lovely food for us to enjoy!

Missio (APF/Mill Hill Missionaries): Quarterly Overseas Mission contributions will be collected by sponsors during the month of June.

Brightlights Festival: An annual event for Catholic young adults (ages 16-30), 23 – 26 June in the grounds of Alton Castle in Staffordshire. Come and join us for a weekend of live music from artists including One Hope Project, Guvna B & Written In Kings. Journey together in faith through liturgy and worship and hear stimulating input about the possibilities of living life: UNLIMITED. To find out more information or book tickets, visit web-site: brightlights.org.uk, call 0300 075 0115 or find us on social media: T/FB/IG: BLFestival



SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was 'I know the importance of peace'. The whole school prayed for those who have suffered from violence, those in our country over the last few months, as well as those in other parts of the world.

Year 6 – Allensford Overnight Retreat

Year 6 enjoyed two days at the Emmaus Village this week. Their retreat was led by the Youth Ministry Team. The theme was 'Step Back', and the children were helped to recognise their unique gifts and talents. Back in school, we intend to develop this, and encourage the children to see how they can, and should, use these gifts to benefit the communities to which they belong.

Class 2 – Tennis Final

On Wednesday, Harry, Leo, Cassidy, Oliver, Ketila, Tiana, Imogen and Christina competed in the Durham School Sports Partnership's tennis final and achieved 4th place.

Sponsored Skip

On Friday, all our children took part in a sponsored skip, in order to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.



Survey for Synod on Youth: In October 2018, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome to consider 'Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment.' In preparation for this, the Bishops of England and Wales would like to hear from young people and from those who are regularly in contact with them. If aged 13-29, please take part in the Mega Youth poll <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll>. Parents, teachers, catechists, youth leaders please participate in the poll at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cymfed-yourview>.

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.

Friday Mass Intentions: Please don't forget that each Friday there is a 7:00am Mass for which there is not always an intention requested. Whilst I understand that many people wish to be present when a Mass they requested is being celebrated, this is not essential. If it is not important for you to be present at a Mass for which you are asking an intention, consider asking for it to be celebrated on Friday morning. The intention will be printed on the back page of the bulletin and the Mass announced and faithfully offered. Please use one of the offering envelopes found at the rear of the church.

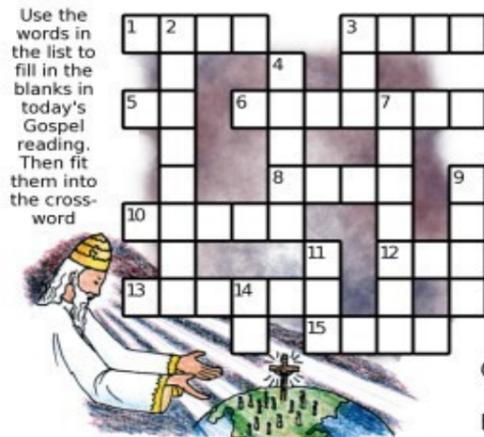
Parish Partnership Gathering: As has been mentioned, there will be a Parish Partnership Gathering held on the afternoon of Sunday, 16 July. The original plan was to hold this at Finchale but it is likely that the venue will instead be Ushaw College. I will confirm the final decision as soon as I can. In the meantime, please mark the date and time in your diary as it is sure to be a great gathering as we get to know each other as a parish partnership better!

The Kids' Bulletin

God So Loved The World Cross-Word

____ (3d) so _____ (10a) the world
that he _____ (3a) his _____ (15a) Son,
so that _____ (2d)
____ (11d) believes ____ (14d) him might
not _____ (13a) but might have
_____ (7d) _____ (8a) For
God did _____ (12a) _____ (1a) his Son
_____ (9d) the _____ (4d) to
_____ (6a) the world, but that the
world might ____ (5a) saved through him.

Use the words in the list to fill in the blanks in today's Gospel reading. Then fit them into the cross-word



BE
GAVE
GOD
IN
INTO
LIFE
LOVED
NOT
ONLY
PERISH
SEND
WHO
WORLD
CONDEMN
ETERNAL
EVERYONE

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Lidwina - 14 June

Born in Schiedam, Holland, in 1380. At the age of 15 she was ice-skating when she fell and broke a rib. Contemporary accounts describe how gangrene appeared in the wound and spread through her whole body. She had lost the use of her legs by the age of 19 and eventually was completely paralysed except for her left hand. (Modern medical opinion has reached the conclusion that Lidwina most likely suffered from a form of multiple sclerosis.) Living in constantly increasing pain, she had a wonderful gift of prayer and contemplation; suffering an incurable disease, she yet had the power to heal others. Some thought she was under the influence of an evil spirit, but she was greatly revered by holy men, one of whom wrote a pious tract in her honour.

On the morning of Easter Day 1433, she was in deep contemplation and saw a vision of Christ coming towards her to administer the sacrament of Extreme Unction, and two days later, on 14 April, she died. Her grave immediately became a place of pilgrimage. She was finally canonised in 1890.

(Information taken from Universalis)



LAUNCH OF THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP OF FINCHALE - from Bishop Séamus

"Today we come together throughout the Diocese to affirm that we are indeed moving from parishes to partnerships. It is extraordinary how so many parishioners in our diocese have been involved in our journey, through their prayers, reflections, meetings, discussion and volunteering. Without you it simply would not have happened. It has all been about us renewing our relationship with God, discovering how to become more aware of our call to be disciples of Jesus. The Holy Spirit has brought us to where we are.

"We are now faced with new opportunities to use our God given gifts to serve one another and the world we live in as disciples of Jesus. There will be a range of formation programmes to help us all deepen our awareness of what it means to be disciples of the Lord. You will be aware that I have appointed Partnership Deans to lead our new Partnerships, and with the assistance of your local Episcopal Vicars they will help to take it all forward.

"I am sure that they will be very keen to encourage more parishioners to become fully involved in setting up groups to help with the formation of Partnerships in the future. There will also be more opportunities for the skills and talents of lay people to help our local communities manage their property, finance, administration and communication.

"The invitation to us today is to leave behind whatever fear we might have and, trusting in the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves more closely together in the future."

DID YOU KNOW...?

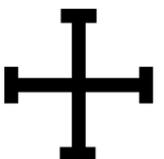
...that there is much explicit teaching by the Church on the Holy Trinity in order to counter common heresies about the nature of God?

As expected with such a concept as the Trinity, the Church has written much about the trinitarian nature of God in an attempt to help people avoid some of the pitfalls of trying to understand this unique concept. The Catechism is the best place to start in this regard, especially s.232-267. For example, it states that "We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the 'consubstantial Trinity.' The divine persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God whole and entire." (s.253) Plenty of food for thought on the Trinity!

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"The saint is the person who has discovered her deepest desire. They then 'do their own thing', which is also God's thing. Their will and God's will are in harmony, so that their lives are characterised by a continuous peace, tranquillity, freedom and joy, even - perhaps especially - in crises and suffering."

Gerard W. Hughes
(1924-2014)



PLEASE PRAY FOR....those children who will receive their first Holy Communion next Saturday evening on the feast of Corpus Christi. Pray that they will come to know the great joy of intimacy with Christ and that they will receive the support they need to ensure that this relationship with God is continually nourished into the future.