

The week ahead...

Saturday 11 November <i>St Martin of Tours, Bishop</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Michael, Catherine and John Evans and pro populo
Sunday 12 November 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 13 November Monday of Ordinary Time 32	NO MASS	
Tuesday 14 November Tuesday of Ordinary Time 32	6:30pm	Mass: Marie & Tom Carey
Wednesday 15 November Wednesday of Ordinary Time 32	9:30am	Mass: Teresa Coad
Thursday 16 November Thursday of Ordinary Time 32	9:30am	Mass: Tom, Jenny & Norah Pinkney
Friday 17 November <i>St Hilda of Whitby, Abbess</i>	7:00am	Mass: Bill Burn
Saturday 18 November Saturday of Ordinary Time 32	5:00pm	Mass: Marie Carey and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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Remembrance Sunday

12 November, 2017

Keeping our lamps filled

WE ARE FAST approaching not only the end of the calendar year but, even sooner, the end of the liturgical year. As always, this means that our scriptural texts at Mass are flavoured with "end of time" scenarios, asking us to focus on how prepared we are for the return of our Lord.

This can be quite confronting, of course! Just as it is uncomfortable to think about our inevitable death, we are being asked to think even beyond that to how we will be judged at the end of time. To illustrate our need for perpetual readiness, Jesus gifts us with the parable of The Ten Bridesmaids.

As is often the case, we need some background information to help us make the most of this parable. We are all familiar with how Christian or civil weddings operate in the modern western world but here we are talking about Jewish weddings in the first century. Apparently, ten bridesmaids would accompany the bride and wait with her until the bridegroom came and then the wedding feast would begin, the actual wedding itself having already taken place. It would not have been normal for the bridegroom to arrive so late but this helps stress the point that we never know when the Lord will return.

As is evident in the parable, the bridegroom's (Jesus) arrival is delayed and so the bridesmaids (us) are asleep when he ultimately arrives. Some bridesmaids are prepared to meet the bridegroom because their lamps have plenty of oil – that is, their lamps are filled "with the oil of loving service to their brothers and sisters" as one commentator beautifully phrases it. They meet the bridegroom with great joy and anticipation whilst the other five are left bereft of oil and so bereft of the joy of meeting the one for whom they had been waiting. Their foolishness, and undoubtedly their selfishness, are receiving the punishment they deserve. They will not meet the bridegroom; the door will remain closed to them for they have squandered their gifts. They were given the wherewithal (the Holy Spirit) to provide loving service to others but they chose not to use it. Now that the bridegroom has arrived, they are desperate to put things right. But it is too late.

And the bridegroom only comes once...

If we are to be like the wise bridesmaids we need to make a commitment to live our lives constantly in the presence of God's light. This doesn't mean that we are so conscious of everything we do that we operate out of fear of doing something wrong, imagining that God is watching over us like a universal police officer, just waiting to pounce on us at every opportunity we provide through our human weakness and tendency to sin. It means to take joy in living selflessly, serving others and finding in that the satisfaction and fulfilment which spurs us in to live this way out of desire rather than a sense of "duty". In living this way, our lamps will always be lit and ready to meet the bridegroom when he returns at the end of time, be that tomorrow or long after our death.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



MINISTRIES

Saturday 11 November

Eucharistic Ministers
Gordon & Angela Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers

Margaret Purdom
Claire Lavery

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Helen Riddles

Welcomers

Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

MINISTRIES

Saturday 18 November

Eucharistic Ministers
Teresa & Malcolm Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers

Pat Middleton
Greg Mearman

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Carol Burbridge

Welcomers

Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

Remembrance 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.

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



Remember those who have gone before us

Teresa PARKIN (Rec. Dec.)
Joan HOLMES (Rec. Dec.)
Bernard McGOAY (Rec. Dec.)
Michael, Catherine and John EVANS
Hannah ROBSON

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

Jim Patterson, Linda Carter,
Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly,
Mary Spears, Rose Crick,
Maureen McCrann,
Doreen Carroll,
Margaret Pouton,
Pat Harrison and
Olwyn Morris.



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £226 Loose Plate: £205

Total: £431

Mass Attendance: 161

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Clergy Training Fund: Thank you for your contributions last weekend in aid of the **Clergy Training Fund** which has so far come to **£291.58**. This collection will remain open until **26 November**. Envelopes are available from the table at the back of the church should you wish to gift aid your donation. Also available are some reports outlining the contributions made by the various parishes of the diocese last year.

RIP: Bernard McGOAY: We offer condolences to the family and friends of Bernard who died last week. Bernard was a regular at the Vigil Mass until a little over a year ago when he became ill. Bernard's Requiem Mass will be held at **St Godric's** on **Tuesday, 21 November** at **12:00noon**.

Church Decorations and Material for Viewing: Please note that any changes, even minor ones, to the decorations in the church, and the placement of any reading material, including pamphlets, must not be undertaken without first consulting Fr Robert. This will help avoid any tension which can often arise from people seeking to decorate areas of the church to their personal tastes and/or promote religious devotions and causes which may not accord with Church teaching. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

St Cuthbert's Hospice Raffle: At the rear of the church you will find a couple of books of raffle tickets in support of St Cuthbert's Hospice. Tickets are £1.00 each.

Ushaw College Events: Thanks to everyone for supporting our wonderful summer programme. The exhibitions in the chapel and beautifully restored museum are a great success adding even more interest for visitors. We now have our permanent Chaplain here, Canon Bob Spence, and he celebrates Mass here every Friday at 12:30pm, open to everyone. Forthcoming events include An Afternoon with the War Poets on **Thursday 23 November** at 2:00pm. Refreshments

available Wednesdays to Saturdays – all are welcome!

Holy Days of Obligation: The Bishops of England and Wales have approved two more holy days of obligation beginning in 2018. In addition to the current holy days of SS Peter and Paul, the Assumption and All Saints', **the Epiphany** (06 January) and **the Ascension** (Thursday of Week 6 of Easter) are also holy days of obligation.

Lumiere: Are you going into Durham for the Lumiere festival (16-19 November)? If so, in common with many of the churches in the centre of the city, two of the churches in our partnership will be open and hope to provide a place for quieter reflection where people can light a candle, say a prayer and also find some "light" refreshments. One of the installations involves lighting the boundary wall of **St Godric's** (Durham Martyrs parish) and the church will be open each evening. **St Cuthbert's** has two of the installations just outside, and plans to be open from about 5:00pm to 10:00pm on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday and after the evening Mass on the Sunday.

World Day of the Poor: Pope Francis has asked the entire Catholic community worldwide to observe the **World Day of the Poor** for the first time **next Sunday**. The World Day of the Poor will be observed each year on the 33rd Sunday of the liturgical year. See the poster on the noticeboard and go to www.csan.org.uk.

Minstreares: Quiet Day Retreat coming up on **Wednesday, 22 November from 10:00am—4:00pm**. An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. Please bring a packed lunch. Ph. 01434 673 248.

The Kids' Bulletin

Psalm 63 Word-Find

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in this part of today's Psalm. The leftover letters will spell out a little prayer to God when you write them in the blanks at the end.



PARCHEDPOWER
MWYSBANQUETW
OITHIRSTSULI
SLIPSTOWARDT
ALTHPHUFLESH
NAMEIGLORYIO
CALLNOIRSTWU
TGAZEDVSFOAT
UBLESSEMOUTH
ALIFEHANDSER
RICHESGOODRT
YHEEKINDNESS

O GOD, you are my God whom I SEEK;
for you my FLESH PINES and my soul THIRSTS
like the EARTH, PARCHED and WITHOUT WATER.

Thus have I GAZED TOWARD you in the SANCTUARY
to see your POWER and your GLORY,
for your KINDNESS is a greater GOOD than LIFE;
my lips shall glorify you.

Thus WILL I BLESS you while I LIVE;
lifting up my HANDS, I will CALL upon your NAME.
As with the RICHES of a BANQUET shall my SOUL be
satisfied,
and with exultant LIPS my MOUTH shall praise you.

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

Our statement this week was 'I can tell you how I look after myself.' We talked about how, as children of God, we need to care for ourselves and for others.

Forthcoming Masses and Liturgies

Thursday 16 November @ 9:30am: Class 2 (Years 3 & 4) attend Mass in church.

Wednesday 22 November @ 2:30pm: Class 2 (Years 3 & 4) celebrate Mass in school

Wednesday 06 December @ 2:30pm: Classes 3 & 4 (Reception, Years 1 & 2) lead a liturgy in school

Thursday 07 December @ 9:30pm: Class 1 (Years 5 & 6) attend Mass in church, followed by a Penitential Service

Carol Service

The school will lead a Carol Service in church on the afternoon of Monday 18 December, beginning at 2:30pm. Light refreshments, including mulled wine and mince pies, will be served in the school hall afterwards. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend all celebrations involving the children.

Head, Deputy and Clergy Conference

Mrs Burnside and Mrs Rogers attended the diocesan conference on Friday and attended Mass at St Mary's Cathedral when thanks were given for the service of Joe Hughes, Diocesan Director of Education, who retires in December.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Albert the Great - 15 November

Albert was born at Lauingen on the Danube in Germany in 1206, and studied at Padua and Paris before entering the Dominican Order. He taught in a number of places including the University of Paris, where St Thomas Aquinas studied under him.



He was one of the greatest philosophers of the Middle Ages, coming at the beginning of the great flowering that came with the rediscovery of the works of Aristotle. He had a great interest in science and astronomy and his learning gave him the title, as a Doctor of the Church, of *Doctor Universalis*, the "Universal Doctor."

In 1260 the Pope made him Bishop of Regensburg, a post that he held for three years before resigning it. He made great efforts to secure peace between people and between cities. He died at Cologne in 1280.

(Information taken from *Universalis*)

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for November:

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

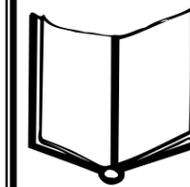
"In all settings you find yourselves, God's love invites you to bring the Good News, making of your own lives a gift to him and to others."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

BIBLE STUDIES

The Churches Together prayer group will meet on the **Tuesday of every third week** in the winter months in St Patrick's Presbytery, **9:30am to 10:00am**.

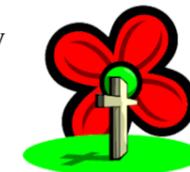


Also, it is St Patrick's turn to host the **Advent Course** which begins on **Friday, 24 November**. It will run for four Fridays from **2:00pm - 4:00pm**.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that this Sunday is Remembrance Sunday?

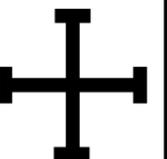
We are given an opportunity to bring before God in prayer those who have died in the various wars of the past, both the better known and "bigger" World Wars I and II, as well as the lesser-known and often neglected conflicts such as Vietnam and Korea. As well as remembering and praying for the war dead, both military and civilian, we also pray that we may be agents of peace, learn from the past, and help eradicate war from the earth.



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Crucifixion and Resurrection; whether or not a man believes in God, the fact remains that we are all children of one Father. Meditation on this fact makes hatred and strife between brothers the more to be opposed. The work we must do is to strive for peace and concordance rather than hatred and strife."

Dorothy Day (1897-1980)
*American journalist, social activist
and convert to Catholicism*



DON'T FORGET... to continue to hold in prayer our six candidates for First Eucharist: Cassidy, Imogen, Christina, Sara, Jim and Harris. Please remember to pray for the child whose prayer card you picked up a few weeks ago, If you didn't pick up a card, don't let that stop you praying for a child whose picture and name you can find at the back of church!