

The week ahead...

Saturday 17 February Vigil Mass for First Sunday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: McGough & Duffy families and pro populo
Sunday 18 February First Sunday of Lent	NO MASS	
Monday 19 February Monday of Lent 1	NO MASS	
Tuesday 20 February Tuesday of Lent 1	6:30pm	Mass: Maureen Cairns
Wednesday 21 February Wednesday of Lent 1	9:30am	Mass: Mary Anne Peel
Thursday 22 February <i>The Chair of St Peter, Apostle</i>	9:30am	Mass: Vida Ramm
Friday 23 February Friday of Lent 1	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 24 February Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Dorothy Dowdle and pro populo

Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES

Saturday 17 February

Eucharistic Ministers

Irene & John Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers

Claire Lavery
Margaret Purdon

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers

Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

MINISTRIES

Saturday 24 February

Eucharistic Ministers

Helen Musham, Jane Smith
Wilf Lavery

Readers

Brendan Payne
Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Joanne Lidster

Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

The first Sunday of lent

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. Items need to be submitted by 12:00noon on Thursday.

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



McGOUGH & DUFFY families

Mary Alice HILL

Margaret DAVIES

John PIGFORD

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....

Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann,
Doreen Carroll, Margaret Pouton,
Pat Harrison,
Tom Taylorson,
Sylvia Kelly and
Mary Spears



St Patrick's R.C. Church

A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

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

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Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully Ph: (0191) 526 5131

First Sunday of Lent

18 February, 2018

"Repent, and believe the Good News."

THE TEMPTATIONS faced by Jesus during his forty days in the desert are well known to those of us who have lived through more than a few First Sundays in Lent: to turn stones into bread, to throw himself off the parapet of the Temple, and to worship Satan in return for all the kingdoms of the world. In Years A (Matthew) and C (Luke) we hear quite lengthy Gospel passages detailing Jesus' experiences with these temptations in the desert. In this Year B, we get the whole story from Mark in just thirty-two words!

This is hardly surprising given what we know of Mark's Gospel, especially its brevity relative to Matthew and Luke. Yet, as I have said before, the brevity of a scriptural passage is not indicative of a lack of importance or depth. Mark may well give us a "bare bones" account of Jesus' time in the desert, but there is much to be gained by a close reading of this account. In fact, in this day and age when we are used to receiving our information in short bursts, Mark's account may well be one which we are more inclined to study over Matthew and Luke.

One thing which we note from the beginning is the strong vocabulary of Mark's account. We hear how "...the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness..." as opposed to Matthew and Luke in which the same Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness. Though there is only a single word differentiating the accounts, clearly there is an entirely different meaning conveyed. If you are led by someone to a place, you usually go of your own volition, trusting the one leading you. If you are driven out by someone, the implication is that there is some sort of conflict going on, perhaps even a punishment taking place. Mark's account therefore, is perhaps the most difficult to comprehend. Why would the same Spirit that descended on Jesus in the form of a beautiful dove at his baptism then drive him out into the desert so unceremoniously?

Perhaps a reflection on our own lives will help us. We might ask ourselves why the same God who made us in his own image would then allow us to experience "desert times" in our own lives. It is not the case that God engineers situations in order to test us – that is hardly the sort of God we see in Jesus. Rather, suffering of one sort or another is the human condition. These "desert times", which inevitably come our way, are an opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with God as we seek to identify God's presence in what appears to be a barren, lifeless landscape.

"Repent, and believe the Good News" are among the first words Jesus speaks as he begins his mission. Indeed, they are words which sum up the whole of Christian living. "Repent" means to turn around and, in our case, once again gaze on the loving light which emanates from Christ, our God who has never left us, even in those desert times. We will be aware of his presence when we identify the sin in our lives and return to God with a contrite heart.

May this Lenten season be one which affords you an opportunity to once again connect with our loving and merciful God and so know the joy which comes with believing the Good News!

Wishing you a blessed Lenten season

Fr Robert



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £234 Loose Plate: £194

TOTAL: £428

Mass Attendance: 144

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

What's going on...?

Lenten Study Group: See page opposite for an opportunity to be a part of a weekly Lenten study group, beginning **Friday, 23 February**.

Stations of the Cross: We will be conducting the Stations of the Cross during Lent as usual on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, beginning on **21 February**. This will be followed by an opportunity for Reconciliation.

Lent Resources: There is a host of online resources available to assist you during Lent. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has some for downloading. Also try www.xt3.com/lent for some resources or download the app "xt3Lent2018" on Android or Apple devices.

St Patrick's Social Committee - Social Night: There will be a social night on Friday 09 March at 7:30pm at The Royal British Legion, Meadowfield. Tickets are on sale at £2.50 each and raffle tickets are also on sale. Any donations for raffle prizes will be most gratefully received. All money raised will support the Spring party for senior citizens later in the year. Please see Irene, Angela or Judith.

SURVIVE-MIVA Appeal: Thank you for your generous donations to the appeal which was held last weekend. So far we have raised **£343.15**. If you took a gift aid envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection basket this evening so that the total can be finalised and a cheque sent off this week.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: This is scheduled for **Friday, 23 February**. This weekend our parish CAFOD representative, Tricia Whitfield, will speak at the end of Mass about the Family Fast Day and how to contribute to CAFOD's great work.

The Finchale Partnership: Development Plan: Our Partnership was set up at Pentecost 2017, and we have made good progress in getting to know each other and starting to work together. But it's important that we agree what our priorities are, so that the Partnership takes forward the right things to support and build the church across our nine parishes. The Partnership Development Group (PDG) have drafted a development plan, but we need your views on whether we have

included the right things, and we need you to get involved with taking forward all that needs to be done. Let us have your views by attending the open meeting at St. Leonard's School on **Thursday 22 February at 7:00pm**, speaking to Fr Robert, or emailing the PDG secretary, Margaret Doyle, at margaretdoyle1066@sky.com. **Sign-up sheet at the rear of church.** The full draft development plan can be viewed at the back of church or on our Partnership webpages, hosted at <http://www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk/the-finchale-partnership/partnership-development-plan>.

Women's World Day of Prayer: Will be held this year on **Friday, 02 March** and the theme is "All God's creation is very good!" The day will be held at **St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon**. There will be three preliminary meetings at **10:00am on 13, 20 and 27 February** at St Andrew's. See flyer on noticeboard. All are welcome!

Vacancies: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

- Mission Facilitator, Dept. for Adult Formation and Evangelisation, full-time, 18-month fixed-term contract. Closing date: 23 February.
- Fundraising Manager, Dept. for Finance, full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 01 March.
- Administrator, St Hilda's, Sunderland, 12 hours per week, 12-month fixed-term contract. Closing date: 25 February.

For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us 0191 243 3301, or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

Invitation to Youth Ministry Meeting on 25 February: All parishioners who are concerned about how we can support young people on their faith journey are invited to a co-workers' gathering at the Emmaus Village on **Sunday 25 February at 3.00pm**. (Tea, coffee and cake served from 2:15pm). There are a number of opportunities that YMT will share with you and this will also be a time to share good practice and network with other parts of the diocese. Please let YMT know if you are coming on 01207 592244 or admin@ymt.org.

SCHOOL NEWS

Staff Training

On Friday 09 February, staff attended a shared professional development day, with other Catholic primary schools in the St. Leonard's cluster. Gervase Phinn, author and educator, gave an inspiring and entertaining presentation. The development day was held at the cricket ground in Chester-Le-Street.

School Re-opens

School re-opens, following the half-term break, on Monday 19 February.

CAFOD Assembly

We look forward to welcoming Tricia Whitfield into school next week. Tricia will be leading an assembly about the work of CAFOD. A good beginning to the Lenten season for our children.

Lenten Journey

Our children will also be supported during this season through the use of Lenten calendars and booklets, kindly organised by Father Robert.

First Holy Communicants

Please remember to keep our children preparing to receive First Holy Communion in your prayers. Cassidy, Christina, Harris, Imogen, Jim and Sara will be learning more about this Sacrament and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, on their return to school.



The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2018



What was the story mentioned in today's first reading that talks about God washing away the sins of the world and making a covenant with His people?

Connect the dots to find out what the story was about!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Peter Damian - 21 February

Peter was born in Ravenna in 10076 and studied theology and canon law, becoming a renowned teacher in both Parma and Ravenna. In his late twenties he abandoned all this and joined the hermitage of Fonte Avellana, near Gubbio, where he became prior in 1043, a position he held until his death. He strongly promoted the religious life in many parts of Italy. The Church at that time was in a terrible state and he supported the Popes in their efforts at reform, both by his writings and as a papal envoy. Pope Stephen IX named him a cardinal and Bishop of Ostia. He died on 21 February 1072 and was immediately acclaimed as a saint.



(Information taken from Universalis)

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Lenten Study Group

The **York Lenten Course** is being offered each **Friday at 2:00pm** beginning on **23 February at St Andrew's Methodist, Brandon** and concluding on **23 March** for a total of five sessions. The course booklets will be available to purchase at a small cost on attendance at the first session.
All welcome!

Lent

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

PRAYER GROUP & BIBLE STUDY

The Churches Together prayer group will meet in St Patrick's Presbytery on **Tuesday, 20 February** from **9:30am to 10:00am**.



The next **Bible study** will be at **St Andrew's Methodist** on **Monday, 12 March**, from **3:30pm to 4:45pm**.

ALL WELCOME!

DID YOU KNOW...?

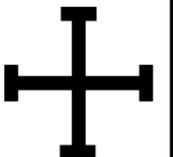
...that the season of Lent, which we have begun, is the most appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)?

There are many opportunities available right here at St Patrick's to celebrate Reconciliation and so be true to the command that we heard on Ash Wednesday to *Repent, and believe in the Gospel*. Opportunities exist for the celebration of Reconciliation after all Masses, after the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings during Lent and any other time by making an appointment.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."

Pope Benedict XVI



PLEASE PRAY... for the following intentions throughout Lent as requested by Bishop Séamus: candidates for the sacraments of initiation; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers. **Lord, hear our prayer.....**