

The week ahead...

Saturday 18 February Saturday of Ordinary Time 6	5:00pm	Mass: Marie Wilson and pro populo
Sunday 19 February 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 20 February Monday of Ordinary Time 7		
Tuesday 21 February Tuesday of Ordinary Time 7	6:30pm	Mass: Deceased members of the Parkin family
Wednesday 22 February <i>The Chair of St Peter, Apostle</i>	9:30am	Mass: Frank & Marie Wilson
Thursday 23 February <i>St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr</i>	9:30am	Mass: Private intention
Friday 24 February Friday of Ordinary Time 7	7:00am	Mass: Private intention
Saturday 25 February Saturday of Ordinary Time 7	5:00pm	Mass: Betty Allison and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

Priest in Charge: Fr Robert Riedling Ph: (0191) 378 4486
Mob: 07904 833 785
Email: langleymoos.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk
St Patrick's RC Primary School: Ph: (0191) 378 0552
Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully Ph: (0191) 526 5131

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 February, 2017

“Love your enemies....”

IN THE 1995 Academy Award-winning film “Dead Man Walking” about a prisoner on death row in a Louisiana prison, a scene takes place some days before the main character, Matthew Poncelet, played brilliantly by Sean Penn, is due to be executed by lethal injection for the murder of a young couple. In this scene, another prisoner is in his final hours before execution and a crowd has gathered outside the gates of the prison. This crowd is divided into two distinct groups: one group devoted to abolishing the death penalty and praying for a stay of execution; another group in favour of the death penalty who count down the final seconds till the execution takes place and cheer when it finally happens. In this second group there are many people waving around handmade signs, a couple of which quote the very words of Jesus in this weekend's Gospel: “An eye for an eye.”

Quoting scripture is fraught with danger. It is so easy to take a phrase out of its context (literary, historical or cultural) and use it to make a point. The scriptures are possibly abused this way more than any other single text and the point made above regarding “an eye for an eye” is but one example. In fact, “eye for eye, tooth for tooth” was quite a progressive concept in ancient times when revenge was often disproportional to the offence suffered. For example, a tribe had one member killed by another but sought revenge by killing several members in return. The “eye for eye” principle sought to limit the scale of vengeance somewhat. Of course, Jesus challenges his listeners to go further and “offer the wicked man no resistance”, not as a sign of weakness but as a sign of love.

And this is where we hear Jesus at his most radical. We find in the Gospels, and not just here in the Sermon on the Mount, many radical proclamations on the part of Jesus but none more so I would suggest than the words which characterise how we are called to love: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” As Jesus points out, it is easy to love those who show us love and who appeal to us for one reason or another. You don't have to be a person of faith to love under such circumstances as it is a basic to our human nature. What is difficult, and what does require God's strength and courage, is to love those whom we don't like, who perhaps have persecuted us in some way. This is far from natural! Yet if we who claim to be disciples of Jesus don't take this seriously, we are going to simply “blend in with the crowd” and not be the beacons of light we are called to be. Quite frankly, we might as well not bother with our faith.

The words of Jesus are often difficult to take on board and we hear this weekend some of the most challenging of all. Let us however rise to the challenge and make manifest God's love to all whom we encounter. After all, Jesus showed the greatest love of all in the sacrifice he made on the cross and he made that sacrifice for a group of people quite unlovable: us. It is when we live out this challenging commandment that we will know the joy of Christian living and we will then be “perfect just as our heavenly Father is perfect.”

*Wishing you a blessed week,
Fr Robert*

JESUS SAID
LOVE YOUR
ENEMIES.

Matthew 5:44

Ministries for this week Saturday 18 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers
Angela Harmston
Maria Griffiths

Children's Liturgy
Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers
Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

Ministries for next week Saturday 25 February

Eucharistic Ministers
John & Irene Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers
Judith Bulmer
Marie Pailey

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £286 Loose Plate: £183

Total: £469

Mass Attendance: 136

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

Have you an item for the parish bulletin? Please contact Judith Bulmer on (0191) 378 3544 or 07980 481 858 or send an email to her at judithbulmer@rocketmail.com.

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

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

Donation to St John's Community Hall

At recent meetings of both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee it was agreed that St Patrick's would donate £500 to the rebuilding fund for the community hall that is to be built adjacent to our neighbours at St John the Evangelist Church of England. I received a message of acknowledgement and thanks from the chair of the building committee for this project.

Emailed Bulletin – If you would like to have the parish bulletin emailed to you each week please email Judith (details opposite) and you will be added to the mailing list. Parish Council minutes are also available electronically.

What's going on...?

Bede Anderson RIP: The Funeral Service for Bede who was resident at Rushyfield will take place here at St Patrick's at 10:45am on Monday, 27 February. Please keep Bede and his family in your prayers.

St Patrick's Social Committee Fundraising Night: Tickets are on sale for our next fundraising social night on **Friday, 24 February** at the Royal British Legion, Meadowfield. Raffle tickets are also available. Thank you for your support!

Women's World Day of Prayer Update: WWYD takes place on **Friday, 03 March, 10:30am**, here at St Patrick's. Come along!

Mass Intentions: A gentle reminder that if you wish to have a Mass said for someone, please use the **Mass Offering** envelopes at the rear of the church. Also, it would be most helpful if you would place the envelope on the collection plate during Mass. Alternatively, give the envelope to Fr Robert or Mr Kevin Coad. Thank you!

Churches Together in DH7 Prayer Group: Meeting in St Patrick's Presbytery this **Tuesday, 21 February** from 9:30am—10:00am. All welcome!

Lenten Groups: The York Lenten Course named "Receiving Christ" begins **Friday, 10 March, 2:00pm** at Brancepeth Village Hall. Booklets available at first session. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome!

Carers Support: Do You Look After Someone? If so, then Durham County Carers Support may be able to assist you with specialist advice and information, home visits, help with administrative matters, directions to other services or simply as a listening ear when things are difficult. Brochures are available in the narthex or phone 0300 005 1213.

Annual Memorial Service for Babies: Please see the noticeboard for details of this memorial service for babies who died before or around the time of birth. Wednesday, 01 March at St Cuthbert's Anglican, North Road, Durham. You may know of someone who could benefit from attending this service and the healing it may facilitate.

Ash Wednesday: An early notice about Masses for Ash Wednesday this year. Ash Wednesday is on 01 March and there will be two Masses, one at 9:30am (with St Patrick's school present) and the other at 7:00pm.

Invitation to Youth Ministry Meeting: 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 Youth Village on **Sunday 26 February at 3.30pm**. (Tea, coffee and cake and a chance to chat from 2:00pm). An important aspect of the new partnerships is to explore how we can deepen our relationship with young people. 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.

Help needed: Can you assist a local elderly man with transport for social outings from time to time? If so, please see Fr Robert.

SCHOOL NEWS

Half Term Holiday

School broke up for the half term holidays yesterday and re-opens on Monday 27th February.

Forthcoming Masses and Liturgies

The school children will celebrate the following Masses and liturgies; as well as joining parishioners for weekday services throughout next half term:

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 1 March at 9.30am in church

Infant Liturgy

Wednesday 15 March at 2:00pm in school

St. Patrick's Day

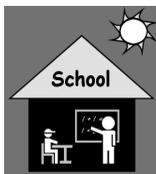
Friday 17 March at 9:30am in church

Mothers' Day Liturgy

Friday 24 March at 9:15am in school

Staffing

One of our Lunchtime Supervisors left our staff at the end of this half term, in order to spend more time with her family. We thank Mrs Di Lella for her service to the school and wish her well.



The Kids' Bulletin

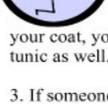
True or False:

What did Jesus say?

*How does Jesus tell us we should act toward others?
Which of these are true and which are false?*



1. When someone hits you on one cheek, you should hit them back.
True or False?



2. If someone tries to take your coat, you should give them your tunic as well.
True or False?



3. If someone makes you walk a mile with them, you should walk two miles.
True or False?



4. If someone asks for something, you shouldn't lend it to them, since they might not give it back.
True or False?



5. You should love your friends and hate your enemies. True or False?



6. You should love your enemies and do good to the people who hate you.
True or False?

7. You should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.
True or False?

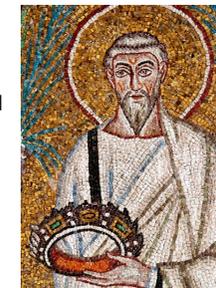
SAINT OF THE WEEK St Polycarp - 23 February

Polycarp (born around the year 69) was a disciple of the Apostles, bishop of Smyrna (today named Izmir in western Turkey), and a friend of St Ignatius of Antioch. He went to Rome to confer with Pope Anicetus about the celebration of Easter. He was martyred in about 155 by being burnt to death in the stadium.

Polycarp is reported to have said at his martyrdom, "How then can I blaspheme my King and Saviour? You threaten me with a fire that burns for a season, and after a little while is quenched; but you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment that is prepared for the wicked."

Polycarp is an important figure in the history of the Church because he is one of the earliest Christians whose writings still survive. He bears witness to the beliefs of the early Christians and the early stages of the development of doctrine.

(Information taken from *Universalis* and *Wikipedia*)



Forward Together in Hope—Parish Partnerships

As you are aware, on Thursday 09 February, two meetings were held concurrently in Darlington and Dunston to inform those present about the new parish partnerships that have been formed across the diocese and the criteria considered which assisted Bishop Séamus and his team in coming to their decisions. Both meetings were packed, with a combined total of about 1600 people present at the venues.

For your information, our proposal went through the process unaltered. This means that Langley Moor is now part of a parish partnership along with nine other parishes (Coxhoe, both Durham parishes, Esh Laude, Langley Park, Newhouse, Sedgfield, Trimdon and Ushaw Moor). Check the noticeboard for a visual representation of this. See the noticeboard for a map and list of parishes.

Please go to www.hope.rcdhn.org.uk for more information. More news as it comes to hand!

DID YOU KNOW...?

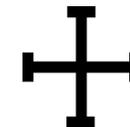
...that the Sermon on the Mount which we are currently hearing at Sunday Mass, has a counterpart in Luke's Gospel?

In Luke's Gospel (6:17-49), Jesus comes *down* from the mountain and addresses the crowds "on a level place", hence "The Sermon on the Plain". The sermon is much shorter than the one found in Matthew's Gospel but is structured similarly, beginning with beatitudes and then moving on to more specific teaching.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"We cannot know whether or not we love God, although there may be strong reasons for thinking so, but there can be no doubt about whether or not we love our neighbour. Be sure that in proportion as you advance in fraternal charity, you are increasing in your love of God, for he bears so tender an affection for us that I cannot doubt he will repay our love for others by increasing, in a thousand different ways, that love which we have for him."

St Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582)
Religious reformer and mystic
The Interior Castle



DON'T FORGET....gathering after Mass. We will be gathering 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 a chance for a chat, a cuppa and a snack! Our **next gathering** will be after Mass on **Saturday, 04 March**.