

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 18 March</b> Weekday of Lent—Week 2	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Victoria &amp; Nathan and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 19 March</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent		
<b>Monday 20 March</b> <i>St Joseph, Husband of BVM</i>	9:30am	Mass: <b>Private intention</b>
<b>Tuesday 21 March</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 3	6:30pm	Mass: <b>McGough and Duffy families</b>
<b>Wednesday 22 March</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 3	9:30am	Mass: <b>Michael Rochford</b>
<b>Thursday 23 March</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 3	7:00pm 9:30am	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> Mass: <b>George &amp; Margaret Swales</b>
<b>Friday 24 March</b> Weekday of Lent - Week 3	7:00am	Mass: <b>Bill Burn</b>
<b>Saturday 25 March</b> <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Joseph &amp; Ann Steadman and Margaret Cox and pro populo</b>



## St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

19 March, 2017

### “Sir, give me some of that water...”

ONE OF GREAT JOYS of Year A of our three-year Sunday cycle of readings is that we get to hear some exceptional Gospel passages and this Third Sunday of Lent is a prime example. Of course, this is not to say that we are not gifted in a special way each week with our scripture readings but the Year A Gospel passages in Lent help us focus on conversion in a special way – we are, after all, called constantly to conversion and Lent is the season dedicated to scrutinising our hearts, identifying where change is necessary. We witness a dramatic conversion story in the Gospel this weekend with the story popularly known as “The Woman at the Well.”

The public standing of the woman (who remains nameless) is evident early on in the text. She comes to the well alone, a very telling fact. It was normal for women undertaking duties like fetching water (always done by women!) to do so as a group for such a hard and mundane task at least afforded opportunities for social interaction. The fact that this woman came alone, and at a warmer part of the day, tells us that she has been ostracised by the community. The long version of the Gospel tells us why: she has been married five times and is currently living with a man; in short, she is regarded as an immoral woman. For Jesus, the one who came to call sinners, she is ripe for conversion!

And this conversion happens gradually. The woman's primary concern, understandably, is water. Water is essential for survival and her focus is solely on getting water from the well for her needs. When Jesus begins a dialogue with the woman he asks her for some water, a simple request that the woman can easily fulfil. When Jesus speaks next of “living water” the woman still associates it with the water in the well. She is nonetheless conversing with Jesus who is eager to build trust with her. Jesus rarely effected healing without building a relationship with the person needing his attention. Next the woman identifies Jesus as a prophet and finally as the Messiah. She tells the people in her village of her encounter and “many more came to believe.” The woman has undergone a remarkable transformation from her contact with Jesus: she begins the story alone with no hint of who Jesus is and by the end of the Gospel is speaking enthusiastically to the people of Sychar of Jesus as the Messiah.

The woman at the well comes to slowly understand the identity of Jesus. There are no “lightning bolts” in her conversion. In fact, the conversion dynamic of the woman is essentially our own conversion story telescoped into a single narrative. The key to her conversion is that she was willing to be drawn into conversation and relationship with Jesus and so listened intently to him. She knew that Jesus was not judging her but rather drawing her slowly into something wonderful and liberating. Her response is to become an evangelist, enthusiastically witnessing to those who had formerly shunned her, and having great success in the process!

May we continue this Lent to listen intently to Jesus knowing that Jesus is concerned not with judging us when we identify areas of our heart in need of conversion but rather is concerned with our willingness to change.

*Wishing you a blessed week,*

Fr Robert



<b>Ministries for this week</b> Saturday 18 March
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> Angela & Gordon Tosley Angela Harmston
<b>Readers</b> Claire Lavery Pat Middleton
<b>Children's Liturgy</b> Anne Davies Angela Harmston
<b>Welcomers</b> Pat Middleton Mary Kitching

<b>Ministries for next week</b> Saturday 25 March
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> Malcolm & Teresa Wass Andrew Aberdeen
<b>Readers</b> Greg Mearman Angela Harmston
<b>Children's Liturgy</b> Maria Griffiths Carol Bainbridge
<b>Welcomers</b> Halina Holman Janet Harrigan

### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £234 Loose Plate: £193

**Total: £427**

**Mass Attendance: 159**

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](mailto:judithbulmer@rocketmail.com).

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

*Pat Curran, Linda Carter, 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, Ohwyn Morris, Jim Patterson, Denise Oxberry, and Imeldā Graham.*

### CAFOD: FAST DAY ENVELOPES

As is customary during Lent, we are called to extend our focus beyond ourselves to assess how we care for the less fortunate in our world. To this end, you will have the opportunity to return a Fast Day envelope during Lent to enable you contribute to CAFOD that they may continue their great work. Go to [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent) for more information on the important work CAFOD does.

**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...?

**Mass: Monday, 20 March:** Please note that there will be Mass this coming **Monday at 9:30am** for the Solemnity of St Joseph.

**Scrutinies:** Over the next couple of Saturday evenings, we will be praying for Brendan PAYNE, a parishioner who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil next month. The scrutinies are basically preparatory rituals which will assist those seeking entry into the Church to look into themselves and ensure that they are best prepared to take this important step in their faith journey. Please pray for Brendan and his family over the coming weeks!

**Stations of the Cross:** As in previous years, this devotion will be offered each **Wednesday evening** in Lent at **7:00pm**. Reconciliation will be offered afterwards until 8:00pm.

**Tuesday Prayer Group:** Every Tuesday evening from 7:00pm just across the road from the church at 14 Goatbeck Terrace. All are welcome. An opportunity to engage with the scriptures prayerfully via the *lection divina* method—no experience necessary! Why not make a commitment this Lent to know God better by coming along? You are welcome to come after the Tuesday evening Mass if you wish, even if that means you'll possibly be a few minutes late.

**Gift Aid envelopes:** New gift aid envelopes, beginning on 01 April, are now available at the rear of the church for collection for those who are part of this scheme. Still a few to be collected. Have you considered joining the Gift Aid scheme?

**CAFOD Gap Year Programme:** There is still time to apply to CAFOD's gap year programme, including a new placement at Leeds Trinity University. For anyone aged 18 – 30: an opportunity to volunteer in the UK, gain experience, develop leadership skills and visit CAFOD partners overseas. Visit [www.cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year) or call Catherine or Lucy on 0207 095 5308.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Please see the noticeboard for details of this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes which takes place from 28 July - 04 August. Direct flight from Newcastle to Lourdes with an overland Jumbulance option too.

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### Statement to live by

As you may know, each week, our worship begins by sharing a 'Statement to live by'. This week's statement was 'I can learn from my mistakes and failures'. The children heard about St. Peter's meeting with Jesus following his denial of him. The children were encouraged to see the times we fail as stepping stones to success, rather than as obstacles.

#### St. Patrick's Day Mass

Thank you to all the parents and parishioners who joined with our school community in Mass on Friday morning to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Particular thanks to Father Robert for celebrating the Mass, Bill Wilkinson for the music, to the pupils who read, to those who helped in the offertory procession and to the altar servers.

#### Pancake Challenge

The sponsored Pancake Challenge was hugely successful in raising funds for our school. The total raised was just over £900, with Matthew Findley being the biggest fundraiser with a massive £170. Thank you to everyone who supported this.

#### Dance Festival

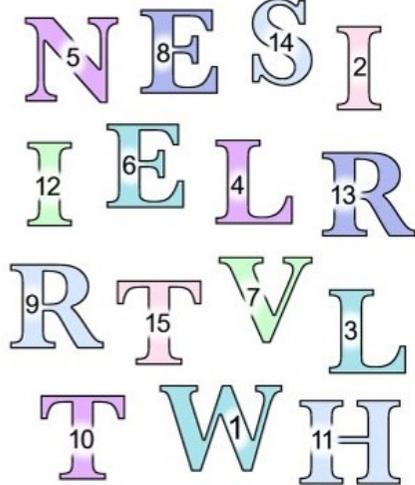
Class 1 (Years 5 and 6) and Class 3 (Years 3 and 4), performed at a Dance Festival at the Gala Theatre on Friday afternoon. Our junior class were awarded a certificate for the most original dance. Well done to all the children!



## LOURDES

### The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent  
March 19, 2017



Jesus says that if we drink  
His living water, we

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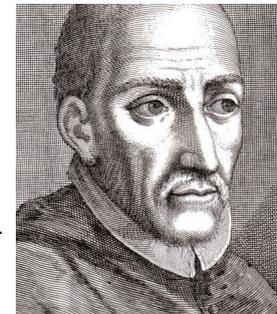
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## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo - 23 March

He was born in Spain in about 1538 and studied law at the University of Salamanca. He was named bishop of Lima in Peru in 1580 and sailed to America. Full of apostolic zeal, he traversed his gigantic diocese three times, generally on foot, baptising, teaching and confirming the natives. He assembled many synods and councils to make the Church strong, organised, and above all holy; and he strongly defended the rights of the natives, who were Spanish citizens according to the law but who were nevertheless being oppressed by the colonists and the provincial governors. He died at Lima on 23 March, 1606.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

## SCHOOL DIARY - All Welcome to attend!

**Wednesday, 22 March, 2:30pm** - Class 2 Liturgy in school

**Thursday 23 March, 9:30am** - Class 1 at Parish Mass followed by penitential service

**Friday 24 March, 9:15am** - Mothers' Day Liturgy in school

**Wednesday 29 March, 2:30pm** - Class 1 Mass in school

**Thursday 30 March, 9:30am** - Class 3 (Infants) at Parish Mass followed by cake sale and tombola in the school hall.

**Thursday 06 April, 9:30am** - Class 2 at Parish Mass followed by penitential service

**Friday 07 April, 9:15am** - Stations of the Cross service in school

## DID YOU KNOW...?

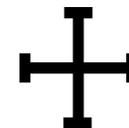
...that the Presentation of the Creed to those becoming Catholics at Easter, always occurs on the Third Sunday of Lent or sometime during the week that follows?

The purpose of this is to reinforce the importance of this statement of our core beliefs as Catholic Christians. Those preparing for entry into the Church have been exploring these beliefs and will proclaim these beliefs at their initiation. Like all Christians they will seek to live out these beliefs each day of their life and make them known to others through their manner of living.

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Our deepest life consists in a willed correspondence with the world of the Spirit, and this willed correspondence, which is prayer, is destined to fulfil itself along two main channels; in love towards God and in love towards humanity - two loves which at last and at their highest become one love."

**Evelyn Underhill** (1875-1941)  
Christian Mystic  
*Concerning the Inner Life*



**PLEASE PRAY FOR....** those who are getting married here at St Patrick's over the next couple of weeks. Please pray for Scott BRYDEN and Caroline DOVE who are to be married here this Friday, 24 March, at 4:00pm, and for Stefan O'NEILL and Clare TAYLOR who are to be married here on Saturday, 01 April at 12:00noon. Remember, though you cannot gate-crash the receptions, you are certainly most welcome to attend the weddings as marriages, like all sacraments, are public events!