

The week ahead...

Saturday 20 May Weekday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: James & Helena Harrison and pro populo
Sunday 21 May 6 th Sunday of Easter	NO MASS	
Monday 22 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Tuesday 23 May Weekday of Easter	6:30pm	Mass: Gordon Riley
Wednesday 24 May Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: Moran Family members
Thursday 25 May <i>St Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor</i>	9:30am	Mass: Pat & Gordon Harrison (50th Wedding Anniversary)
Friday 26 May <i>St Philip Neri, Priest</i>	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Thomas, Helen & John Lynch and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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

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6th Sunday of Easter

21 May, 2017

"...the Father will give you another Advocate..."

LAST WEEKEND we heard Jesus speak of his imminent departure from the disciples with the words "I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone..." Next weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension where Jesus returns to his Father. This weekend we are in an "in-between" zone.

Jesus is still with his disciples at the Last Supper and it is clear that he detects their anxiety at his talk of leaving them, evident last weekend in the words of Thomas and Philip. One can almost imagine the emotion in their voices as they respond to what Jesus was telling them. So Jesus reassures them by making a promise: "I shall ask the Father, and he will send you another Advocate to be with you for ever..." We might be tempted to draw an analogy of parents leaving their children in the hands of a babysitter, telling the children, of course, that they will return later that night. This is, however, a very inadequate analogy in light of the reality of the Gospel.

The Advocate Jesus speaks of is the Holy Spirit, "the Spirit of truth". There is no way we can speak of the Holy Spirit as a "divine babysitter", merely looking after our welfare until the return of Jesus. Such an approach treats this person of the Holy Trinity as being of less significance than the Father and the Son, yet we are told that "whenever God sends his Son, he always sends his Spirit: their mission is conjoined and inseparable. (Catechism, n. 743)

Jesus' words quoted above are interesting on at least a couple of levels. Firstly, he tells the disciples he will send them another Advocate, making it clear that the first advocate is Jesus himself, speaking to the Father on our behalf. Secondly, Jesus tells the disciples that the Advocate he is sending (the Holy Spirit) will be with them for ever. The "babysitter" analogy clearly falls short here! And so the Holy Spirit sent by Jesus, an event we will celebrate in two weeks' time at Pentecost, is still with us today, building, animating and sanctifying the Church (Catechism, n. 747).

Though we cannot see the Holy Spirit we ought to see evidence of it at work. Whenever I talk to the children in our wonderful parish primary school about the Holy Spirit I usually ask them if they can describe the appearance of the wind to me. Invariably children will say things like "the tree branches move" or "my hair blows around." Of course, what they are describing is not the appearance of the wind but evidence of the wind at work. It is the same with the Holy Spirit. We cannot see the Holy Spirit but we can see evidence of it at work in people who are willing to let it do its job.

That means us! Like all Christians, we believe as Catholics that we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit at our baptism and as we mature and grow in faith we hopefully open our hearts to letting the Holy Spirit work in us through our acts of loving service to others in imitation of Jesus.

When we do this we will know, and will want others to know, that there is nothing to fear: God is still very much with us!

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,
Fr Robert



Sixth Sunday of Easter

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.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £220 Loose Plate: £179

Total: £399

Mass Attendance: 141

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

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

Jim Patterson, Denise Oxberry, Pat Curran, Linda Carter, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Dorothy Dowdle, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris and Imelda Graham.



MINISTRIES

Saturday 20 May

Eucharistic Ministers

Angela Harmston
Angela & Gordon Tosley

Readers

Claire Lavery
Margaret Purdom

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Carol Bainbridge

Welcomers

Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

MINISTRIES

Saturday 27 May

Eucharistic Ministers

Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers

Greg Mearman
Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

Special Collections

Our next special collection will be for **World Communications Day** and will be taken up next **Saturday**. The theme for this year is "Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time". Your donation will help support the Church in relaying its message of hope and trust to a world thirsting for these very entities at a time of uncertainty and instability.



What's going on...?

Fr Ejaz: Annual Report : The parish recently received some copies of the annual report regarding the work of Fr Ejaz in Pakistan which is supported by several parishes in the area. If you would like a copy please see Fr Robert or see the copy on the noticeboard.

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.

Ushaw College Events: Have you checked out all the changes at Ushaw College of late? Ushaw is now open more frequently to visitors, conducts more concerts and guided tours and has a revamped café and plenty more on offer. Go to www.ushaw.org for more information. Perhaps we can organise a trip by interested parishioners one day? If interested, please send me an email or chat to me.

May Procession and Parish Family Picnic: The May Procession is scheduled for **tomorrow**, Sunday 21 May at 3:00pm followed by a Parish Family Picnic which, weather permitting, we hope to hold in the grounds behind the church. Burgers, hotdogs and a variety of drinks available. Come along and bring family and friends with you!

Day on the Ministry of Consolation: In response to feedback from Forward Together in Hope, there will be a day on Ministry of Consolation, focusing on support for people and their families during terminal illness, or the journey through dementia.

Date: Saturday, 10 June 2017

Venue: Ushaw College, Durham, DH7 9RH

Time: 10:00am for 10:30am start.

Refreshments will be served on arrival. Lunch is provided. There is no charge for this day but booking is **essential**, no later than Friday 02 June 2017. Please contact spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk or phone 0191 243 3302.

Mental Health Peer Support Group: For those with mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression. Now running in Newcastle at Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle, NE1 7BJ every Thursday evening, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. This PeerTalk project is underpinned by the Methodist Church and offers a safe space to share without being judged. Be heard, respected and accepted, and receive peer support to help you work through mental health concerns.

Pilgrimages: See the noticeboard for details of a pilgrimage to Walsingham or go to www.walsingham.org.uk for details.

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

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator – Holy Family, Hartlepool, f/t, permanent. Administrator – Immaculate Heart, Lobley Hill, 16 hours per week.

Organist – St Mary, Barnard Castle, 2 hours per week.

Business Administration Apprentice - Diocesan Offices, Newcastle, f/t.

For further information and an application pack please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us (0191) 243 3301, or go to email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk.

Celebration of Marriage: "Partnership of Life and Love". At St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle on Saturday, 10 June at 11:00am. Principal celebrant is Bishop Séamus Cunningham. Everyone is welcome!

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Housebound: Do you know someone who lives in the parish but cannot get to Mass and is in need of the sacraments? It is our responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters who cannot gather with us each week. If you know someone in this situation who is in need of pastoral care, please pass their details on to Fr Robert.

LOVE

The Kids' Bulletin

First Reading Word Find

P H I L I P E T E R
R H S A M A R I A E
E N A M E O C W H J
A L Y M S S O O A O
C H R I S T M R N I
H O P R A Y E D D C
E L T A G O D P S I
D Y H C E I J O H N
O W E L C O M I N G
W R R E C E I V E D
N I E S P I R I T T

Today's first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. See if you can find all the words from the reading that are in CAPITALS in the puzzle. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end!

PHILIP went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the CHRIST to them. The people united in WELCOMING the MESSAGE Philip PREACHED, either because they had heard of the MIRACLES he worked or because they saw them for themselves. THERE was great REJOICING in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that SAMARIA had accepted the WORD of GOD, they sent PETER and JOHN to them, and they went DOWN there, and PRAYED for the Samaritans to receive the HOLY SPIRIT, for as yet he had not COME down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the NAME of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid HANDS on them, and they RECEIVED the

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Rita of Cascia - 22 May

Rita was born in 1377 near Cascia, in Umbria, Italy. She was married at the age of 12 despite her frequently repeated wish to become a nun. Her husband was rich, quick-tempered and immoral and had many enemies. She endured his insults, abuse and infidelities for 18 years and bore him two sons, who grew to be like him.

Towards the end of his life she helped to convert her husband to a more pious way of life, but he was stabbed to death by his enemies not long afterwards. He repented before he died and was reconciled to the Church.

Her sons planned to avenge their father's death. When Rita's pleas were unavailing, she prayed that God should take their lives if that was the only way to preserve them from the sin of murder. They died of natural causes a year later.

Rita asked to join the convent of St Mary Magdalen at Cascia. She was rejected for being a widow, since the convent was for virgins only, and later given the impossible task of reconciling her family with her husband's murderers. She carried out the task and was allowed to enter the convent at the age of 36. She remained there until her death in 1447 at the age of 70.

She is widely honoured as a patron saint of impossible or lost causes.

(Information taken from Universalis)

SAINT RITA
of Cascia



MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

Forward Together in Hope highlighted a great number of needs in our diocese and one need highlighted was bereavement support.

In response, the diocese had a small group reflecting and working on this and have become aware of a wider need for a Ministry of Consolation which can begin to support people during a terminal illness or age-related decline. This offers a link with families before a funeral and may establish a good relationship that will endure into the time of bereavement. A day has been planned for **Saturday 10 June** at nearby Ushaw College for those interested in being a part of this ministry.



See the notice on page two opposite and consider whether you are being called to this ministry. As the diocese moves into parish partnerships it is evident that more lay people will take up these crucial ministries in tandem with the clergy. Please see Fr Robert if you feel you might be called to this or simply want to find out more.

SCHOOL NEWS

Mass and Penitential Service – Thursday 25th May

Class 2 (Years 3 and 4) will attend Mass in church, at 9:30am on Thursday morning. A Penitential Service will follow, affording pupils the opportunity to receive either the Sacrament of Reconciliation or a blessing.

Good Shepherd Mass

Our school was represented at the celebration of a Good Shepherd Mass, held in St Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday. Two of our pupils, Edward and Maddy, joined Mrs Burnside, along with staff and pupils from other schools in the diocese. The work of St Cuthbert's Care was recognised during the Mass, which was concelebrated by Bishop Seamus Cunningham and Father Shaun Purdy.

Zoolab

To support their topic work in class, our reception and infant pupils enjoyed seeing and handling a range of mini-beasts and animals in school this week. These included a stick insect, tarantula and python!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Holy Spirit is given many different titles in the scriptures?

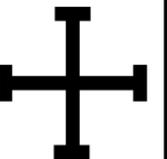
This weekend we hear Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of truth." (Jn 14:17). The Holy Spirit is also referred to by Jesus as the "Paraclete" which means Advocate. The word "Advocate" literally means "he who is called to one's side" (ad-vocatus). St Paul also gives the Holy Spirit many titles, including the Spirit of the promise, the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Lord, and the Spirit of God. Peter refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of glory. See the Catechism of the Catholic Church for more information, especially sections 691—701.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"In Christ, for the first time, we see that in God himself there exists - within his inseparable unity - the distinction between the Father who gives and the Gift which is given (the Son), but only in the unity of the Holy Spirit."

Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-1988)

Swiss Theologian



PLEASE PRAY FOR....those both in employment and those without it. Today is a Day of Special Prayer for Human Work. There is dignity in work but also a responsibility to ensure that work bears fruit for the betterment of humanity. Let us pray that those in government will recognise the need to create opportunities for meaningful work for the unemployed.