

## The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 22 April</b> Saturday in the Easter Octave	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>Bryan Cheeseey, Parkinson &amp; Kemp families and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 23 April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 24 April</b> <i>St George, Martyr</i> <i>Patron of England</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Tuesday 25 April</b> <i>St Mark, Evangelist</i>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mass: <b>Moran family members</b>
<b>Wednesday 26 April</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>9:30am</b>	Mass: <b>Jim Foxcroft</b>
<b>Thursday 27 April</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>9:30am</b>	Mass: <b>Lizzabella &amp; Margaret Jane Morris</b>
<b>Friday 28 April</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>7:00am</b>	Mass: <b>Billy Barry</b>
<b>Saturday 29 April</b> <i>St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor</i> <i>Patron of Europe</i>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>Ian &amp; Kathleen Defty and pro populo</b>

### MINISTRIES

#### Saturday 22 April

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Malcolm & Teresa Wass  
Andrew Aberdeen

**Readers**  
Pat Middleton  
Greg Mearman

**Children's Liturgy**  
(In recess during break)

**Welcomers**  
Halina Holman  
Janet Harrigan

### MINISTRIES

#### Saturday 29 April

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
John & Irene Carey  
Kevin Boyle

**Readers**  
Angela Harmston  
Maria Griffiths

**Children's Liturgy**  
Anne Davies  
Carol Bainbridge

**Welcomers**  
Paul & Anne Kelly

Second 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: £239      Loose Plate: £376

**Total: £615**

**Mass Attendance: 237** (Two Masses)

**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE**  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

*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, Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris, Jim Patterson, Denise Oxberry, and Imelda Graham.*

### Collections

THANK YOU to those who so generously contributed to the collection for the Holy Places on Good Friday. The total raised was **£287.40**. Next weekend we will take up the collection for the **sick and retired priests**. The collection for **Little Sisters of the Poor** will be taken up the following Saturday (06 May). Please be as generous as you can!



## St Patrick's R. C. Church

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

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

## 23 April, 2017

**“As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.”**

WE HAVE ALL had the experience of a sudden shift of emotions or feelings, from despair to joy, for example, or vice versa. It is often the case that the greater the negative feelings we experience the more intense are the positive feelings when they come. Such is the situation we have presented to us today in the Gospel on this final day of the Easter Octave. Imagine the scene: there are the disciples huddled together in the room with closed doors as they wait for whatever would happen next. They no doubt feared suffering the same fate as Jesus, crucifixion, and were waiting for the arrival of the Jewish leaders to arrest them and take them to trial and inevitable execution. That they were feeling despair is probably somewhat understating the case!

Then we hear of the appearance of Jesus. The Gospel writer doesn't build up any great tension prior to the appearance of Jesus. We simply hear a statement of fact: “Jesus came and stood among them.” Knowing the emotional turmoil they were undergoing, his first words were “Peace be with you.” The Gospel writer conveys the sudden shift in emotions by telling us that “the disciples were filled with joy” at seeing Jesus.

The emotional rollercoaster ride was not to end there. We don't hear of any joyous celebration at the reunion of Jesus and the disciples, no time even for conversation to recall old times. After once again saying “Peace be with you”, Jesus immediately sends the gathered disciples out on mission with the words “As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.” Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon them and details the mission: it is to be about reconciliation. But we are talking here not of the sacrament with which we are familiar but rather a total conversion of the world into one in which justice, peace and mercy will reign supreme. This will require firstly that individuals reconcile themselves with God and God's people; then, and only then, will circumstances be such that a transformation of the world will be possible.

This was the mission given to the disciples on that fateful day and it is the mission with which we are entrusted. As always, Jesus asks us to go beyond that with which we feel comfortable and content, seeking out areas of our existence and influence which need his love and mercy and doing what we can to shed light on them. Though we might feel something of that same fear which gripped the disciples as they awaited their perceived fate, we know that we don't do it alone for just as the disciples received the Holy Spirit at the commencement of their mission, so do we – at baptism.

On this Sunday when we celebrate the Divine Mercy of our God, let us embrace the mission we have been given, knowing, through the Divine Mercy, that the message we spread is not one of retribution and punishment, but of love, reconciliation and peace. This mission was modelled beautifully for us in both Pope St John XXIII and Pope St John Paul II who were canonised on this weekend three years ago. As we carry out our mission we can have confidence in the supportive prayers of these two saints as well as our current Pope Francis.

*Wishing you a blessed Easter season,*  
*Fr Robert*



## What's going on...?

**Churches Together in DH7:** Everyone is invited each Friday at 2:00pm (28 April, 05,12,19, 26 May and 02 June) to explore the '50 Great Days Easter to Pentecost' at St Andrews Methodist Church, Carr Lane, Brandon. All welcome! See noticeboard for details.

**The Way We See It: A Response:** As we move into new partnerships, an important emerging priority is our relationship with young people. The report of the young people's survey 'The Way We See It' and Pope Francis' call for a Synod on Youth invite us to reflect on this relationship. All adult parishioners and young people of sixth form age are invited to a diocesan conference at the Newcastle Academy Rooms on **Saturday 13 May**. Further details are in the booking form available from the parish priest or from the Youth Ministry Team on 01207 592244 or [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org). Details also on YMT website [www.ymt.org](http://www.ymt.org).

**'Peer Talk':** A peer support group for people living with depression. See noticeboard and go to [www.peertalk.org.uk](http://www.peertalk.org.uk). Begins 11 May.

**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.

**Minsteracres:** Have you checked out the programme for all the events happening at Minsteracres, a wonderful resource basically on our doorstep? For more information: [www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org).

**Ushaw College Events:** Speaking of wonderful resources on our doorstep, 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](http://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.

**Ushaw Moor Catholic Club:** The Catholic Club is available for birthday parties and wedding anniversaries as well as receptions after weddings and funerals. For more information, phone 07519 672 570 and, if need be, leave a message.

**Parish Partnerships:** You will be pleased to know that some action is taking place with regards to the new parish partnerships that were recently announced by Bishop Séamus. There are some copies of the booklet to support this titled "Pointing the Way" available at the back of the church or, if you prefer, a soft copy can be emailed to you (please email me at the parish to organise this). As actions emerge from these guidelines you will most certainly be notified.

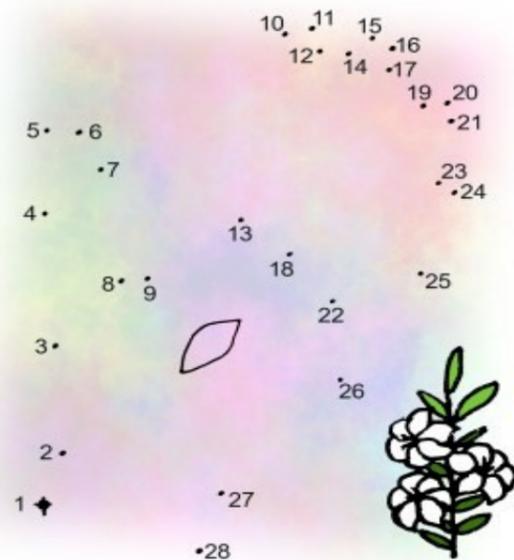
**Parish Pastoral Council:** The next meeting is scheduled to take place this Wednesday, 26 April, at 7:00pm.

**New Noticeboard:** I'm sure you have seen the new noticeboard out the front of the church. I believe the larger format and the better placement will be helpful most especially to passers-by. As well as a copy of the front and back pages of the bulletin, on occasion there will be other information posted in there, so please keep an eye on it! Thank you to Arthur Pattinson for organising its design and purchase on behalf of the parish.

**May Procession and Parish Family Picnic:** Advance notice of the May Procession which is scheduled for Sunday 21 May at 3:00pm followed by another Parish Family Picnic which, weather permitting, we hope to hold in the grounds behind the church. Mark the date in your diary!

## The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter  
April 23, 2017



Saint Thomas wasn't there the first time Jesus came to the Apostles after He rose from the dead. What did Thomas say he would have to see before he believed that Jesus was alive? Connect the dots to find out!

### Doubting Thomas Word-Find

Find the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle, and when you're done use the left over letters to fill in the blanks near the end.

In the EVENING when the doors were locked where the DISCIPLES were for FEAR of the JEWS, Jesus came and said, "PEACE be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples REJOICED. JESUS said again, "Peace be with you. As the FATHER has sent me, so I SEND you." He breathed on them and said, "RECEIVE the Holy SPIRIT. Whose SINS you forgive are FORGIVEN them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

THOMAS, one of the TWELVE, wasn't there when Jesus came so they told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said, "UNLESS I see the mark of the NAILS in his hands and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A WEEK later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were LOCKED, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my HANDS, and bring your hand and put it into my SIDE, and do not be UNBELIEVING, but believe." Thomas said to him,

"\_\_\_\_\_!"  
Jesus said, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? BLESSED are those who have not seen and have BELIEVED."

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

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Catherine of Siena - 29 April

Catherine was born in Siena in 1347 and, seeking perfection, entered the Third Order of the Dominicans when she was still in her teens. In 1370 she was commanded by a vision to leave her secluded life and enter the public life of the world. She wrote letters to many major public figures and carried on a long correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, urging him to reform the clergy and the administration of the Papal States. She burned with the love of God and her neighbour. As an ambassador she brought peace and harmony between cities. She fought hard to defend the liberty and rights of the Popes and did much for the renewal of religious life. She also dictated books full of sound doctrine and spiritual inspiration. She died on 29 April 1380.

In 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church.

(Information taken from *Universalis*)



## Sick and Retired Priests

As we are taking up the collection for sick and retired priests **next weekend**, I thought I would include a small extract from a letter by Fr Phil Quinn, Chairman of the Northern Brethren Fund (first recorded meeting in 1650!) which is responsible for overseeing the care of sick and retired clergy.

*You may remember the time when parish priests never retired. They stayed in the parish until they died. But then they were supported by several curates who did the work, and a housekeeper who looked after them. That is not the present reality, and though they may stay in post well beyond the normal retirement age, there comes a time when they need to retire from office and need our support and care in their retirement.*

*...we ask for your support for our retired priests. As well as the retiring collection, there are gift aid envelopes and standing order forms.*

*...So thank you for your love and care for our retired priests. May God bless them and God bless you in your care for them.*

## DID YOU KNOW...?

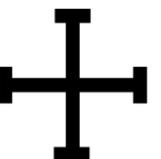
...that the Second Sunday of Easter used to be referred to as "Low Sunday"?

Though this may seem a strange name, it refers to the fact that the previous Sunday, Easter Sunday, is the pinnacle of the Church's year, and so is a "high" Sunday. By referring to the Second Sunday of Easter as "Low Sunday", the contrast between the beginning and end of the Easter Octave (the eight days which begin on Easter Sunday) is highlighted. The Second Sunday of Easter is also referred to as *Divine Mercy Sunday* (promulgated by Pope St John Paul II in 2000) and as *St Thomas Sunday* because of the Gospel that is always used on this Sunday.

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Christ is risen; He is risen from the dead. We may well cry out, "Alleluia, the Lord Omnipotent reigneth." He has crushed all the power of the enemy under His feet. He has gone upon the lion and the adder. He has stopped the lion's mouth for us, His people, and has bruised the serpent's head. There is nothing impossible to us now, if we do but enter into the fulness of our privileges, the wondrous power of our gifts."

**John Henry Newman** (1801-1890)  
Theologian and cardinal



**DON'T FORGET....gathering after Mass!** We will be gathering in the school hall 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 for a chat, a cuppa and a snack! Our next gathering will be after Mass **Saturday, 06 May**. Come along!