

The week ahead...

Saturday 25 February Saturday of Ordinary Time 7	5:00pm	Mass: Betty Allison and pro populo
Sunday 26 February 8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 27 February Monday of Ordinary Time 8		
Tuesday 28 February Tuesday of Ordinary Time 8	6:30pm	Mass: Iris Mackenzie (Recently deceased)
Wednesday 01 March <i>Ash Wednesday</i> (Day of fasting and abstinence)	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: Pro populo Mass: Deceased members of the Parkin family
Thursday 02 March Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9:30am	Mass: Private intention
Friday 03 March Friday after Ash Wednesday	7:00am	Mass: Private intention
Saturday 04 March Saturday after Ash Wednesday	5:00pm	Mass: In thanksgiving and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 February, 2017

“Do not worry...”

WHENEVER I read or hear these words of Jesus, I am always tempted to respond (rather irreverently, I confess), “Well, that’s easy for you, the Son of God to say!” But of course, when Jesus talks about our human tendencies the point is that he did know about human nature and the struggles we have because he was fully human. To illustrate his point Jesus talks of our tendency to place our trust not in God but in the things of this world, most especially money: “You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.”

In uttering these words Jesus is clearly saying that we ought to be the slave of God. The word ‘slave’ might be distasteful to modern ears when so much effort has been expended outlawing slavery (though sadly, it still exists in some parts of the world) but in the time of Jesus slavery was generally accepted (unless you were a slave, I suppose!) The implication in being a slave of God is that it is, paradoxically, a liberating existence, as opposed to the normal understanding of slavery as bondage. What are we liberated from when we place our trust in God? We are liberated from undue concerns and worries of the world, knowing that God’s unconditional love will never let us down and we need not worry about bolstering our future security.

This does not mean that we can sit back and do nothing, however. Jesus is not saying that we ought not to concern ourselves with material possessions; he is saying that we ought to have a healthy attitude to them. If our sole concern is with amassing material goods and money then we clearly cannot give our relationship with God (or anyone, for that matter) due attention. When we do give God due attention in prayer, praise and worship then we will feel motivated to work for our food, clothing and other necessities and acknowledge that our basic needs have been satisfied through God’s providence. God is not concerned with making us rich but only with giving us what is needed. When we view the huge disparity in our world between the rich and the poor then we need to ask ourselves what has gone wrong. It is not about God favouring the rich and punishing the poor but rather the very rich often ignoring the will of God, maybe ignoring God completely. Our duty is clear in this regard: to work for justice and equality out of our love for others who are no less God’s creation than are we.

As always, we need to take the words of Jesus seriously but recognise that we will indeed worry about some things; parents worry about their children, people worry about the security of their jobs in times of economic uncertainty, and so on. What is important is our response to these concerns. Do I simply seek by my own efforts to influence the future or do I choose to work co-operatively with my creator God who has only the best in mind for me and would never forget me, as we hear in our First Reading this weekend from Isaiah?

One road leads to life and freedom, the other to a mere bonded existence: the choice is ours.

Wishing you a blessed week,

Fr Robert



Ministries for this 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

Ministries for next week Saturday 04 March

Eucharistic Ministers
Wilf Lavery
Helen Musham
Jane Smith

Readers
Angela Tosley
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy
Anne Davies
Carol Bainbridge

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £226 Loose Plate: £229

Total: £455

Mass Attendance: 170

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, Olwyn Morris, Jim Patterson, and Denise Oxberry.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **David and Jane Smith** on the recent birth of their beautiful baby daughter **Ava Florence**. Please keep the family in your prayers.



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 this **Monday, 27 February**. Please keep Bede and his family in your prayers.

Iris Mackenzie RIP: The Funeral Service for Iris, from Brandon, will take place here at St Patrick's at 12:30pm this **Friday, 03 March**. Please keep Iris and her family in your prayers.

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

Lenten Booklets: "Walk With Me": Available in the narthex for £1.00. A great way to have a reflective Lent, with a small reflection for each day of this holy season.

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!

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

Stations of the Cross: As in previous years, this devotion will be offered each Wednesday evening in Lent at **7:00pm**, beginning on **Wednesday, 08 March**. Reconciliation will be offered afterwards until 8:00pm.

Gathering after Mass: Our next parish gathering will take place **next Saturday (04 March)** after Mass. Thanks to Carol Proudlock for her thoughtfulness and generosity of time and talent in baking some delicious goodies for our last gathering in February. Those who came to our last gathering enjoyed themselves immensely!

St John's, Meadowfield Open Day: Our neighbours are having an Open Day next **Saturday, 04 March**, between 10:00am and 2:00pm. This is an opportunity to explore the church, chat to parishioners, listen to the organ and many other activities, including some for children. See the noticeboard for more details.

100 Years of Fatima: This year marks the centenary of the extraordinary events at Fatima. See the noticeboard for some resources you can purchase from CTS. Go to www.ctsbooks.org/fatima or call 0207 640 0042.

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Katharine Drexel - 03 March

Katharine (b.1858) was born in Philadelphia to a rich banking family. In 1891, at the age of 33, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, an order dedicated to mission work among Indians and black people. A contemporary survey of the situation in the United States described "250,000 Indians neglected, if not practically abandoned, and over nine million of negroes still struggling through the aftermath of slavery." She spent her entire life and her entire fortune on this work, opening schools, founding a university, and funding many chapels, convents and monasteries.

Katharine died on 03 March 1955, by which time there were more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the United States.

(Information taken from Universalis)



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!

The Kids' Bulletin

Ash Wednesday

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Lent is a special time in which we prepare to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Lent is a time of repentance. We make sacrifices and try to improve our lives to become more like Jesus. Jesus never sinned but He gave up His life to pay for our sins. That is why we make sacrifices—out of love for God and to make up for our sins. We offer our sacrifices to God the Father, just as Jesus on the cross offered up His life to God the Father.

On Ash Wednesday if you go to Mass you can receive ashes on your forehead. The ashes are a sign of repentance. They remind us that without God we are nothing and that someday we will die and be buried. But they can also remind us that if we do have God living in us, after we die we will rise from the dead, just as Jesus did on Easter, after He died on the cross.



Unscramble and fill in the blanks!

Put the letters in squares into the proper spaces at the bottom to find out what Jesus was teaching about in today's Gospel reading.



- You cannot 1. (VEERS) two masters.
 You 2. (TACONN) serve God
 3. (DNA) mammon.
 4. (KLOO) at the 5.
 (DRIBS) in the sky: they do not 6. (WOS) or
 reap, they 7. (THERGA) nothing
 into barns, yet your 8.
 (LANHYEEV) Father feeds them. Are not you
 more 9. (TANTIPMOR)
 than they?
 But 10. (EKES) first the kingdom of
 11. (DGO) and His righteousness, and all
 these 12. (SNGITH) will be given
 you 13. (SEDISBE)
 Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take
 14. (RACE) of itself.

11 6 3 10 9 7 4 1 12 5 8 2 14 13

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that ashes, such as those applied to the forehead on Ash Wednesday, have been a sign of repentance since ancient times?

There are many references in the Hebrew scriptures to people covering themselves in ashes to repent of their sins. (eg. 2Sam 13:19, Esther 4:1, Job 2:8, Daniel 9:3, Jonah 3:6) As a matter of interest, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday to mark our foreheads are made from the burnt palms and other branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The words which accompany the placing of the ashes is: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

Words used in the distribution of ashes at Mass



DON'T FORGET....gathering after Mass. We will be gathering **next Saturday after Mass** 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! Please come along—for a short time or longer, whatever takes your fancy!