

The week ahead...

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| Saturday 25 March <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> | 5:00pm | Mass: Joseph & Ann Steadman, Margaret Cox and pro populo |
| Sunday 26 March 4 th Sunday of Lent | | |
| Monday 27 March Weekday of Lent - Week 4 | | |
| Tuesday 28 March Weekday of Lent - Week 4 | 6:30pm | Mass: In thanksgiving |
| Wednesday 29 March Weekday of Lent - Week 4 | 9:30am | Mass: Frank & Marie Wilson |
| Thursday 30 March Weekday of Lent - Week 4 | 7:00pm | Stations of the Cross |
| | 9:30am | Mass: Special intention (B) |
| Friday 31 March Weekday of Lent - Week 4 | 7:00am | Mass: In thanksgiving for a 90th birthday (PS) |
| Saturday 01 April Weekday of Lent - Week 4 | 5:00pm | Mass: Frank & Marie Wilson and pro populo |



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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4th Sunday of Lent

26 March, 2017

"Lord, I believe!"

ONE OF THE ABIDING MEMORIES of my childhood is that of my parents keeping a stock of candles in the kitchen cupboard for use whenever a blackout occurred in the evening. Whilst blackouts were not that frequent, they nonetheless were an inconvenience whenever they occurred, though I always felt a bit of excitement at reverting to a more primitive method of lighting up the house, but frustrated too that I couldn't watch television!

Darkness and light are two phenomena that are an integral part of living. We tend to seek light whenever there is darkness (who hasn't felt a secret relief at seeing the light when emerging from a dark train or road tunnel?) and welcome darkness only when we are ready for sleep. In short, we are people of the light.

And this applies equally to our spiritual lives. As Christians, as a baptised people, we have been brought out of darkness into the light, the light which comes with knowing Christ and his salvation. In the baptism ritual there are repeated references to light in order to emphasise what is happening to the one being baptised: "Bathe this child in light", "bring this child out of the power of darkness", "this child is to walk always as a child of the light", and so on. Those who have been baptised are an "enlightened" people.

Yet this does not mean that we don't sometimes live as though we prefer darkness. We show a preference for darkness whenever we turn away from the source of light, Christ Jesus; in other words, when we sin. In today's Gospel we hear two stories: one of a man who literally lived in darkness, a blind man, who came into the light through contact with Jesus; and the story of a group of people who believed they were enlightened, the Pharisees, who show by their words and actions that they actually lived in darkness.

The encounter between Jesus and the blind man gives us plenty of material for reflection. We witness two important signs: the application of mud to the man's eyes and the directive to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The application of mud reminds us of the second (but older) creation story in Genesis when "the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground." (2:7). New life was created at this point just as the blind man is given new life by Jesus. The washing in the pool of Siloam is a clear reference to baptism. It is only when the man washes that he is given sight, both physical and spiritual, evident when he utters the words, "Lord, I believe."

As we reach the halfway point in our Lenten pilgrimage, it is worthwhile reflecting on how we often prefer the darkness over the light, evident in our words and actions. We have been gifted with something very precious in our baptism – the gift of the knowledge and power of our loving and merciful God and the ability to relate intimately with him. Let us not treat this gift with contempt but instead acknowledge our sins and renew our pledge to be a people of light and return to God through another gift, the sacrament of Reconciliation. Numerous opportunities are offered to return to the Lord this Lent: will you accept the invitation?

Wishing you a blessed week,

Fr Robert



Ministries for this week Saturday 25 March

Eucharistic Ministers
Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers
Greg Mearman
Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Carol Bainbridge

Welcomers
Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

Ministries for next week Saturday 01 April

Eucharistic Ministers
John & Irene Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers
Marie Pailey
Judith Bulmer

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £204 Loose Plate: £170

Total: £374

Mass Attendance: 140

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, 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 Imelda 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/ent 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...?

Daylight Saving begins: Remember to turn your clocks **forward** one hour tonight!

Fr Brian: As I have an engagement to attend next Saturday evening, Fr Brian Murphy will return to celebrate Mass.

Gathering after Mass: As next Saturday is the first Saturday of the month, as usual we will be gathering in the school hall after Mass for a chance to get to know one another better, sharing some food and drink. As always, you are welcome to stay for as little or as long as you wish.

Scrutinies: We continue to pray 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 leading up to Easter!

Stations of the Cross: This devotion is being offered each **Wednesday evening** in Lent at **7:00pm**. Reconciliation will be offered afterwards until 8:00pm.

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.

Interfaith Prayer for Unity: Following the events in London earlier this week, there will be an Interfaith Prayer for Unity Service on Sunday 26th March at 3pm at St Mary's Cathedral. We will come together to pray and encourage people to continue to work together for peace and unity.

St Patrick's Social Committee: Our Senior Citizens' Spring Party will be on Saturday 22 April at the Royal British Legion, Meadowfield, from 12:30pm. If you would like to attend please put all names on the list at the back of the church. We will be selling raffle tickets after Mass from next Saturday. Any donations for prizes would be most gratefully received.

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement of the Week

"I try to keep going when things get difficult, and not give up hope."

Following the Gospel reading (Mark 10: 46-52), the poem 'Footprints in the Sand' was shared and the story of the Brownlee brothers from the 2016 Olympics was discussed.

Masses and Liturgies

Thank you to all those who supported our class liturgies this week. The theme for the liturgy led by Class 2 was 'self-discipline', while 'Mothers' Day' was the focus of the liturgy led by Reception on Friday morning. Thank you to Father Robert who supported us on these occasions and gave a blessing to the women attending the 'Mothers' Day' celebration.

Reconciliation

Class 1 (Years 5 and 6) took part in a Penitential Service after Mass on Thursday morning, affording them the opportunity to either receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or a blessing, during this important season of Lent.

Building Works

During the Easter break, the windows in the main hall of school are to be replaced. Scaffolding will need to be erected along the length of the windows, approximately 3 metres deep into the school yard. A barrier fence will be placed in between the scaffolding and the remainder of the playground. We hope this will not inconvenience parishioners using the playground to park cars during this time. Works to this area of the school will be completed before school resumes on 24th April.



The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 26, 2017

*What did the man that Jesus cured say to the people who thought Jesus was a sinner?
Use the code at the bottom to find out!*

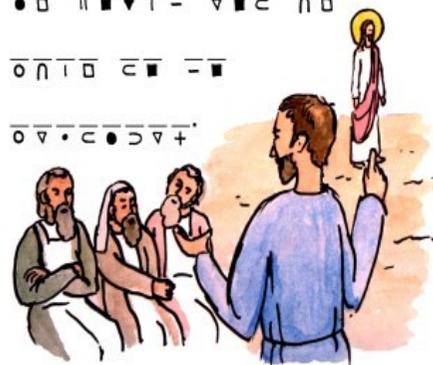
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A B D E F G H I L M N O R S T U W Y

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St John of Egypt - 27 March

One of the most famous early desert hermits, a noted prophet of his era. He was born in Lycopolis, modern Assiut, Egypt, was a carpenter by trade and became a hermit at the age of twenty. He was walled up in a hermitage near Assiut, with a single window opening onto the public. There he preached to vast crowds each weekend. He predicted two military victories for Emperor Theodosius I, and they were proven accurate in 388 and 392. He avoided all people for the last fifty years of his life. According to the writer on saints Alban Butler, John prayed incessantly, and he spent the last three days of his life without food or drink or any interactions but prayer. He was discovered in his cell, with his body in a position of prayer. He died around the year 394. The cell in which John spent his life was discovered in 1925.

(Information taken from Catholic Online and Wikipedia)



SCHOOL LITURGIES - All welcome to attend!



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 there are three sacraments of initiation in our Catholic tradition?

Baptism, of course, is always the first sacrament of initiation, be a person baptised as an infant or an adult. In the Latin Church (Roman Catholic), the next sacrament of initiation is usually Eucharist, followed by Confirmation, though these two sacraments can be received in reverse order, as happens when an adult is initiated at the Easter Vigil. The Eastern Catholic Churches have different traditions such as confirming at Baptism. Either way, the prominence of Baptism is evident in all Christian traditions: Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

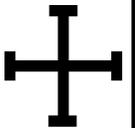
"The man who is fasting may prepare his heart, cleanse his flesh, weed out his vices, and sow virtues. Nevertheless, if he does not sprinkle his plants with streams of mercy, he does not gather his harvest. O you who fast, when your mercy fasts your field fasts, too. O you who fast, what you pour out in mercy comes back as storage in your barn."

St Peter Chrysologus

(c.380—c.450)

Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Sermon 43



PLEASE PRAY FOR.... those who are getting married here at St Patrick's around this time. Please pray for Scott BRYDEN and Caroline DOVE who were married here on Friday and for Stefan O'NEILL and Clare TAYLOR who are to be married here next 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!