

The week ahead...

| | | |
|--|---------|---|
| Saturday 25 November Saturday of Ordinary Time 33 | 5:00pm | Mass: Teresa Coad and pro populo |
| Sunday 26 November Our Lord Jesus Christ the King | NO MASS | |
| Monday 27 November Monday of Ordinary Time 34 | NO MASS | |
| Tuesday 28 November Tuesday of Ordinary Time 34 | 6:30pm | Mass: Jack Wilkinson & Marie Carey |
| Wednesday 29 November Wednesday of Ordinary Time 34 | 9:30am | Mass: Walter Staff |
| Thursday 30 November <i>St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland</i> | 9:30am | Mass: Jordan Dee (sick) |
| Friday 01 December Friday of Ordinary Time 34 | 7:00am | Mass: Joan Holmes |
| Saturday 02 December Saturday of Ordinary Time 34 | 5:00pm | Mass: Arthur Crooks, Joan Moran and pro populo |



St Patrick's R.C. Church

A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

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

Priest in Charge: Fr Robert Riedling Ph: (0191) 378 4486

Mob: 07904 833 785

Email: langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk

St Patrick's R.C. Primary School Ph: (0191) 378 0552

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully Ph: (0191) 526 5131

Christ the King

26 November, 2017

"...you did it to me."

WE REACH THE END of our liturgical year this week. This Sunday, being the final Sunday of the year, is designated as "Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe", better (and more succinctly!) known as "Christ the King".

As we reach the end of the Church's year so too we draw near to the end of the Gospel of Matthew which has been our principal focus over the past twelve months. The words we hear Jesus speak today are his final words before he becomes a central figure in the drama of the Passion. Chapter twenty-six of Matthew's Gospel, which follows on immediately from today's reading, begins with the words "When Jesus had finished saying all these things...". He goes on to remind the disciples of his impending death. Jesus has said all he intends to say – it is up to those who have heard his words to respond to them.

It is not insignificant that Jesus' concluding words before his Passion concern the Final Judgement. This aspect of our faith is perhaps the one on which we least like to focus. When we think of judgement by God our minds immediately bring forth memories we have tried to bury concerning shameful things we have said or done, things we would rather keep buried and hidden away from others and most certainly hidden from the God who will judge us, once at our death and again at the end of time.

The Gospel today tells us that ultimately we will be judged on our actions, not on our intentions, our thoughts, our feelings or on our ability to avoid sin. Furthermore, the actions on which we will be judged are not explicitly religious. The basis on which the king in today's Gospel separates the sheep from the goats – that is, the "good" from the "bad" – is that of care and concern for the less fortunate: the hungry, the thirsty, the alien, the poor, the imprisoned and the sick. There is no mention made of what we would call pious actions. These are important only insofar as they lead to the actions Jesus emphasises in his words today. And so as we reflect on our own lives a key question will be to what extent we have reached out to others because this is essentially the meaning of the parable of the sheep and the goats. No doubt, as mentioned above, we will find many opportunities given to us by God to reach out to those in need that we have not gladly embraced for one reason or another. And these reflections may fill us with shame and fear, especially in light of the final judgement.

Such fear though, is unnecessary. It is unnecessary because our First Reading from Ezekiel tells us that the "lost", that is, sinners, are the very ones in whom God shows a special interest. A failure of charity on our part need not lead to eternal perdition but, if acknowledged and brought out into the light, will be forgiven. In our Catholic sacramental understanding, this happens in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Many opportunities exist for this right throughout the year in our parish and surrounding parishes with additional opportunities in Advent. Why not take up one of these opportunities?

We can then look forward to being grouped in with the sheep, rather than with the goats!

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert



Feast of Christ the King

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.

We pray for our beloved deceased, including....



Bernard McGOAY (Rec. Dec.)

Teresa COAD

Mary BYRNE

Ralph CANAVAN

John MIDDLETON

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

*Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris,
Jim Patterson, Linda Carter,
Tom Taylorson,
Sylvia Kelly,
Mary Spears, Rose Crick,
Maureen McCrann,
Doreen Carroll and
Margaret Pouton.*



MINISTRIES

Saturday 25 November

Eucharistic Ministers

Irene & John Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers

Angela Harmston
Greg Mearman

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers

Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

MINISTRIES

Saturday 02 December

Eucharistic Ministers

Jane Smith, Helen Musham
Wilf Lavery

Readers

Judith Bulmer
Marie Paily

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £286

Loose Plate: £180

TOTAL: £466

Mass Attendance: 124

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Advent: Be Prepared! The beginning of Advent is just one week away now. As always there are opportunities to make Advent a truly meaningful season. One opportunity which is on offer here in the parish is on Friday afternoons, beginning this coming Friday (see page opposite). If you are not able to make this, why not consult the diocesan website for the **Advent: Be Prepared!** resources which you can utilise at your leisure. Go to the diocesan homepage to download at www.rcdhn.org.uk.

Christmas Tree Baubles: This year baubles for the Christmas tree on the sanctuary will be sold for £1 each at the back of the church. Attached to each bauble is a tag on which you can write the name of a deceased loved one, or someone who you simply want to remember at Christmas, which will then be placed on the tree. Monies raised will go towards some gifts that the children at our school will distribute to the residents of Brandon Lodge, Rushyfield and The Orchards as well as to our parishioners who are housebound.

Catholic Youth: This weekend we will take up a retiring collection for **Catholic Youth**. You will have received an insert with the bulletin this weekend titled "We Couldn't Have Done It Without You" which outlines where the support of parishes has benefitted the youth of the diocese over the past twelve months. Please give as generously as you can and don't forget the gift aid envelopes are near the church doors should you need one.

Mass intention for this Thursday: Jordan Dee is 22 years old and lives in Middlesbrough with his parents. He has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. His parents care for him at home. In February this year he suffered a cardiac arrest and the attending North East Ambulance Service saved his life. Fund raising events have been held for the ambulance service. The Mass on Thursday is to pray for Jordan and his family. Please remember them in your prayers.

"Walk With Me" Advent Reflection Booklets: At the rear of the church you will find copies of the "Walk With Me" booklets to help nourish your Advent journey with a short reflection for each day of Advent. £1.00 each.

Holy Days of Obligation: The Bishops of England and Wales have approved two more holy days of obligation beginning in 2018. In addition to the current holy days of SS Peter and Paul, the Assumption and All Saints', the **Epiphany** (06 January) and the **Ascension** (Thursday of Week 6 of Easter) are also holy days of obligation.

Missio APF/Mill Hill: Sponsors will collect Red Box and Brown Envelope quarterly contributions during the first two weeks of December. Please see the noticeboard for the news of the Christmas Appeal.

Parish of the Durham Martyrs: Memory Café: The Inclusive Group is delighted to announce the launch of a Memory café for those affected by dementia and their carers. Come and chat to people affected by dementia in a friendly and relaxed social environment, on **Tuesday 12 December, 1:00-3:00pm, St Joseph's, Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG.**

It behooved Christ to suffer these things, and so to enter into his glory

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of Christ the King
November 26, 2017



A E F H I L M P R S T U W Y
△ □ > ■ | - ▲ ○ ● < + U ∩ ×

What does God say about His people in the first reading?
Use the code to find out some of what He said.

— | ▲ × < □ - > ∩ | - -
○ △ < + U ● □ + ■ □ ▲

SAINT OF THE WEEK

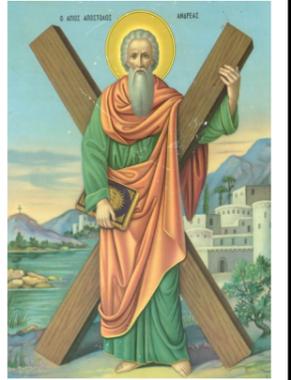
St Andrew - 30 November

Andrew was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, and worked as a fisherman. He may have been a disciple of John the Baptist. He became one of the first to follow Jesus and introduced his brother, Simon Peter, to him. As one of the twelve Apostles he was widely venerated in ancient times, and became patron saint of Scotland because according to legend some of his bones were brought there and buried at the place where the town of St Andrew's now stands.

Andrew is also a patron of Greece, Russia, Cyprus, Barbados, Romania and Ukraine. He is also a patron saint of fishermen, fishmongers and rope-makers, textile workers, singers, miners, pregnant women, butchers, farm workers, is invoked for protection against sore throats, protection against convulsions, protection against fever, and protection against whooping cough.

Andrew is said to have been crucified on an X-shaped cross in the city of Patras in western Greece, though the year of his death, like that of his birth, is unknown.

(Information taken from *Universalis*)



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for November

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

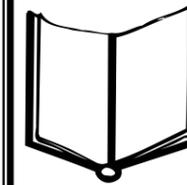


"In all settings you find yourselves, God's love invites you to bring the Good News, making of your own lives a gift to him and to others."

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

BIBLE STUDIES

The Churches Together prayer group will meet on the **Tuesday of every third week** in the winter months in St Patrick's Presbytery, **9:30am to 10:00am.**



Also, it is St Patrick's turn to host the **Advent Course** which begins on **Friday, 24 November.** It will run for four Fridays from **2:00pm - 4:00pm.**

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

Our statement this week was, 'I can work, rest and pray.' We thought about the importance of balance in our lives and looked at the life of Jesus, as an example of this being lived out.

Chocolate Gift

Thank you to Malcolm Wass, for his chocolate treats from Austria. These were kindly given as a gift for our school children and were gratefully received.

Youth Friday - 24 November

Youth Friday was celebrated during an assembly in school on Friday. A fundraising event will follow next Friday, with all funds raised going to support the work of the Youth Ministry Team, which works from the Emmaus Youth Village in Allensford.

Flu Vaccinations

Where parents had taken up the offer, pupils from Reception through to Year 4 were given flu vaccinations in school this week.

Forthcoming Diary Dates

Sunday, 03 December @ 4:30pm

Lighting of Christmas Tree opposite Lidl in Langley Moor

Tuesday 05 December @ 5:45pm

Children preparing for First Eucharist to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 06 December @ 2:30pm

Classes 3 & 4—Liturgy in the school hall

Thursday 07 December @ 9:30am

Class 1—Mass in church followed by a penitential service

All are welcome!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that although violet vestments are worn during the season of Advent, it is not a penitential season. The only truly penitential season in the Church is Lent.

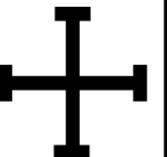
The purpose of the Advent season is not to focus on repentance for sin but rather to do two things: to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and to direct the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Thus the Advent season asks us to look backward and forward and also to discern Christ's presence here and now.



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"My daily hour with God is not a time of deep prayer in which I contemplate the divine mysteries or feel a special closeness to God. On the contrary, it is full of distractions, inner restlessness, confusion and boredom. It seldom, if ever, pleases my senses. Even though I do not feel God's love the way I feel a human embrace, even though I do not hear a voice as I hear human words of consolation, even though I do not see a smile as I see a human face, still the Lord speaks to me, looks at me and embraces me."

Fr Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)
Dutch Catholic Priest and theologian
Discernment



DON'T FORGET... that after Mass **next weekend** we will be gathering in the school hall for our monthly fellowship, a time simply to get to know each other better over some drinks and snacks. We had a terrific turn up last time so let's keep up the momentum, especially as we draw nearer the festive season!

