

The week ahead...

Saturday 27 May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Thomas, Helen & John Lynch and pro populo
Sunday 28 May The Ascension of the Lord	NO MASS	
Monday 29 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Tuesday 30 May Weekday of Easter	6:30pm	Mass: James & Mary Reynolds
Wednesday 31 May <i>Visitation of the BVM</i>	9:30am	Mass: Tom Tracey
Thursday 01 June <i>St Justin, Martyr</i>	9:30am	Mass: Frank & Marie Wilson
Friday 02 June Weekday of Easter	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 03 June <i>St Charles Lwanga & Co, Martyrs</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Lily Robson & Tony Caiger and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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The Ascension of the Lord

28 May, 2017

"Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations..."

LAST WORDS are very important. Those last words communicated by loved ones stay with us for a long time, possibly to our own death, be they conveyed to us in spoken or written form, directly or indirectly. If the opportunity arises, those who are in a position to formulate final messages because they have been told they have a limited time to live, make a great effort to carefully choose their final words to loved ones. In today's Gospel we hear the final words on earth of one whom we love and one who loves us unconditionally – Jesus. This weekend's Gospel consists of the final few verses of the Gospel of Matthew and it is a text which is often chosen during the celebration of baptisms simply because we hear Jesus tell the disciples to do just that, baptise: "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father...". We can be sure that if anyone is going to choose their last words carefully it will be Jesus.

Jesus' last words before his Ascension to his heavenly Father, according to Matthew the Evangelist anyway, are to baptise, thus increasing the number of disciples in the world. But more is to come: "...teach them to observe all the commands I gave you." His commission in these final words on earth is clear: to baptise and to teach. I always emphasise to the families of those children I baptise that Jesus is telling us that with baptism goes a responsibility to teach. It is easy to baptise a child, just a single ceremony, but this is only the beginning of new life in Jesus: the real work begins once the baptism ceremony is over and this work involves conveying to the newly baptised the joy of living out Jesus' commandment to love.

Essentially, this is what Jesus means when he calls on us to teach. It is not about the formal mode of teaching with which we are all familiar from our schooldays but rather modelling for the newly baptised Jesus' great example of unconditional love. It is in living and loving this way that the Christian faith is conveyed from one generation to the next. Formal teaching is important but it is actions which have real and lasting impact, when, for example, someone is the recipient of an unexpected gesture of generosity or forgiveness.

Modelling for others the love of Jesus is not easy. It involves resisting the natural temptation we all feel for vengeance and violence, "giving as good as we get" and "teaching others a lesson they'll never forget" as a means of conveying our anger and frustration. We cannot live like Jesus by our own efforts and for this reason we ought to be grateful for the gift of the Spirit which Jesus sent upon the world after his ascension to his heavenly Father. We can be sure that he is still with us, aiding us in our mission to love and live as he did, for his very last words on earth before his ascension were:

"And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,

Fr Robert



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: £255 Loose Plate: £220

Total: £475

Mass Attendance: 162

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

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

Imelda Graham, 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, Margaret Pouton, Pat Harrison and Olwyn Morris.



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

MINISTRIES

Saturday 03 June

Eucharistic Ministers
Irene & John Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers
Claire Lavery
Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

The Ascension



Special Collections

Our next special collection will be for **World Communications Day** and will be taken up at **this Mass**. The theme for this year is "Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time". Next weekend we will take up a retiring collection for **Fr Brian** so that we can present him with a monetary gift on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee on Friday 13 June at Willington.

What's going on...?

Official Launch of our Parish Partnership: Next weekend, Pentecost, sees the launch of the Parish Partnerships throughout the Diocese. You will receive two brochures with your bulletin next weekend, one titled *Pointing the Way* and the other *Prayer for our new Partnership*. I will also reveal the name that has been given to our partnership; until then, it's a secret!

The General Election 2017: You will receive with your bulletin this weekend a letter from the Bishop of England and Wales regarding issues for consideration as the general election on 08 June draws closer. I would encourage you to read through this as you formulate a decision about the candidate for whom you will cast your vote in a couple of weeks' time.

Jean O'Donoghue RIP: The funeral service for the late Jean O'Donoghue will take place at Durham Crematorium on Friday, 02 June at 3:30pm.

Gathering after Mass: As next Saturday will be the first Saturday of the month, we will be having our usual gathering after Mass to get to know each other better. As usual, all welcome!

Thank you letter: Received this week from the Little Sisters of the Poor for our donation of £431.00 at the recent appeal.

May Procession and Parish Family Picnic: Many thanks to all who helped to make last Sunday's procession and picnic such a great success. Please see page opposite for a formal thank you.

Mission (APF/Mill Hill Missionaries): Quarterly Overseas Mission contributions will be collected by sponsors during the month of June.

Mission Summer Mass: Saturday, 03 June at 11:00am in St Joseph's Church, High West Street, Gateshead NE8 1LX. (Opposite the bus station—parking available). This Mass is for all APF/Mill Hill supporters and their families. Refreshments after Mass.

Pope Francis Mission Statement for June: "That leaders of nations may make a firm commitment to ending the arms trade, which victimises so many innocent people. Jesus wants hearts that are open and tender towards the weak, never hearts that are hardened."

Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Appeal for Nurses: Due to increased requests from people needing nursing care and assistance on our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes we need to make an appeal for more nurses. Are you a nurse? Do you know a nurse in your family, a friend, or a nurse in your parish that you might think could help us in Lourdes? Could your parish support funding for a nurse to come to Lourdes? Are you a registered nurse or experienced adult carer who can give some time over to helping sick people travel to Lourdes? If you can help please get in touch with Fr Peter J Stott on 01670 513410, www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk or contact lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk.

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!

Class Teacher Position: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs at Esh Winning is looking to fill a vacancy, to be filled by January 2018 or sooner. Please contact the school on (0191) 373 4343 or email ourladyqueenofmartyrs@durhamlearning.net.

The Kids' Bulletin

Ascension Sunday
May 28, 2017

AGBOCDDMEOFUGNHTHSJHK
ILSMTNHORPOQNRSTTOS
VHWOXUYTZSAOBFCJDOEYF



What does today's Psalm say about the Ascension?
Use every other letter from the box of letters above
to fill in the blanks below.

G _____

_____!

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St Charles Lwanga & Companions - 03 June

Many Christians, Catholic and Protestant, were killed by the Ugandan king Mwanga. Some of them were servants in the king's palace or even his personal attendants. Charles Lwanga and his twenty-one companions (the youngest, Kitzo, was only 13) were executed for being Christians, for rebuking the king for his debauchery and for murdering an Anglican missionary, for "praying from a book," and for refusing to allow themselves to be ritually sodomised by the king. They died between 1885 and 1887. Most of them were burned alive in a group after being tortured.

Within a year of their deaths, the number of catechumens in the country quadrupled. St Charles Lwanga is the patron of Catholic Action and of black African youth, and the Ugandan martyrs' feast day is a public holiday in Uganda.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

MAY PROCESSION — THANK YOU!

Last Sunday we celebrated the May Procession and it was a terrific success! We had quite a good turnout for the church celebration, including some very welcome visitors from local churches and the weather was more than suitable for our outdoor parish picnic on the lawn behind the church. Of course, none of this success comes without the effort of many people. As well as thanking all of those who supported the day by simply being present, I want to thank those children from St Patrick's Primary School who did such a great job with the liturgy: Maddy, Brooklyn, Aimee, Lucia, Emily, Ketila, Leo, Vanessa, Tiana. I want to thank our wonderful school choir, supported beautifully and professionally, as always, by Richard Openshaw. We must not forget our altar servers, Ane, William, Edward and



Malcolm and all those who helped with the food: Carol Bainbridge, John and Carol Proudlock, Angela Harmston and Maria Davies. Thank you too to Pauline Burnside for all her co-ordination and support. A very positive response from all I spoke to about this year's May Procession. Looking forward to an equally moving and enjoyable event in 2018!

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement of the Week

This week's statement to live by was "I know how to show I am sorry."

Half Term

School closed for the half term holiday on Friday 26th May and will resume on Monday 5th June. We wish our staff and pupils a lovely half term break.

Year 6 - Residential Retreat

Year 6 pupils will attend an overnight retreat with the Youth Ministry Team, at The Emmaus Village in Allensford, after the half term holiday.

May Procession

Many thanks to Father Robert, our school children, families, visitors and parishioners who helped to make this year's celebration such as success.



DID YOU KNOW...?

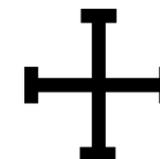
...that the Feast of the Ascension was celebrated last Thursday in some parts of the world?

The Feast of the Ascension, of course, recalls the time when Jesus ascended into heaven. As the Catechism tells us: "Christ's ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again." (665) When we read the scriptures we see that Jesus appeared for forty days after his resurrection before ascending to heaven. The fortieth day after Easter Sunday fell last Thursday and so some parts of the world celebrate the Ascension on the Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter. In Australia, and in many other nations, the decision has been made to celebrate the Ascension on the Sunday before Pentecost so that more people have the opportunity to share in this Feast.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Moses brought out of Egypt a timid nation, and in the space of forty years trained it to be full of valour for the task of conquering the promised land; Christ in forty days trains his apostles to be bold and patient instead of cowards. They mourned and wept at the beginning of the season, but at the end they are full of courage for the good fight; their spirits mount high with their Lord, and when he is received out of their sight, and their own trial begins, they return to Jerusalem with great joy, and are continually in the temple, praising and blessing God."

Bl. John Henry Newman (1801-1890)
Theologian and cardinal



PLEASE PRAY FOR....our Parish Partnership as it is officially launched next weekend at Pentecost. Pray that it will become a true source of spiritual and practical vitality for our community and that we will allow the Holy Spirit to move us to see and embrace new and fruitful ways of being Christian disciples to the world beyond our parish.