

The week ahead...

Saturday 28 January <i>St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Vera Keep and pro populo
Sunday 29 January 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 30 January Monday of Ordinary Time 4		
Tuesday 31 January <i>St John Bosco, Priest</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Mary Patterson Vera Kitching Alice Egglestone
Wednesday 01 February Wednesday of Ordinary Time 4	9:30am	Mass: Kennedy & Davison Families
Thursday 02 February <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9:30am	Mass: Lizzabella & Margaret Jane Morris
Friday 03 February Friday of Ordinary Time 4	7:00am	Mass: In thanksgiving
Saturday 04 February Saturday of Ordinary Time 4	5:00pm	Mass: Alice Egglestone and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

29 January, 2017

"This is what he taught them...."

OUR GOSPEL readings over the past couple of weekends have sought to identify just who Jesus is: the Light to the Nations and the Lamb of God. He begins his preaching by calling people to repent, to have a radical change of heart and so open themselves to God's mercy and a new manner of living. Jesus calls his first few disciples and then continues his preaching and effects cures in those who are sick. Truly, this is the Anointed One and many people recognise something special in Jesus, even if they are not yet ready to acknowledge him as the Messiah. Between the end of last weekend's Gospel and the beginning of the Gospel this weekend, we hear how "...his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan." (Mt 4:24-25)

It is these crowds that Jesus sees as we hear today's Gospel, the famous Beatitudes, the prelude to Jesus' extended teaching, for three chapters, on the meaning of discipleship and Christian living, popularly known as the Sermon on the Mount. (Incidentally, Luke's parallel to Jesus great sermon takes place not on a mountain but on the plain: see Luke 6:17-49). The word "beatitude" comes from the Latin word "beatus" meaning blessed. It is unfortunate that the translation of the Gospel we use at Mass doesn't reflect this clearly for we find the word "happy" being used at the beginning of each verse instead of the more familiar, and accurate, "blessed".

We shouldn't allow this to deflect from the beauty of the teaching we find here. I like to think of the Beatitudes as Jesus' means of preparing his audience for what is to follow in his teaching on the mountain. He tells us how fulfilment and blessedness is to be found, the disposition needed for one to know true happiness if you like, and then expands on how this is to be lived. Had Jesus concluded his teaching with the Beatitudes we may well be at a loss to know how to find the blessedness of which he speaks.

We will hear excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount over the next few weeks in the lead-up to Lent. I would encourage you to fill out this teaching by reading the full text of the sermon yourself. Having said that, it doesn't make for a relaxing and comforting read! Jesus never offers a formulaic, "colour by numbers" approach to life and he certainly does not speak of an easy road to salvation. The teaching we are presented with challenges us to reflect on our current manner of living, our attitudes and our priorities in life. As he often does, Jesus turns conventional and worldly wisdom on its head which obliges we, his disciples, to reflect closely on how faithfully we have been living out our discipleship.

As we hear the words "This is what he taught them", let us pray that we are open to the teaching from the one we know to be our Saviour.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



Ministries for this week Saturday 28 January

Eucharistic Ministers
Jane Smith, Helen Musham
Wilf Lavery

Readers
Ann Canavan
Angela Tosley

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

Ministries for next week Saturday 04 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers
Margaret Purdom
Claire Lavery

Children's Liturgy
Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £218 Loose Plate: £185

Total: £403

Mass Attendance: 156

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, Ohwyn Morris and Bede Anderson.



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

What's going on...?

Gathering after Mass: At last week's Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting, a decision was made to have a regular informal gathering after Mass once a month. This idea came about after the great success of the gathering we had a week before Christmas last year. To this end, we will be gathering 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 first gathering of the year will be after Mass next weekend on **Saturday, 04 February**.

St Patrick's Social Committee Fundraising Night: Tickets will be on sale from tonight for our next fundraising social night on Friday, 24 February at the Royal British Legion, Meadowfield. Raffle tickets will also be available in the narthex over the next few weeks. Thank you for your support!

Women's World Day of Prayer Update: The final meeting and rehearsal for WWDP will be on **Wednesday, 15 February at 11:00am** at St Patrick's Presbytery. It would be helpful if all those parishioners who are involved (eg. caterers, singers, readers) could be present. WWYD takes place on **Friday, 03 March** here at St Patrick's.

Knitted Bible Scenes: Something unique to view! Last chance this **Sunday, 29 January**, to see these Old and New Testament scenes at All Saints Church, Newton Hall from 2:00pm—6:00pm. Entry free.

Friday Mass Intentions: Please don't forget that each Friday there is a 7:00am Mass for which there is rarely an intention requested. Whilst I understand that many people wish to be present when a Mass intention they are offering is being celebrated, this is not essential. If it is not important for you to be present at a Mass for which you are asking an intention, consider asking for it to be celebrated on Friday morning. The intention will be printed on the back page of the bulletin and the Mass announced and faithfully offered.

SCHOOL NEWS

Inspection – Wednesday and Thursday (1st and 2nd February)

Our school has been notified that a diocesan inspection will take place next week. The areas to be inspected are religious education, collective worship and the Catholic life of the school. We hope that this will be a celebration of our school.

Youth Ministry Team Celebration

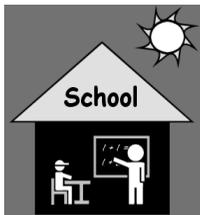
As in previous years, two of our pupils, accompanied by a member of staff, will attend Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle in order to give thanks for the work of the Youth Ministry Team. They will join with other schools across the diocese in this celebration. Many thanks to Lucia and Joseph for representing our school this year.

Thursday Mass

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 will attend Mass in church on Thursday morning of next week. They will not be leading the Mass, but joining parishioners in celebrating the usual weekday Mass.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

Our school is taking part in the Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme which launched on the 25th January. This helps provide the school with new sports and cooking equipment. Please support our school by collecting the Active Kids vouchers and sending them into school or leaving them at the back of church. Many thanks.



Blessed

The Kids' Bulletin

Mixed-Up Beatitudes!

There's something wrong with each of these beatitudes. Can you find the problems?

1. Blessed are the poor ^{in spirit} in the desert, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will smile.
3. Busy are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will have cakes.
5. Blessed are those who beg, for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clever, for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called peacemakers.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the land of plenty.

Here are the right answers to the mistakes. Can you fix them?

*be comforted
the merciful
be satisfied
clean of heart*

*— poor in spirit
the kingdom of heaven
children of God
Blessed are the meek*

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John Bosco - 31 January

Born in Piedmont, Italy, of a peasant family in 1815, John was raised by his widowed mother. He became a priest and had particular concern for the young. He settled in Turin in which the industrial revolution was bringing enormous movements of population and consequent social problems, especially for the young men who arrived there to find work. John Bosco established evening classes for these men as well as a boarding-house for apprentices and then workshops for their training and education. Despite much opposition, some from within the Church, by 1868 over 800 boys and young men were under his care.

To continue his work he founded a congregation which he named after St Francis de Sales, the Salesians, who exist to this day.

John Bosco died in 1888.

(Information taken from [Universalis](#))



FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE

During this evening's Mass a pastoral letter from Bishop Séamus will be read outlining the results of the meetings that have taken place over the past few weeks to determine the future look of the Diocese as a result of the consultations over the past two and a half years. Meetings are scheduled for **Thursday, 09 February at 7:30pm** in two different locations, open to all people, to hear about the new partnerships that are proposed and the principles used to determine the decisions that have been made. The two locations are:

1. The Lancastrian Suite, Lancaster Road, Dunston
2. Carmel College, The Headlands, Darlington

DID YOU KNOW...?

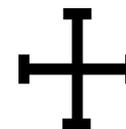
...that though the Gospel of Matthew, which is our focus this year, is the first to appear in the Bible, it was not the first written?

The first Gospel to be written was, in fact, the Gospel of Mark, probably written some thirty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Matthew and Luke wrote their Gospels, using Mark as a basis, most likely some ten to fifteen years after Mark, around 80CE. John was the last Gospel written, sometime towards the end of the first century. The symbol for Matthew's Gospel is a man.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Holiness does not consist in one exercise or another, but is a disposition of the heart, which renders us humble and little in the hands of God, conscious of our weakness, and confident, even daringly confident, in His fatherly goodness."

St Thérèse of Lisieux
(1873-1897)
Virgin and Doctor of the Church



PRAY FOR... the United States as Donald Trump is inaugurated as President. His election has highlighted great divisions and injustices in the nation and so we pray that the Holy Spirit will move him and his team to enact policies which promote economic and social justice and equality and so build a more harmonious society. We pray too that a greater peace will be evident across the world through the considerable influence of America.