

## The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 30 April</b>	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Alice Egglestone RIP and <i>pro populo</i></b>
<b>Sunday 01 May</b> <i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>		
<b>Monday 02 May</b> <i>St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor</i>		
<b>Tuesday 03 May</b> <i>Sts Philip &amp; James, Apostles</i>		
<b>Wednesday 04 May</b> <i>The English Martyrs</i>	9:30am	Mass: <b>Walter Staff</b>
<b>Thursday 05 May</b> Thursday before Ascension Sunday	9:30am	Mass: <b>Harold and Walter Tonge</b>
<b>Friday 06 May</b> Friday before Ascension Sunday	7:00am	Mass: <b>Priest's Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 07 May</b> Saturday before Ascension Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Jonathan and Irene Ramm and <i>pro populo</i></b>



**St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor**

Priest in Charge: Fr Robert Riedling Ph 0191 378 4486

St Patrick's RC Primary School: Ph 0191 378 0552

Hospital Chaplain: Ph 0191 526 5131.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**01 May, 2016**

### "My own peace I give you."

WE ENCOUNTER a distinct contrast between the situations in our First Reading and the Gospel this weekend. On the one hand we witness the first of the major disputes in the infant Church (as well as its resolution) and on the other hand we hear some soothing, consoling words of peace as Jesus heralds the imminent arrival of the Holy Spirit.

As we heard last weekend, the main commandment of Jesus, in fact the only commandment of Jesus, is to love. Again, these appear to be comforting words ("Love one another...just as I have loved you.") but living them out practically is not so easy. The problem for us is that at times selfish intent rears its ugly head and we inevitably end up undertaking an action where God's will is not in the picture, kidding ourselves that we know better than God and supplanting God's role. It is a failure to live out Jesus' manner of loving and there is a word for it: sin.

Being a disciple of Christ is never easy. I would contend that the life of a Christian, if taken seriously, is marked by turmoil and uncertainty at times. What is God's will? Where is God in this difficult situation that is causing me pain? Why do the good suffer and the sinful flourish? Why don't I feel God's presence when I need it most? How can God possibly work in this intractable situation? And so on....

In our First Reading today from the Acts of the Apostles, we encounter a dispute among the early followers of Jesus regarding salvation. We have a prime example here of the difficulty of living out the commandment of Jesus. At this time, of course, the vast majority of Jesus' followers were Jewish and still observed all the practices of Judaism, including circumcision and, for the most part, attendance at the synagogue on the Sabbath. They felt therefore, that those who were not Jewish and who wanted to follow Christ, had to become Jewish first and essentially live as they did, including being circumcised. Not surprisingly, this created some debate! In the end a compromise was reached whereby those who were not Jewish and who wanted to join the band of disciples were not required to be circumcised but were asked to observe some of the dietary laws of the Jews as well as avoiding sexual immorality.

What is perhaps of greatest interest to us in this dispute is the acknowledgement by those who made the decision of the role of the Holy Spirit. ("It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves...") It was not a case of being struck by a thunderbolt or by some magical process that the Holy Spirit worked in this situation but rather through deliberation, debate and almost certainly not a little fist-shaking! In the end a solution was found whereby the number of followers of Jesus was increased and all were able to know the peace promised by Christ. The Holy Spirit had been at work in this situation but it required the cooperation of all involved in the dispute and a desire on their part to observe the commandment of love.

May it be so for us in our struggle to live as disciples of Jesus for although there may not always be peace in the world around us, with the help of the Holy Spirit we may know the inner peace that Christ wishes to bestow on us.

*Blessings and prayers throughout the Easter season,*

*Fr Robert*



#### Ministries for this week

Saturday 30 April

#### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

Pat Harrison, John & Irene Carey

#### **Readers:**

St Patrick's School and Greg Mearman

#### **Children's Liturgy:**

Anne Davies and Angela Harmston

#### **Welcomers:**

Sally Thompson and Janet Harrigan

#### Ministries for next week

Saturday 07 May

#### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

Wilf Lavery, Jane Smith and Helen Musham

#### **Readers:**

Angela Tosley and Marie Pailey

#### **Children's Liturgy:**

Maria Griffiths and Michelle Dennis

#### **Welcomers:**

Halina Holman and Pat Middleton

#### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

**Gift Aid: £269 Loose Plate: £212**

**Total: £481**

**Mass Attendance: 153**

**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE**  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

Items for the newsletter? Please contact Judith Bulmer on 0191 378 3544 or 07980 481 858 or send an email to her at [judithbulmer@rocketmail.com](mailto:judithbulmer@rocketmail.com).

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

*Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Marie Wilson, Jack Wilkinson, Dorothy Dowdle, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Betty Allison and Michael Kaine.*

Our recent collections for the Northern Brethren Fund and Little Sisters of the Poor have raised **£207.09** and **£342.65** respectively. Thank you for your generosity!

**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...?

**Parish Council Annual General Meeting (AGM):** Scheduled for Wednesday, 15 June at 7:00pm in St Patrick's school hall. Any issues you would like discussed at the AGM need to be emailed to Judith Bulmer ([judithbulmer@rocketmail.com](mailto:judithbulmer@rocketmail.com)) by 31 May. The meeting will also include elections for membership of the Parish Council. More details on this process to come. Please consider coming along to this meeting - all parishioners welcome!

**St Patrick's website:** If anyone has any information or material that could be included on the parish website please see Carol Bainbridge or email Judith Bulmer. Photographs of previous events would be perfect, for example, the flower festival and centenary celebrations, old historical photographs. Actual photographs will be returned very quickly to their owners.

**St Joseph's, Gilesgate:** The Parish of Durham Martyrs is made up of what used to be St Godric's, St Bede's and St Joseph's, Gilesgate. The churches, though, still keep the same names. On Friday, 06 May at 7:00pm there is to be a Mass to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Joseph's church.

**First Communion Cards:** New stock now available for sale in the baptistery area.

**May Procession:** Sunday 22 May at 3:00pm. Refreshments served afterwards in St Patrick's school hall.

**Pope Francis's Mission Statement for May:** That families, communities and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelisation and peace.

**Mass for the Sick:** Mass with anointing of the sick scheduled for Saturday 11 June at 11:00am. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Church House. Anyone who can help with lifts for parishioners please see Judith Bulmer.

**Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion:** Two brief Saturday afternoon formation sessions have been scheduled for Readers (14 May) and Communion Ministers (21 May), starting with afternoon tea at 3:00pm and then a one-hour session following through to 4:30pm. New procedures as well as refreshing old skills will be covered. Please sign up at back of church!

**Voices of Mercy:** 'Visit the sick'. An evening listening to the voices of people who visit the sick and an opportunity to reflect on what this means for us. Come to St Cuthbert's, Chester le Street at 7:00pm, Wednesday, 25 May.

**Alzheimer's Society:** If you have dementia, or are caring for someone with dementia, come along to the Dementia Cafe at North Road Methodist Church, 28 North Road, Durham, on Wednesday 11 May from 10:00am - 12 noon.

### Prayer Novena for the re-evangelisation of our nation

In response to the call of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop Sentamu of York, there will be a prayer Novena called Thy Kingdom Come from Ascension Thursday to Pentecost (08 - 15 May) for the re-evangelisation of Britain. We have been invited to take part. There are to be 6 Beacon Cathedrals in England as focal points for prayer. Durham Cathedral is one of these and the final prayer liturgy will be there on Pentecost Sunday 15 May at 7:00pm.

This is a free event, but for planning purposes tickets do need to be booked through the website: <http://thykingdom.co.uk/>.

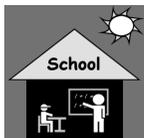
From 08 to 15 May there will be prayer spaces set apart in the Cathedral for this intention. You might be able to visit during that week or pray in your own church communities. During the Novena a prayer event will be held each day in the Galilee Chapel focusing on the Northern Saints.

## For our younger parishioners....

## SCHOOL NEWS

**Holiday Park:** Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed taking part in the official opening of Holiday Park, in Langley Moor on Wednesday afternoon of last week. They tried out all the new play equipment and were given some light refreshments before returning to school.

**Family Mass:** Thank you to all the children who produced the artwork which will be on display at the front of church after Mass this evening. This has been inspired by the Second Reading of the Mass. Thank you also to Edward for supporting the celebration as a reader.



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St John of Beverley - 07 May

Bishop of York. Born at Harpham (Humberside), he studied at Canterbury under Adrian; on returning to Yorkshire he became a monk at Hilda's double monastery of Whitby. In 687 he was consecrated bishop of Hexham in succession of Eata. He was reputed to have shown special care for the poor and the handicapped, including one young man whom he taught to speak. He also used to retire to a hermitage for periods of prayer; it was he who ordained Bede both deacon and priest.

On the death of Bosa in 705, John became bishop of York. At the same time, Wilfrid, now an old man, succeeded him at Hexham as part of the final settlement of his prolonged dispute with Northumbrian kings. John, however, never incurred the enmity of Wilfrid or his followers. As bishop of York he founded the monastery of Beverley, then in a forest. He retired there in 717, about four years before his death there on 07 May.

Both Bede and Alcuin recorded his miracles. King Athelstan (d. 939) invoked his intercession for victory against the Scots. Early calendars recorded his feast. In 1307 his relics were translated; this was the occasion for a Life by Folcard. Other devotees include the anchoress Julian of Norwich, King Henry V, who ascribed the victory of Agincourt on his translation feast to his intercession and John Fisher who was born at Beverley.

His shrine was for centuries one of the most popular pilgrim centres in England. He was canonised by Pope Benedict IX in 1037.



(Taken from Catholic Online [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org))

## DID YOU KNOW...?

...that May is traditionally the month dedicated to Mary?

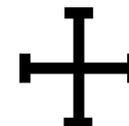
May is the month in which we acknowledge in a special way Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary, of course, has a special place in the life of Catholics at all times, but May traditionally has been the month in which Catholics might offer extra prayers for Mary's intercession or make an effort to gather in groups to pray the Rosary together and so on. It makes sense to ask for the intercession of Mary for which son could refuse the prayerful request of the mother he loves and adores?



## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Until then let my mind meditate on you, let my tongue speak of you, let my heart love you, let my mouth preach you. Let my soul hunger for you, let my flesh thirst for you, my whole being desire you, until I enter into the joy of the Lord, who is God, Three in One, blessed for ever. Amen.

**St Anselm (1033-1109)**  
**Archbishop of Canterbury**  
**and Doctor of the Church**  
 From the *Proslogion*



**Please pray for....Craig MUSHAM and Helen CAMPBELL who were married here this weekend. Also, pray for baby Nadia SIDLO, baptised here last weekend and for baby Jackson THOMPSON to be baptised on Sunday, 01 May.**