

The week ahead...

Saturday 06 February St Paul Miki and companions, Martyrs	5:00pm	Mass: Vera Kitching and the people of the parish <i>Confessions after Mass</i>
Sunday 07 February 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 08 February Weekday of Lent		
Tuesday 09 February Weekday of Lent		
Wednesday 10 February Ash Wednesday	9:30am and 7:00pm	9:30am Mass: Living and Deceased members of the Moran family
Thursday 11 February Our Lady of Lourdes	9:30am	Mass: Joan Dawson
Friday 12 February Weekday of Lent	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 13 February Weekday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Private Intention and the people of the Parish <i>Confessions after Mass</i>

Ministries for this week Saturday 06 February

Eucharistic Ministers:
Mr and Mrs Burnsdie, Angela Harmston

Readers:
Greg Mearman and Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy:
Jane Smith and Helen Campbell

Welcomers:
Sally Thompson and Janet Harrigan

Ministries for next week Saturday 13 February

Eucharistic Ministers:
Mr and Mrs Wass, Andrew Aberdeen

Readers:
Angela Tosley and Margaret Purdom

Children's Liturgy:
Maria Griffiths and Michelle Dennis

Welcomers:
Halina Holman and Pat Middleton

Last week's collection:

Gift Aid: £206 Loose Plate: £247

Total: £453

Mass Attendance: 188

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

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, Sheila Collinson and Margaret Pouton.

Any items for the newsletter please contact Judith Bulmer on 0191 378 3544 / 07980 481 858 Email: judithbulmer@rocketmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: If you would like to have the bulletin emailed to you each week please email Judith (details above) and you will be added to the mailing list. Parish Council minutes are also available electronically.



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.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

07 February, 2016

The Joyful Season of Lent

Lent is almost upon us! This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday (Masses at 9:30am and 7:00pm) which marks the beginning of this joyful season.

What was that – joyful? Lent? Yes, it is indeed a joyful season because it is a season which is given to us by the Church to help us prepare for the great “Feast of feasts” and “Solemnity of solemnities”, Easter. If we don't associate a time dedicated to fasting with joy it is because we are not focused on the end but rather the means. Just as a marathon runner loses enthusiasm and stride if he or she fails to focus on the end of the race and the possibility of the glory of winning, so too during Lent we can lose enthusiasm for our penitential practices if we don't focus on the glories of the greatest of all feasts which lies at the end of this six week period. Our experience of Easter will be intensified if we can remain true to the initial penitential and prayerful fervour of Ash Wednesday. When we “keep our eyes on the prize” we will know a joy perhaps we haven't known before because we will be preparing ourselves in the best possible way for the Paschal season.

But what is the best way to prepare? What should I do during Lent to help me best prepare for Easter? Too often we hear people telling others what they are “giving up” for Lent. It has become a sort of mantra, a very Catholic question to ask just before or during Lent. How often have you made a cup of coffee or tea for a Catholic friend only to be told not to put any sugar in it “because I've given up sugar for Lent”? Certainly, “giving up” something we enjoy for Lent is no bad practice but if that is as far as our preparation for the great “Feast of feasts” goes then we are likely to find the arrival of Easter has little impact on our faith life.

A better approach might be to ask ourselves not “What am I giving up for Lent?” but rather “What am I *giving* for Lent?” Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. Therefore, our prayer and self-denial ought to help make our Christian discipleship more noticeably active. We see the greatest model of this is Jesus himself. As well as acts of service, a good way we can consider giving, of course, is to contribute to Cafod. Envelopes will be made available soon.

I conclude with the words used to bless the ashes for Ash Wednesday:

O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May each of you enjoy a fruitful Lenten season.

Blessings and prayers, Fr Robert



Ash Wednesday at St Patrick's: Please note that there will be **two** Masses here at St Patrick's, Langley Moor, on Ash Wednesday, 10 February. There will be the usual Mass at **9:30am** as well as an evening Mass at **7:00pm**. Though Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of obligation, what better way to start the season of Lent?

Lent at St Patrick's: Throughout Lent, we will be celebrating the Stations of the Cross each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm, followed by the opportunity for Reconciliation up until 8:00pm. The first Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on **17 February**. Also, the full Easter Triduum will be celebrated here at St Patrick's (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil) as well as Mass on Easter Sunday. Details of times to follow.

Missio (Mill Hill): Pope Francis' Mission Statement for February: That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian Faith and the peoples of Asia. "God's mercy is a great light of love and tenderness."

Mill Hill Missionaries' Annual Novena to St Joseph: The novena takes place from the 10 - 18 March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph, their Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their society and missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena Prayer. Please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email: novena@millhillmissionaries.com

"Churches Together DH7" Lenten Course: You are invited to join local churches on a five week course here in St Patrick's Presbytery. The sessions start at 2:00pm and will be held on the following Fridays: 12, 19, 26 February and 04, 11 March. The title of the course is *The Psalms* and booklets will be provided.

Prayer Group - "Churches Together DH7": The group will continue to meet in St Patrick's Presbytery on the following Tuesday mornings at 9:30am: 16 February, 15 March and 19 April. All are welcome!

Reach Out: A special outreach event in our diocese will take place on Ash Wednesday, 10 February, in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. This is an attempt at outreach whereby volunteers will go out on the streets to invite people to come to a warm, welcoming Cathedral to light a candle, say a prayer, have a chat, receive God's mercy. Volunteers and visitors alike will be 'covered' in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed throughout the event. This is a fitting venture for the Year of Mercy because we will use the Mercy Doors in the Cathedral. The whole exercise will start with 5:30 Mass offered by the Bishop and all the congregation will be sent out with candles to invite passers-by into the Cathedral. Music will be played throughout. Why not make this your Year of Mercy pilgrimage?

St Patrick's Social Night: Tickets will be on sale from next week for St Patrick's Social Night on Friday 18 March at 7:00pm. There will be a vocalist, bingo and a raffle, and all money raised will fund the Spring party for senior citizens on Saturday 02 July. Tickets will be £2.50 each.

Prayer Group: Come and see and join us - maybe for Lent or on a regular basis, or even when you can! We meet every Tuesday at 7:00pm at 14 Goatbeck Terrace, opposite St Patrick's school. We pray and reflect on the weekend's readings (Lectio Divina). The Word is always "alive" and we try to apply it to our lives. Do come!

Halina Holman.

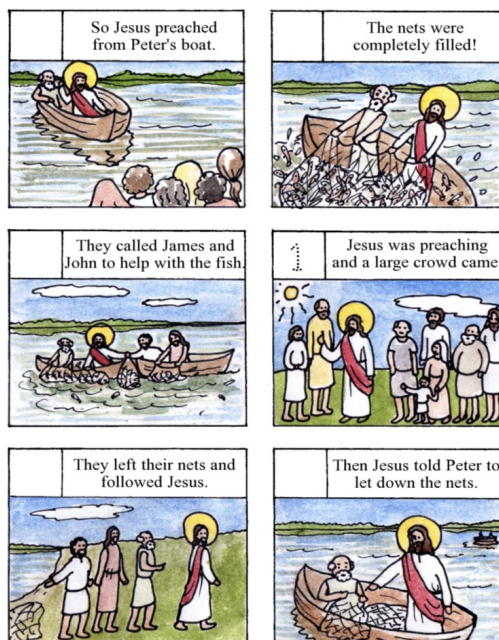
SCHOOL NEWS

Basic Skills: Following a monitoring visit, it has been recommended that the school's Basic Skills Award is renewed. This award celebrates the teaching of essential key skills in reading, writing, mathematics and ICT.

Children: Thank you to the children who came along to take part in the Family Mass last weekend. Apologies for the issue with the sound system. The portable CD player that has been used in church for some time has been found to be faulty and has thankfully been disposed of.

Picture Puzzle: An Amazing Catch!

*The pictures for this story are all mixed up!
Sort them out by putting the right numbers in the corners.*



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Josephine Bakhita - 08 February

St Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869. Sold as a slave, she experienced the physical and moral humiliations and sufferings of slavery. In the Sudanese capital, Bakhita was bought by an Italian consul, Callisto Legnani. For the first time since the day she was kidnapped, she realised with pleasant surprise that no one used the lash when giving her orders; instead, she was treated with love and cordiality.

The political situation forced the consul to leave for Italy. Bakhita asked and obtained permission to go with him and a friend of his, a certain Mr Augusto Michieli. On their arrival in Genoa, Mr Legnani, at the request of Mr Michieli's wife, agreed to leave Bakhita with them.

When their daughter Mimmina was born she and Bhakita were entrusted to the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of Catechumens in Venice. It was there that that Bakhita came to know about God, whom "she had experienced in her heart without knowing who he was.

After several months in the catechumenate, Bakhita received the sacraments of Christian initiation and was given a new name, Josephine. It was 09 January 1890. From then on, she was often seen kissing the baptismal font and saying: "Here, I became a daughter of God!"

On 08 December 1896 Josephine Bakhita was consecrated forever to God, whom she called by the sweet name of "the Master!" For the next fifty years this humble Daughter of Charity, a true witness to the love of God, lived in the Schio community, involved in various services: cooking, sewing, embroidery and attending to the door.

Her humility, simplicity and constant smile won the hearts of all the citizens. Her sisters in the community esteemed her for her constant sweet nature, exquisite goodness and deep desire to make the Lord known. "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who not know him. What a great grace it is to know God!" she said.

As she grew older she experienced long, painful years of sickness. It was Blessed Mary who freed her from pain. Her last words were: "Our Lady! Our Lady!"

She died on 08 February, 1947.

Josephine Bakhita was beatified on 17 May 1992, and canonised on 01 October 2000.

(Taken from Catholic Online, www.catholic.org)



DID YOU KNOW...?

That sprinkling with ashes and clothing with sackcloth was a common sign of both repentance and mourning, mentioned many times in the Hebrew scriptures?

Sometimes sackcloth and ashes are mentioned together, sometimes separately. To 'put on sackcloth and ashes' was a sign of either mourning or repentance, or both. Some famous examples are of Job (Job 42:6), the people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-7), the Jews in the book of Esther (4:1-3), King David and his followers (2 Samuel 3:31), Daniel (Daniel 9:3) and Jacob (Genesis 37:34).

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

Words used in the distribution of ashes at Mass on Ash Wednesday

*Ash
Wednesday*