

The week ahead...

Saturday 10 December Weekday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: Bryan Cheeseey and pro populo
Sunday 11 December Third Sunday of Advent		
Monday 12 December Weekday of Advent		
Tuesday 13 December <i>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Marie Wilson
Wednesday 14 December <i>St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor</i>	9:30am	Mass: Agnes and Billy Keenan
Thursday 15 December Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Mass: Sally Thompson
Friday 16 December Weekday of Advent	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 17 December Weekday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: Anne Keenan and pro populo

Ministries for this week Saturday 10 December

Eucharistic Ministers
Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers
Angela Harmston
Maria Griffiths

Children's Liturgy
Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

Ministries for next week Saturday 17 December

Eucharistic Ministers
Angela & Gordon Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers
Judith Bulmer
Marie Pailey

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £228 Loose Plate: £233

Total: £461

Mass Attendance: 185

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, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Betty Allison, Michael Kane, Pat Harrison, Ohwyn Morris, Tom Tracey and Bede Anderson.

CONGRATULATIONS to the family of **Ross Joseph LAVERY** on his baptism here at St Patrick's last weekend. Please keep the family in your prayers.



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 electronically.



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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

Hospital Chaplain: Ph: (0191) 526 5131

Third Sunday of Advent

11 December, 2016

“Rejoice in the Lord always!”

THE ENTRANCE ANTIPHON on this third Sunday of Advent sets the mood for the Eucharistic celebration: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.” We have reached the halfway point of the Advent season and we are filled with an excitement that is born from the anticipation we feel at the coming of Christ into the world, soon to be celebrated by recalling the first coming of Christ into the world two thousand years ago and by looking forward to his return at the end of time. Our feelings might be likened to those felt when we are promised something that we are yet to receive - often we are somewhat disappointed with the result when the promise is fulfilled but we can never be disappointed when it comes to the promises made to us by God. The anticipation felt at the coming of Christ pales by comparison with the reality of Christ's coming. This was the case two thousand years ago and will be the case at the end of time.

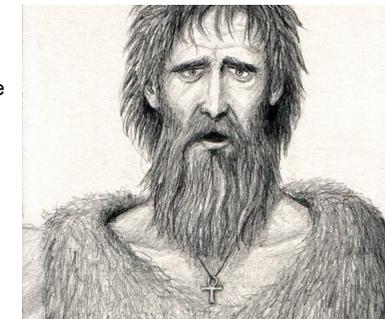
This weekend's Gospel presents us with an interesting scenario. John the Baptist, central to our Gospel last weekend, is now in prison and sends some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he is “the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?” It is most likely the case that John knew that Jesus was the Messiah but sends his disciples to confirm this so that they will move their allegiance to Jesus rather than continue to follow him, John. Jesus doesn't explicitly affirm that he is the Messiah but tells John's disciples to look at the unmistakable signs (“...the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear...”), which are reflected in our First reading from Isaiah this weekend. The messengers then left Jesus – we can only hope that they shifted their allegiance to him after this encounter and rejoiced in the knowledge they now had that the Anointed One had made his appearance.

This leads us to reflect on the great gift we have been given. John the Baptist, the last of the prophets of old, had an advantage those before him did not, in that he, at least, had the benefit of a personal encounter with the one to whom he pointed and of whom he prophesied, Jesus. His time with Jesus was short-lived however, as John was soon to be executed. We, on the other hand, have the benefit of living in a world where we can look back over two thousand years of history since the first coming of Jesus into the world and contemplate the signs and wonders that stand as evidence of his continued presence in creation. We have witnessed God's Spirit moving people to do heroic deeds that they never thought possible, acts of sacrifice, sometimes on a daily basis, in the name of Christ and his commandment to love as he did. These are the signs of God at work in the world, clear to those of us who view the world through the lens of faith.

This being so, let us rejoice at this knowledge and do as John the Baptist did in bringing others to share our delight at knowing intimately the one whose promised presence never fails to bring peace and joy.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



What's going on...?

Social Gathering: The Parish Council came up with the terrific idea of having a little social gathering **after Mass next Saturday, 17 December**. There are no speeches, no fundraising efforts, no raffles - just some mince pies, mulled wine, tea, coffee, biscuits, juice etc and a chance to gather and chat before the final onslaught of Christmas. We will be gathering in the school hall immediately after Mass next Saturday evening. Stay for ten minutes or an hour—it's up to you. All welcome!

Christmas Sanctuary Flowers: A plate is at the back of the church for donations towards the flowers for the sanctuary this Christmas. All donations welcome, no matter how small! Thank you.

Christmas Party Thanks: Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Party on Saturday 3rd December. The afternoon was most enjoyable and brought together senior citizens from neighbouring churches and local community. We have three unclaimed raffle prizes, so please check your tickets! GREEN 239, GREEN 147 and GREEN 72. Please see a member of the social committee to collect your prize.

St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle—Reconciliation Day: Saturday 17 December, 12:00noon—4:00pm, includes Service of Reconciliation with Bishop Séamus, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with confessions and Benediction.

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.

Christmas Week Masses: The Mass times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are printed opposite. With regard to the weekdays following, Mass will be offered **once each day** from Monday through to Friday at 9:30am. This means, of course, that

the 6:30pm Tuesday Mass and 7:00am Friday Mass are cancelled for that week only.

SCHOOL NEWS

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

This evening, Imogen will read the prayer associated with the third candle of the Advent Wreath and Carys will light the candle.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Many congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Tuesday evening. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Christmas Foodbank Appeal

We have had a marvellous response from our parents to the Christmas appeal for the local foodbank. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Items donated will be collected on Tuesday of next week.

Christmas Journey

Our infant children visited St. Andrew's Methodist Church this week to take part in a range of activities around the story of the nativity.

Flu Vaccinations

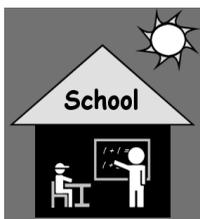
All pupils in Years 1, 2, and 3 have been offered a flu vaccination. Where parents had agreed, these were administered this week.

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Thank you to all those who came along to support the lighting of the local Christmas tree. The school choirs of St. Patrick's and Langley Moor Primary sang carols to open the event which was very well attended.

Refreshments after Mass on 17th December

Please come into the school hall after Mass next week for refreshments. Mulled wine, mince pies, tea, coffee, juice and biscuits will be on offer.



ADVENT

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016



Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?
Connect the dots to find out!
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*

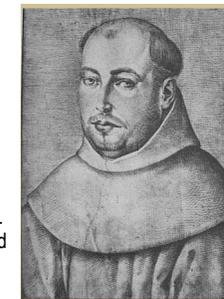
SAINT OF THE WEEK

St John of the Cross - 14 December

John was born in Fontiveros, Spain, in about 1542. He spent some time as a Carmelite friar before, in 1568, Saint Teresa of Ávila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult task and a dangerous one: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment at the hands of the Church authorities. He died at the monastery of Ubeda in Andalusia on 14 December 1591: the monks there had initially treated him as the worst of sinners, but by the time he died they had recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of a great outburst of enthusiasm.

His works include two major mystical poems—he is considered one of the great poets of the Spanish language—and detailed commentaries on them and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonised in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church (someone who is considered to have contributed significantly to an understanding of the faith) in 1926.

(Information taken from [Universalis](#))



~ Christmas Mass Times ~

There will be two Christmas Masses:

Saturday, 24 December @ 5:00pm

(Carols from 4:30pm)

Sunday, 25 December @ 10:00am



~ Reconciliation Times ~

Though the season of Advent is not as strictly penitential as Lent, many people still want to celebrate this sacrament. To that end, over the next two weeks be reminded of the regular offer of Reconciliation after each Mass, including Saturday evening. If this is not convenient, please feel free to contact me (details on the front page) to make an appointment.



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the third candle to be lit on the Advent wreath, often called the Joy Candle, is also referred to as the Shepherds' Candle?

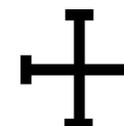
The third candle symbolises joy and invites us to reflect on the intense happiness which comes with the birth of the Saviour into the world, news of which reached the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem first. We ponder too the joy we feel at the presence of Christ as he enters our lives each day.



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God's grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once. The mind can't grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul."

- Michelle Blake
The Tentmaker



PRAY FOR... those for whom Christmas is a burden. Pray for those who have lost a loved one this year and who will be experiencing the emptiness of their first Christmas without the presence of this person. Pray for those who have experienced a separation this year and for whom this Christmas will be significantly different. Pray for all those who will spend Christmas alone and will experience mental turmoil, anguish and tears.