

The week ahead...

Saturday 11 June <i>St Barnabas, Apostle</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Bill Burn and pro populo
Sunday 12 June 11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 13 June <i>St Anthony of Padua, Priest, Doctor</i>		
Tuesday 14 June Tuesday of Ordinary Time 11		
Wednesday 15 June Wednesday of Ordinary Time 11	9:30am	Mass: Lizzabella & Margaret Jane Morris
Thursday 16 June Thursday of Ordinary Time 11	9:30am	Mass: Walter Staff
Friday 17 June Friday of Ordinary Time 11	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 18 June Saturday of Ordinary Time 11	5:00pm	Mass: Kathleen & Ian Defty and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 June, 2016

The Woman Without Words

IN READING the scriptures, from the Hebrew testament through to the Christian testament, we encounter a fascinating range of women. Often, but not always, these women are on the sidelines, playing small but vital roles in great dramas. We think of such women as Eve, Ruth, Deborah, Esther, Judith and many others, not forgetting the mother of Jesus, of course. The long version of this weekend's Gospel introduces us to Joanna and Susanna who supported Jesus and the twelve in their mission. In our First Reading this weekend we hear veiled references to "the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Nathan the prophet is referring to Bathsheba, whom King David, an ancestor of Jesus, arranged to have killed in battle so that he could take her as his own wife. Bathsheba had bewitched David with her beauty and had fallen pregnant to him. King David uses his power to assuage himself of his guilt. Even though God won't punish David by killing him, the child born as a result of his sin with Bathsheba will die.

Another woman is mentioned in our readings this weekend, this time in the Gospel. Though Bathsheba is named in the First Reading (in an earlier paragraph), the woman in the Gospel is unnamed. She is referred to simply as "a woman". Throughout the Gospel passage she is referred to repeatedly with the third person singular pronoun "she". But she is a woman with a reputation. The whole episode is contextualised by the fact that this woman "had a bad name in the town". It is likely that she was either a prostitute or was at the very least, promiscuous.

The behaviour of the woman towards Jesus worries and embarrasses the pious Pharisees with whom Jesus dines (even though they may well have been trying to entrap Jesus) but it does not worry or embarrass Jesus. He knows exactly who this woman is and the reputation that accompanies her. His decision to allow her to act the way she does is not a tacit approval of her lifestyle but rather it allows her the opportunity to show her sorrow for her sins and so turn her life around. As Jesus says: "For this reason I tell you that her sins, her many sins, must have been forgiven her, or she would not have shown such great love." The woman's past is now behind her. What matters most is her present behaviour. In showing such great love towards Jesus there is no room for sin. Sin and love cannot coexist. What appears like scandalous behaviour to those present is, in fact, a declaration by "the woman" of her desire to start her life afresh.

For us it is a timely reminder in this Jubilee Year of Mercy that no sin is too great for God's mercy; all that is needed is genuine sorrow for whatever sins we have committed and to bring them before God. God knows our sins before we confess them – note how the woman in the story utters not a word – and is simply waiting for us to turn to him with a contrite heart so that we may hear the very same words that the woman heard: "Your sins are forgiven."

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



Ministries for this week Saturday 11 June

Eucharistic Ministers:
Wilf Lavery, Jane Smith and Irene Carey

Readers:
Greg Mearman and Judith Bulmer

Children's Liturgy:
Anne Davies and Angela Harmston

Welcomers:
Halina Holman and Janet Harrigan

Ministries for next week Saturday 18 June

Eucharistic Ministers:
Judith Bulmer, Pauline & Ambrose Burnside

Readers:
Maria Griffiths
Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy:
Carol Bainbridge
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers:
Halina Holman
Pat Middleton

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £213 Loose Plate: £351

Total: £564

Mass Attendance: 241

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....

Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Marie Wilson, Dorothy Dowdle, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Betty Allison, Michael Kane, Pat Harrison, Ohwyn Morris, Sally Thompson and Tom Tracey.

Thank you... in anticipation of your generosity in supporting Catholic Mission. **Sr Daphne Norden MMS** will be visiting us this weekend to share some of her experiences as a Medical Mission Sister. I know you will welcome her and support an important cause.

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.

What's going on...?

Welcome back, Fr Brian! As I will be away next weekend, Fr Brian has kindly agreed to return to celebrate the 5:00pm Mass next Saturday evening, 18 June.

Day for Life: Next weekend we will take up a second collection, which is mandatory for parishes to support. The **Day For Life**, 'focuses on the wonder of the gift of human life and the gift of our common home which is God's creation.' Visit the website www.dayforlife.org for more information. You will have received an information card as a bulletin insert this weekend too.

St Patrick's Social Committee Spring Party: The party for senior citizens will be on Saturday 02 July at 12:30pm at the Royal British Legion, Meadowfield. Afternoon tea will be served followed by entertainment. If you would like to join us, please add your name to the sheet at the back of church. Invitations are not being issued to our own parishioners this year and we would ask that everyone who is intending to come please add their names by Monday 20 June. Raffle tickets will be on sale after Mass this Saturday 11 and next Saturday after Mass.

Parish Council Annual General Meeting (AGM): Scheduled for this Wednesday, 15 June at 7:00pm in St Patrick's School hall. Please consider coming along to this meeting - all parishioners welcome!

24 Hours of Prayer: Pope Francis has asked that parishes have significant times for people to come and pray for the needs of people locally and across the world. All the churches of our deanery will be open for an hour on either 16 or 17 June.

St Patrick's will be open from 1:00pm - 2:00pm on Thursday 16 June. See list on the noticeboard for other churches' times.

St John's Church, Meadowfield: A brass band will be playing this Saturday 11 June from 6:00pm with a shared supper to follow. Everyone is welcome!

Check the Noticeboards! Have you checked the noticeboards recently to see what's happening around the diocese which may be of interest to you? There are upcoming opportunities for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (02 July), for those interested in contemplative prayer (several dates in June and July) and for liturgical lay leaders (27 June).

SCHOOL NEWS

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Ruby, Sophie-Rose, Lillie, Lennard, Lewis, Victoria, Edward, Emily, Maddy and Isobelle who received First Eucharist on Saturday 04 June. A big thank you to their families and to the catechists who have prepared them in the lead up to this.

Year 6 Retreat - Allensford 7 & 8th June

Year 6 have had an enjoyable two days at Allensford Youth Village this week. Their retreat was led by the Youth Ministry Team. Father Robert made a visit and saw for himself what was on offer at the village.

School Liturgy - Tuesday 14th June

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will lead the liturgy in the school hall on Tuesday 14 June at 9:15am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Staffing

Mr Kahlon will be leaving at the end of the summer term. He leaves us for a promotion and will be Deputy Head at Kelloe Primary. We wish him every success for the future and thank him for all his work at St. Patrick's.

Mrs Turnbull will be starting her maternity leave at the end of the summer term. Miss Fisher will teach Class 3 (Years 1 & 2) until her return. Miss Fisher will be with us for the last few weeks of this academic year to support a smooth handover.



For our younger parishioners....

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Anthony of Padua - 13 June

Anthony was born Fernando Martins in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195. He was born into a wealthy family and was sent to the Abbey of Santa Cruz in Coimbra, the then capital of Portugal. During his time there, he learned theology and Latin. Following his ordination to the priesthood, he was named guest master and was responsible for the abbey's hospitality. When Franciscan friars settled a small hermitage outside Coimbra dedicated to Saint Anthony of Egypt, Fernando felt a longing to join them. When he was admitted, he changed his name to Anthony.

Anthony then travelled to Morocco but became extremely sick and was returned to Portugal. The return voyage was blown off-course and the party arrived in Sicily, from which they travelled to Tuscany. Anthony was assigned to the hermitage of San Paolo for his health. He spent this time praying and studying.

One day, Anthony delivered an eloquent and moving homily and news of this reached Francis of Assisi. In 1224, Francis entrusted his friars' pursuit of studies to Anthony. Anthony had a book of psalms that contained notes and comments to help when teaching students and, in a time when a printing press was not yet invented, he greatly valued it. When a novice decided to leave the hermitage, he stole Anthony's valuable book. When Anthony discovered it was missing, he prayed it would be found or returned to him. The thief *did* return the book and in an extra step returned to the Order as well.

So simple and resounding was his teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

He was only 36 years old when he died on 13 June 1231 and was canonised less than one year afterward by Pope Gregory IX. Upon exhumation some 336 years after his death, his body was found to be corrupted, yet his tongue was totally incorrupt, so perfect were the teachings that had been formed upon it.

He is typically depicted with a book and the Infant Child Jesus and is commonly referred to today as the "finder of lost articles."

Taken from www.catholic.org



DID YOU KNOW...?

....that a fast applies to most Catholics prior to the reception of holy communion?

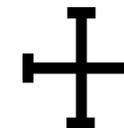
The Code of Canon Law (nn. 918-919) states that those who receive holy communion are to abstain for one hour beforehand from all food and drink with the exception of water and medicine. This does not apply to the elderly, the sick and those who care for them. It is most strongly recommended that the faithful receive holy communion in the course of a eucharistic celebration.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin. All hope consists in confession. In confession there is a chance for mercy. Believe it firmly. Do not doubt, do not hesitate, never despair of the mercy of God. Hope and have confidence in confession."

St Isidore of Seville
(560 - 636)

Bishop and Doctor of the Church



Please pray for....those children who received their First Eucharist last weekend at the Saturday evening Mass, that they will continue to eagerly seek the nourishment of the Eucharist into the future. Pray also for the work of the Medical Mission Sisters as they promote health, healing and wholeness in the spirit of Jesus the Healer.