

The week ahead...

Saturday 13 February Weekday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Private Intention and for the people of the parish <i>Confessions after Mass</i>
Sunday 14 February 1 st Sunday of Lent		
Monday 15 February Weekday of Lent	1:00pm	Requiem Mass: Alice Egglestone
Tuesday 16 February Weekday of Lent		
Wednesday 17 February Weekday of Lent	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: Living and deceased members of the Moran family Stations of the Cross
Thursday 18 February Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: Private Intention
Friday 19 February Weekday of Lent	7:00am	Mass: Alice Egglestone, recently deceased
Saturday 20 February Weekday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: John Middleton and for the people of the parish <i>Confessions after Mass</i>

Ministries for this week Saturday 14 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

Ministries for next week Saturday 21 February

Eucharistic Ministers:

Mr and Mrs Carey,
Pat Harrison

Readers:

Maria Davies and
Marie Pailly

Children's Liturgy:

Jane Smith and
Helen Campbell

Welcomers:

Janet Harrigan and
Sally Thompson

Last week's collection:

Gift Aid: £214 Loose Plate: £197

Total: £411

Mass Attendance: 155

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.

Items for the newsletter? Please contact Judith Bulmer on 0191 378 3544 or 07980 481 858 or 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.

1st Sunday of Lent

14 February, 2016

“...through the wilderness...”

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY of Lent each year, we hear of the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness prior to his going out into the world on his mission. Each of the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) relates this story, though with subtle differences. This year, being Year C in our liturgical cycle, we hear Luke's version of this famous incident.

The tempting of Jesus by the devil does not occur as an isolated incident. Just prior to the temptations, Jesus is baptised by John in the Jordan River. You will remember that as Jesus comes up out of the water the Spirit of God in the form of a dove rests on him and “a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’” (Lk 3:22). This incident helps us make sense of the devil's words to Jesus: “If you are the Son of God...” In his baptism, Jesus is given an affirmation by his heavenly Father but Jesus also, in requesting baptism, surrenders himself totally to God's will. The devil will test this in today's Gospel passage.

Worth noting is the place where the temptations occur – the wilderness. Based on our knowledge of the geography of the region in which Jesus lived, we understand this to mean the desert. A desert is a place which is devoid of any comforts and luxuries, a place where it would seem temptations are scarce. We are invited to enter a (metaphorical) desert during the season of Lent in order to deepen our relationship with God and, consequently, with other people. But it is only an invitation. God never forces us to undertake any action but we would be foolish to ignore an invitation that comes from God – God has only our good at heart, after all.

As we accept the invitation to be led into the desert, let us be open to all that is on offer to enable us to forge a stronger relationship with God. Though the desert might be devoid of comforts and luxuries it is for this very reason that it is a profitable place to be – it is also the place where temptations will creep up on us. Jesus was tempted after forty days of fasting, the devil biding his time, knowing that a person is at their most vulnerable when hungry, exhausted, even bored. We must therefore seek to fill the vacuum that is created by the desert environment with practices that strengthen our faith: prayer (good for the soul), fasting (good for the body), and almsgiving (good for our neighbour). This is the “formula” given to us by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, the gospel passage we heard on Ash Wednesday. Though the desert appears to be a barren place, it is not without opportunities for a life-giving, even a life-changing experience. It is in the stillness and quietness of the desert that voices and sounds normally drowned out by the clamour and busyness of daily life can be heard. It is only in the desert, to which we are invited by God, that we can truly hear his insistent, yet soft and loving voice. This is why God invites us to follow him into the desert this Lent.

Will you accept the invitation?

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



What's going on...?

Women's World Day of Prayer: This year the Women's World Day of Prayer is to be held at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon, on Friday 04 March. Please arrive for coffee at 10:00am, prayers and speaker at 10:30am. All are welcome.

Job Vacancies: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint a Safeguarding Advisor, 30 hours per week, and a Finance Assistant, 37.5 hours per week. For further information and an application pack please visit www.rcdhn.org.uk, phone (0191) 243 3301 or email human_resources@diocesehn.org.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday, 29 February.

Churches Together DH7 Lent Course: You are invited to join local churches on a Lenten course here in St Patrick's Presbytery, Langley Moor. The sessions start at 2:00pm and will be held on the following Fridays: 19 and 26 February and 04 and 11 March. The course is titled *The Psalms* and booklets will be provided. All are welcome!

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 15 and 19 April. All are welcome!

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) Parish Catechesis Module: For those who may be interested, a Parish Catechesis module will take place on Saturday 12 and 19 March 2016, 9:30am to 3:30pm at St Hilda's Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. This module enables participants to gain an understanding of parish catechesis and to develop approaches to working within a parish setting. It offers an introduction to the theology, principles and goals of parish catechesis. This module is one of many modules that take place within the CCRS programme. The CCRS course seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. It is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. Booking for modules is essential. For further information and how to book please contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or at education@diocesehn.org.uk.

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in this Year of Mercy, takes place from Friday 29 July to Friday 05 August flying direct from Newcastle International Airport. Posters, booking forms and all information is now available on both the Diocesan webpage and the pilgrimage webpage www.hexhamandnewcastelourdespilgrimage.co.uk. The pilgrimage has places available for sick pilgrims who require nursing care, a Jumbulance is available for overland travel for those unable to fly, there is a youth section for all aged 16 – 25 and there are booking forms for all the hotel pilgrims who wish to travel. Booking forms and further information available from Tangney Tours or Pilgrimage Director Fr Peter Stott on 01670 513 410.

For our younger parishioners....



Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

Can you find your way into the desert to be with Jesus?

SCHOOL NEWS

Pancake Day: Last Tuesday the children (and staff) took part in a sponsored pancake flip. Everyone had a lot of fun!

Ash Wednesday: On Wednesday the whole school joined our parish family to celebrate Mass and take part in the distribution of ashes.

Half Term: School closed for half term on Thursday (Friday being a teacher training day) and will re-open on Monday 22 February.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Finan of Lindisfarne - 17 February

Irish by birth, St Finan of Lindisfarne became a monk at Iona and upheld the Celtic traditions against the encroachment of Roman usage. Finan baptised Penda, ruler of the Middle Angles, and Sigebert, ruler of Essex. Elected bishop of Lindisfarne in 651, Finan sent missionaries to Mercia and to Essex. He also debated Ronan, an Englishman, about the correct way to calculate the date of Easter. On the Holy Island, he built a wooden cathedral, the roof of which was thatched with seagrass. (A later abbot removed the thatching and covered the building with lead). Finan also founded St Mary's at the mouth of the River Tyne. Bede is the main source for Finan's life. He is specially noticed by the Venerable Bede as having borne an important part in the conversion of the northern Saxons.

The breviary of Aberdeen styles him "a man of venerable life, a bishop of great sanctity, an eloquent teacher.... remarkable for his training in virtue and his liberal education, surpassing all his equals in every manner of knowledge as well as in circumspection and prudence, but chiefly devoting himself to good works and presenting in his life, a most apt example of virtue." Finan ordained St Cedd bishop of the East-Saxons, having called two other bishops to assist at his consecration.

The Abbey of Whitby, his chief foundation, was the scene of the famous Paschal controversy concerning the dating of Easter, which resulted in the withdrawal of the Irish monks from Lindisfarne. Finan died in 661 and was buried at Lindisfarne, having held that see ten years. St Cuthbert succeeded him as abbot.

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



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the season of Lent, which we have just begun, is a most opportune time to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)?

There are many opportunities available right here at Langley Moor to celebrate Reconciliation and so be true to the command that we hear on Ash Wednesday to 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel.' Opportunities exist for the First Rite of Reconciliation (one-to-one) on Wednesday evenings in Lent after the Stations of the Cross (which start at 7:00pm) as well as after weekday Masses and after Mass on Saturday evening. If these times don't suit you, please feel free to call and make an appointment.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Jesus' claim is...radical. He asks for a single-minded commitment to God and God alone. God wants all of our heart, all of our mind, and all of our soul. It is this unconditional and unreserved love for God that leads to the care for our neighbour, not as an activity which distracts us from God or competes with our attention to God, but as an expression of our love for God who reveals himself to us as the God of all people."

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)

Theologian and Spiritual Writer

From *'The Living Reminder'*



TODAY as we approach for Communion, parishioners sitting in the side aisles please lead out first, from front pews to back. People in the centre aisles approach for communion, starting from the back to the front. The front pews are now for anyone who wishes to receive Communion from their seat. Thank you!