

The week ahead...

Saturday 16 April	5:00pm	Mass: Walter Staff and pro populo
Sunday 17 April <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>		
Monday 18 April Weekday of Eastertide		
Tuesday 19 April Weekday of Eastertide		
Wednesday 20 April Weekday of Eastertide	9:30am	Mass: Hilda Condron
Thursday 21 April <i>St Anselm of Canterbury Bishop, Doctor</i>	9:30am	Mass: Alice and Fred Egglestone
Friday 22 April Weekday of Eastertide	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 23 April <i>St George, Martyr</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Michael, Catherine and John Evans



Ministries for this week Saturday 16 April
Eucharistic Ministers: Angela Harmston and Angela Tosley
Readers: Pat Middleton and Claire Lavery
Children's Liturgy: TBC
Welcomers: Halina Holman and Pat Middleton

Ministries for next week Saturday 23 April
Eucharistic Ministers: Malcom & Teresa Wass and Andrew Aberdeen
Readers: Angela Harmston and Greg Mearman
Children's Liturgy: Maria Griffiths and Michelle Dennis
Welcomers: Angela Harmston and Christine Tracey

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION:
Gift Aid: £236 Loose Plate: £160
Total: £396
Mass Attendance: 123
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, Margaret Pouton, Betty Allison and Michael Kaine.

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.

4th Sunday of Easter

17 April, 2016

“The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice.”

THIS SUNDAY is often referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the words of Jesus in the very short Gospel we have before us today. Though we don't hear mention of the title “Good Shepherd” in this weekend's Gospel passage, Jesus speaks of himself in the whole of chapter ten of John's Gospel in shepherding terms and it is from this chapter of John's Gospel that we hear on the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

Though Jesus certainly is the Good Shepherd, we have to dismiss from our minds any notion of ourselves as being passive recipients of Jesus' loving care as sheep are of their shepherd. Sheep have a reputation of being quite unintelligent but they are certainly intelligent enough to listen to the shepherd and recognise his voice. The shepherd has the responsibility of ensuring the well-being of the sheep and the sheep seem to have an innate sense of knowing the voice of the one who has their best interests in mind. The first words of Jesus in this Sunday's Gospel indicate this quite clearly: “The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.” Far from being passive recipients, the sheep (us) have the responsibility of being attentive to the voice of the shepherd (Jesus).

We like to think of ourselves, with justification, as being superior in intelligence to all in the animal kingdom, including sheep. After all, God gave human beings stewardship over all creation yet it seems that in the area of listening to the voice of our God we perhaps fall short of our ovine friends. As Christians, we often pay lip service to the notion that God loves us, cares for us and wants only the best for us, but do we seek out his voice and make an effort to hear it and respond to it? Indeed, do we even know how to do this?

It is difficult at times to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, a voice of love, leading us to peace and eternal life. It is made difficult because daily we are assailed by numerous voices and background noise, by tasks that need our urgent attention and at times by sheer exhaustion and a sense of meaninglessness regarding our existence.

It is for these very reasons that we need to make time to be still and enjoy the silence, even for just a few minutes in the day. In Psalm 46 (verse 10) God urges us: “Be still and know that I am God.” It is only through being still that God's voice can possibly be heard. Certainly, God speaks to us by many different ways and means, through many different people and situations, including in the busyness of life, but it is only through reflective silence that we can make sense of that voice and come to understand what it means for us and how we ought to respond.

Each of us needs to challenge ourselves as to whether we want to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and if we are prepared to do whatever it takes to hear it and respond to it. Surely we do, for Jesus tells us in our Gospel that if we make the decision to follow him we will never be lost and will enjoy eternal life.

Who could refuse such an invitation? All it takes is a willingness to listen attentively to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Blessings and prayers throughout the Easter season,

Fr Robert



What's going on...?

Parish Council Meeting: The Parish Council will be meeting on Thursday, 21 April at 7:00pm. Should you have any items for the Council to consider, kindly email them to Judith Bulmer by **this Monday** 18 April or speak to a member of the Parish Council. Judith's email address is judithbulmer@rocketmail.com.

The Year of Mercy: We all need God's merciful forgiveness and we invite you to celebrate his loving mercy in a special service at St Joseph's, Gilesgate, on Thursday, 28 April 28 at 7:00pm. Pope Francis has asked that in this Year of Mercy, we reach out to those who may feel on the fringes of the Church, for whatever reason. Every Catholic family is touched by this sadness so this service is an opportunity to be together, just as we are, with all our burdens, to feel God's compassion. As Pope Francis says: 'The Church closes her door in the face of no-one! Not even to the greatest sinner, to no-one! This is through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.' The Year of Mercy is a gift to us.

Year of Mercy Reflections: Reflections on the Spiritual Works of Mercy by Prof Karen Kilby on Wednesday, 20 April at 11:00am at St Mary's Cathedral and 7:00pm at St Leonard's School. Reflections on the Corporal Works of Mercy by Fr Chris Hughes on Wednesday, 27 April at 11:00am at St Mary's Cathedral and 7:00pm at St Leonard's School.

Churches Together Prayer Group: Meeting in St Patrick's Presbytery this coming Tuesday, 19 April, at 9:30am. All welcome!

Churches Together DHT: Some upcoming events:

- ◆ **Pentecost Praise**, Sunday 15 May, 6:00pm at St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor
- ◆ **Family Fun Day**, 04 June. Organised by the Vineyard Church. Volunteers needed. Call Tina on 07952 340 991.
- ◆ **Quiet Day**, Saturday 30 July at Minsteracres.

Further information on all these events from Ann Canavan, Stella Foody or Teresa Wass.

Farewell: Next weekend we will farewell two parishioners who contribute much to our worship here at St Patrick's: Katie, who is in the choir, and son Cameron, who faithfully assists at the altar each Saturday evening. A special blessing for them at the conclusion of Mass next Saturday evening. I know you will hold them in your prayers into the future.

For our younger parishioners....

Additional Collection this weekend:

Please note that this weekend there will be an **additional collection at Mass** to assist the Little Sisters of the Poor who run the St Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Newcastle. The Sisters thank you in anticipation of your generosity to allow them to continue to provide this valuable ministry in our Diocese. If you took home a gift aid envelope last weekend, please place it in the basket during the additional collection. Thank you again!

LOVE

Celebration of Marriage: Bishop Séamus will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 14 May at 11:00am to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage.

He has invited each parish community to be represented by two couples, young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary.

This promises to be a wonderful celebration and will provide affirmation and support for Marriage across the diocese and to the wider North-East community.

If you would like to volunteer to be a couple present at this wonderful celebration, please see Fr Robert as soon as possible.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St George - 23 April

George was born (date uncertain) to Gerontios and Polychronia, a Roman officer and a Greek native of Lydda. Both were Christians from noble families of the Anici and George, *Georgios* in the original Greek, was raised to follow their faith.

When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. By his late 20s, George became a Tribune and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor at Nicomedia.

On 24 February, 303, Diocletian, who hated Christians, announced that every Christian the army passed would be arrested and every other soldier should offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods. George refused to abide by the order and told Diocletian, who was angry but greatly valued his friendship with George's father.

In an effort to save George, Diocletian attempted to convert him to believe in the Roman gods, offered him land, money and slaves in exchange for offering a sacrifice to the Roman gods, and made several other offers that George refused. Finally, after exhausting all other options, Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent for several torture sessions. He was lacerated on a wheel of swords and required resuscitation three times, but still George did not turn from God.

On 23 April, 303, George was decapitated before Nicomedia's outer wall. His body was sent to Lydda for burial, and other Christians went to honour George as a martyr.

Saint George and the Dragon

There are several stories about George fighting dragons, but in the Western version, a dragon or crocodile made its nest at a spring that provided water to Silene, believed to be modern-day Lycrene in Libya.

The people were unable to collect water and so attempted to remove the dragon from its nest on several occasions. It would temporarily leave its nest when they offered it a sheep each day, until the sheep disappeared and the people were distraught.

This was when they decided that a maiden would be just as effective as sending a sheep. The townspeople chose the victim by drawing straws. This continued until one day the princess' straw was drawn.

The monarch begged for her to be spared but the people would not have it. She was offered to the dragon, but before she could be devoured, George appeared. He faced the dragon, protected himself with the sign of the Cross, and slayed the dragon.

After saving the town, the citizens abandoned their paganism and were all converted to Christianity.

(Taken from Catholic Online www.catholic.org)



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that just as Easter Day lasts for eight calendar days, so the Easter Season lasts for fifty days?

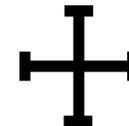
Easter is the highlight of the Church's year and so the celebration is an extended one. We are, after all, celebrating the event that promises us the possibility of eternal life with God, meaning that death does not have the final word. And so, Easter Day itself is extended to an Octave, ending on the evening of the Second Sunday of Easter and the Easter Season is extended through to the Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon those gathered in the upper room. The season is marked by white vestments, the lighting of the Paschal Candle and numerous "Alleluias"!

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"On the third day the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn."

G K Chesterton (1874-1936)

The Everlasting Man



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!