

The week ahead...

Saturday 19 March Weekday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Olive McKenna (in loving memory of a dear mother) and pro populo. <i>Confessions after Mass</i>
Sunday 20 March Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion		
Monday 21 March Weekday of Lent	9:30am	
Tuesday 22 March Weekday of Lent	9:30am	
Wednesday 23 March Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: Alice Egglestone
Thursday 24 March <i>Holy Thursday</i>	7:00pm Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 11:00am	Stations of the Cross
Friday 25 March <i>Good Friday</i>	7:00pm 10:00am	Mass of the Lord's Supper Stations of the Cross
Saturday 26 March <i>Holy Saturday</i>	3:00pm No Mass Saturday morning 5:00pm	Celebration of the Passion The Great Easter Vigil: Walter Staff
Sunday 27 March	10:00am	Easter Sunday Mass: Pro populo

Ministries for this week Saturday 19 March
Eucharistic Ministers: Mr & Mrs Wass and Andrew Aberdeen
Readers: Marie Pailey and Angela Tosley
Children's Liturgy: Maria Griffiths and Michelle Dennis
Welcomers: Sally Thompson and Janet Harrigan

Ministries for next week Saturday 26 March
Eucharistic Ministers: John & Irene Carey and Pat Harrison
Readers: As per rota
Children's Liturgy: No Children's Liturgy due to half-term break
Welcomers: Halina Holman and Pat Middleton

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION:
Gift Aid: £207 Loose Plate: £212
Total: £419
Mass Attendance: 157
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.

Palm Sunday

20 March, 2016

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

WELCOME TO PALM SUNDAY which marks the beginning of the holiest week of the Church's year as we look forward to celebrating soon the greatest Christian feast of all, Easter. Before we get to Easter however, we will journey with Jesus through the key events at the end of his earthly life: the Last Supper with his disciples, his betrayal by Judas, his arrest, trial, humiliation and excruciating death by crucifixion. Then, and only then, when all seems hopeless, can we walk together into the blinding light of the Resurrection marked by our Easter celebrations.

Though we refer to this Sunday as Palm Sunday, the more correct name of this Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord because we not only hear of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (though no palms are mentioned in Luke's version of this event!) but also hear of the outcome of his trip: his execution as a common criminal. We will hear this story again on Good Friday, the traditional time that we acknowledge these events taking place.

One thing that has always struck me each year when I read of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is the calm and almost systematic manner in which Jesus prepares for and undertakes this trip. All seems to be planned to perfection and Jesus calmly gives orders to the disciples to facilitate this final and fateful trip. The composure of Jesus as he enters Jerusalem on the back of a colt is sustained even when those around him are shouting out for joy, crying out: “Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!” – an echo of the Sanctus we say or sing at Mass just prior to the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Essentially, this incident and the demeanour of those present are mirrored in the events at Calvary. Just as Jesus maintained his composure during the excitement and clamour around him on his entry into Jerusalem, so too does he remain calm and focused as he is falsely accused, mocked, humiliated and tortured whilst those around him are bellowing for blood.

How is this possible? Because Jesus has absolute faith in his heavenly Father and confidence in the truth of his Resurrection that he has been alluding to during his ministry. He has been aware of and felt acutely the presence of the Father during his life and knows he will not abandon him, even when he feels the absence of the Father most keenly on the cross. The last words we hear Jesus utter in Luke's version of the Passion are, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

These words reflect the love and trust Jesus had for his heavenly Father.

As we enter Holy Week may each of us continue to pray for that same trust in God so that we reflect the face of Christ to all whom we meet.

Blessings and prayers during this holiest of weeks,

Fr Robert



What's going on...?

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Housebound: Do you know someone who lives in the parish but cannot get to Mass and is in need of the sacraments? It is our responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters who cannot gather with us each week. If you know someone in this situation who is in need of pastoral care, please pass their details on to Fr Robert.

Maundy Thursday: As is customary, during the Maundy Thursday Mass to commemorate the Last Supper, Fr Robert will wash the feet of twelve parishioners in remembrance of Jesus's act of servant discipleship. We need twelve volunteers of all ages and both genders. It's not difficult and no training is required! If you are willing to participate please see Malcolm Wass or Fr Robert.

Easter Cards: There is a selection of cards available at the back of church for Easter. Please take a few moments to have a look.

The Year of Mercy: In this Year of Mercy we are to have a special 'Liturgy of Mercy' in our local deanery. This will be at St Joseph's, Gilesgate on Thursday, 28 April at 7:00 pm. However, to prepare for that liturgy, anyone interested is invited to a preliminary meeting at Gilesgate on Tuesday, 29 March at 11:00am.

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.

Chrism Mass: Holy Thursday at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle on Thursday 24 March, 11:00am

Day of Reflection for Women: Sr Anne McCarthy will lead the day at St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle, NE 15 7PY on Saturday, 09 April, 10:30am – 3:30pm. No charge for the day but you will need a packed lunch, and you do need to book in advance on (0191) 243 3313 or adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk

THANK YOU! Many thanks to everyone who supported the coffee morning on Saturday 5th March. A wonderful total of £533 was raised for HCPT. Thank you to everyone who supported the event in any way!

For our younger parishioners....

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, 21 March: Mass @ 9:30am

Tuesday, 22 March: Mass @ 9:30am

Wednesday, 23 March: Mass @ 9:30am

Thursday, 24 March: Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7:00pm.
You are also welcome to attend the 11:00am Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. A wonderful liturgy!

Friday, 25 March: Stations of the Cross @ 10:00am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion @ 3:00pm

Saturday, 26 March: The Great Easter Vigil @ 5:00pm

Sunday, 27 March: Mass @ 10:00am

The opportunity to celebrate Reconciliation will be offered after the morning Masses Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday till 11:00am and after the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday till 12:00noon only.

Thank you!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Rafqa - 23 March

Saint Rafqa was born in Hemlaya, Lebanon on 29 June, 1832. She was an only child. Her parents were devout Christians and taught her daily prayers. By all accounts, her childhood was happy and simple, until she was just 7 years old and her mother died. Her father soon experienced financial difficulties and Rafqa was sent to work as a domestic servant for four years. During that period, she worked in Damascus, away from her father.

In 1847, she returned to find that her father had remarried and his new wife desired that Rafqa marry her brother. At the same time, an aunt wanted to arrange a marriage between Rafqa and her cousin.

Rafqa was left to decide what to do with herself, split between two potential suitors and under pressure from family to make two different choices. She turned to prayer and asked God to guide her. Her answer surprised everyone. Rafqa would marry neither man, but instead would devote her life to Jesus and become a nun. Her father and his new wife arrived to try to dissuade Rafqa from her God-chosen path. She refused to leave the convent and remained devoted to her vocation.

Sister Rafqa took her solemn vows in the new order on 25 August, 1872.

During her time, she was known to be quiet and contemplative. She was devoted to prayer and spoke little. She commonly made sacrifices and lived in great austerity.

In October 1885, Sister Rafqa made an unusual request of Jesus, asking to share in his suffering. She began to experience pain in her head, which moved to her eyes. Her superior was concerned about Rafqa's pain and ordered that she be examined by doctors and sent to Beirut for treatment. During surgery, she refused anesthesia, and the doctor made a mistake which caused her eye to emerge from its socket and fall to the floor. Sister Rafqa, instead of panicking, blessed the doctor, saying "For Christ's passion, God bless your hands and may God repay you."

The surgery did not succeed. Shortly thereafter, pain entered her left eye.

For the next twelve years, she experienced pain in her remaining eye and headaches. She remained joyful in prayer and patient in her suffering. She remained quiet for long periods, speaking infrequently, but always joyously.

In 1899, she became blind and paralysis set in. Eventually she was confined to bed. On March 23, 1914, she received her last communion and called upon Jesus and the Holy Family, then went to her reward in Heaven.

After she was buried in the monastery cemetery, a light appeared on her grave for three consecutive nights and was witnessed by many.

Pope John Paul declared her venerable on 11 February, 1982, and she was beatified on 17 November, 1985. She was finally recognised as a saint on 10 July, 2001.

(Taken from Catholic Online www.catholic.org)



DID YOU KNOW...?

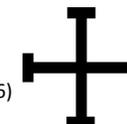
...the four accounts of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem differ regarding the mention of palms?

Luke's account that we hear this weekend on Palm Sunday makes no mention of palms! In fact, the only one of the four Gospel writers to mention palms specifically is John. Luke mentions only cloaks being spread in front of Jesus whilst Matthew talks of both cloaks being spread on the road in front of Jesus as well as people "cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path." Mark also talks of cloaks being used as well as "greenery which they have cut in the fields." Perhaps Palm Sunday could be renamed "Cloak Sunday" as cloaks get more of a mention than palms!

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Jesus is not our Saviour simply because of what he said to us or did for us. He is our Saviour because what he said and did was said and done in obedience to his Father. That is why St Paul could say, 'As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.' Jesus is the obedient one. The centre of his life is this obedient relationship with the Father."

-Fr Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)
Making All Things New



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!