

The week ahead...

Saturday 19 November Saturday of Ordinary Time 33	5:00pm	Mass: Sarah Tracey and pro populo
Sunday 20 November Christ the King		
Monday 21 November <i>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		
Tuesday 22 November <i>St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Mary Johnson
Wednesday 23 November Wednesday of Ordinary Time 34	9:30am	Mass: Frank & Marie Wilson
Thursday 24 November <i>SS Andrew Dũng-Lạc & Co, Martyrs</i>	9:30am	Mass: Sally Thompson
Friday 25 November Friday of Ordinary Time 34	7:00am	Funeral: Maria Di Lella Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 26 November Saturday of Ordinary Time 34	5:00pm	Mass: Teresa & Walter Drane and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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Christ the King

20 November, 2016

"This is the King of the Jews"

ON THE 21st January, 1793, an event took place which shook Europe and sent reverberations throughout the world. On that day, the King of France, Louis XVI, mounted the scaffold in what is now known as the Place de la Concorde, Paris, protested his innocence of the charges of high treason levelled against him, and was beheaded by guillotine. The brief flirtation with a constitutional monarchy was over and France continued to be governed under the republican system that had been brought into being just a few months earlier. There were to be no cries of "Le roi est mort, vive le roi!" ("The king is dead, long live the king!") since Louis XVI's death brought an end to the monarchy in France.

This weekend we honour another king who, like King Louis XVI, was publicly humiliated and executed. It is there, however, that the similarity ends. This king, Jesus, was not an earthly one like Louis XVI but rather the one who brought creation into being. This king was executed because his words and actions threatened the power of so many with vested interests in maintaining the status quo. Unlike King Louis, the execution of Jesus did not mean the end of his reign but ensured his kingship would continue until the end of time.

And so the Gospel which appears at first glance to be out of place on this feast day does in fact make sense. There are plenty of occasions in the ministry of Jesus where he is triumphant, (his various miracles for example), and thus numerous opportunities for assigning a Gospel to this weekend's feast that reflect a more "kingly" or triumphant Jesus, worthy of tribute and praise. Yet we recall this weekend what is surely the lowest point in the life of Jesus – his execution. It is however when Jesus' life is at its lowest point that he demonstrates his noble and kingly nature. On the cross Jesus is still bringing people to God and thus he is able to utter the memorable words to the thief crucified near him, "Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise." Not only is Jesus able to promise eternal life to another as he himself is dying, he is ultimately able to triumph over the cross. As always when we are dealing with Jesus, worldly ways are turned on their head and so out of apparent defeat and despair comes triumph and hope.

The cross, an instrument of death in the Roman world, becomes our symbol of life - and life eternal at that! For this let us give thanks to the one Isaiah called "Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace" (9:6) and the one referred to in the final book of the scriptures as "King of kings." (Rev 19:16) As we prepare to welcome in the new Church year may we acknowledge that the one who appeared in the scriptures as humble and powerless, and who we are soon to recall was born a vulnerable infant, was, remains, and will be always, the most powerful, gracious and loving king who ever lived.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



Ministries for this week Saturday 19 November
Eucharistic Ministers Malcolm & Teresa Wass Andrew Aberdeen
Readers Ann Canavan Angela Tosley
Children's Liturgy Anne Davies Angela Harmston
Welcomers Mary Kitching Pat Middleton

Ministries for next week Saturday 26 November
Eucharistic Ministers John and Irene Carey Kevin Boyle
Readers Margaret Purdom Claire Lavery
Children's Liturgy Jane Smith Helen Musham
Welcomers Janet Harrigan Halina Holman

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION
Gift Aid: £230 Loose Plate: £200
Total: £430
Mass Attendance: 147
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 and Tom Tracey.

APPEALS: This Sunday is **Youth Sunday** and so there will be a retiring collection after Mass. Please see the notice on page two of the bulletin for more details on this collection. Thanking you in anticipation of your generosity.

Youth

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...?

Forward Together in Hope (FTiH): As has already been mentioned on several occasions, St Patrick's are looking to form a parish partnership with the parishes of Durham City (Durham Martyrs' parishes and St Cuthbert's) as well as the three parishes of Trimdon, Sedgefield and Coxhoe and those of the West Durham Family of Parishes. At this stage, a proposal is being prepared which will be submitted to the Diocese by next Sunday, 27 November. Ultimately, Bishop Séamus will make the decision on all parish partnerships throughout the Diocese and his decision will not be made public until the new year.

Youth Sunday: Today on Youth Sunday, we celebrate the gift of young people in our Church and renew our commitment to encourage and support them. Please pray for the young people in your parish and throughout the diocese and for those who work with them and please give generously to today's collection for the Youth Ministry Team, our diocesan youth service (www.ymt.org)

HCPT Pilgrimage Morning Tea Fundraiser: There will be a coffee morning fundraiser in the presbytery on Saturday, 26 November from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Proceeds go to HCPT, an organisation that offers week-long pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes for disabled and disadvantaged children and young people. All are welcome! Tickets are £1.50 and are available from Pauline Crooks and other ladies at the rear of the church.

Maria Cristina Di Lella RIP: The funeral service for Maria Di Lella will be held here at St Patrick's this Thursday, 24 November, at 11:15am.

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.

Social Night Raffle: Please check your raffle tickets from this event as there are still two unclaimed prizes. The winning tickets are PINK 669 and PINK 615.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party: Organised by St Patrick's Social Committee, this will take place on Saturday 03 December at 12:30pm at the Royal British Legion, Meadowfield. Any parishioners wishing to attend should add their name to the list at the rear of the church. Raffle tickets will be on sale on Saturday, 26 November.

Co-op Christmas Service: The Co-op will be holding its Memorial Christmas Service at St Luke's, Ferryhill, on Thursday 08 December at 6:30pm. If you wish to attend, please call Katherine on (0191) 378 0561.

SCHOOL NEWS

Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Clergy Conference

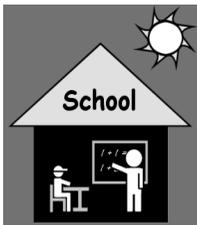
This week Mrs Burnside, Mrs Rogers and Father Robert attended the annual conference for headteachers, deputy headteachers and clergy organised by the Diocesan Department for Education. The theme this year was 'From Vision to Mission'. The principal speaker was Sister Judith Russi of the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur with David Wells of Plymouth Diocese also addressing the conference.

Lighting of the Local Christmas Tree – Sunday 04 December

At 4:30pm on Sunday 04 December, the tree opposite Lidl in Langley Moor will be lit. Our School Choir will be supporting the event, along with the choir from Langley Moor Primary School. Everyone is welcome to attend this annual community event.

First Sacraments – First Reconciliation – Tuesday 06 December

Our pupils preparing for First Sacraments will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in church at 5:00pm on Tuesday 06 December before the celebration of Mass at 6:30pm.



J E C H U R C H S P
U T H R O N E S H E
W O R L D L O V E A
Y F I J U D G E A C
J E S U S O O U V E
A A T S R M E K E C
M R Y T K I I I N R
B E G I N N I N G E
H A P C L I R I N G O A
I R O E O O U D D T
G T O N R N L O G O
H H R E D E E M E R

See if you can find all the words from the list at the bottom. Then put the leftover letters in the spaces to find a little prayer you can say any time.



BEGINNING	HEAVEN	LOVE
CHRIST	HIGH	PEACE
CHURCH	JESUS	POOR
CREATOR	JUDGE	REDEEMER
DOMINION	JUSTICE	RULE
EARTH	KINGDOM	THRONE
FEAR	LORD	WORLD
GOD		

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saints Andrew Dũng-Lạc and his Companions - 24 November

The evangelisation of Vietnam began in the 16th century. There are now about six million Catholics in Vietnam, some ten percent of the population.

This growth comes partly from the fact that since the earliest times the seed of the Faith has been watered by the blood of the martyrs of Vietnam – the missionary clergy, the local clergy and the ordinary Christian people. Over the course of the 17th, 18th and 18th centuries no less than 53 decrees signed by the lords and emperors of the country from 1625 to 1886, launched one persecution of Christians after another, each one more savage than the last. Over the whole territory of Vietnam about 130,000 Christians were killed in these persecutions. Over the centuries the names of most of them have been lost, but their memory is still alive in the Catholic community.

Since the beginning of the 20th century 117 of these heroes were beatified, in four groups. They were all canonized together by Pope John Paul II on 19 June, 1988.

Each of them was a soul individually created and loved by God, with a life and gifts uniquely his or her own; but with such a huge crowd one can only classify. By nationality, there were 96 Vietnamese, 11 Spanish and 10 French. By status, there were 8 bishops, 50 priests, and 59 laymen and women. By mode of death, 75 were beheaded, 22 strangled, 6 burned alive, 5 torn to pieces while still alive, and 9 died of torture in prison.



~ Christmas Gifts ~

It is one of the truths of Christmas in our affluent society that we find it difficult to choose gifts for others. Why not have a look at the piety stall at the back of the church this weekend to find something faith-based and unique? Our piety stall has some great new stock. Find something suitable for Christmas!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the season of Advent, which begins next Sunday as a preparation for the Nativity, has two purposes?

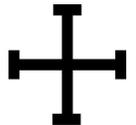
The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar (39) states the following:

“ADVENT has a twofold character - as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.”

“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

“We think that God is to be found in the beyond, on another level of reality, far removed from our everyday relationships. But if this were the case, if God could not act in the world, his love would not be truly powerful, truly real, and thus not even true, a love capable of delivering the bliss that it promises...Christians, on the contrary, profess their faith in God's tangible and powerful love which really does act in history and determines its final destiny: a love that can be encountered, a love fully revealed in Christ's passion, death and resurrection.”

Pope Francis
Lumen Fidei, 2013 (17)



PRAY FOR... the souls of the faithful departed right throughout this month of November. We pray for all those whose names are inscribed in our Book of Remembrance, for others we have known and loved who have left us, for those who otherwise would have no one to pray for them. We remember in a special way too all those who have died in war, especially the innocent victims of tyranny and those who use religion as a justification for violence.