

The week ahead...

Saturday 20 February Weekday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: John Middleton and the people of the parish <i>Confessions after Mass</i>
Sunday 21 February 2 nd Sunday of Lent		
Monday 22 February Weekday of Lent		
Tuesday 23 February Polycarp, <i>Bishop & Martyr</i>		
Wednesday 24 February Weekday of Lent	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: Walter Staff (Recently Deceased) Stations of the Cross
Thursday 25 February Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: McGough and Duffy Families
Friday 26 February Weekday of Lent	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 27 February Weekday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: James and Dora Mearman, Pat Openshaw and the people of the parish <i>Confessions after Mass</i>

Ministries for this week Saturday 14 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

Ministries for next week Saturday 21 February
Eucharistic Ministers: Jane Smith, Helen Campbell, Wilf Lavery
Readers: Pat Middleton and Claire Lavery
Children's Liturgy: Anne Davies and Angela Harmston
Welcomers: Janet Harrigan and Sally Thompson

Last week's collection:
Gift Aid: £289 Loose Plate: £206
Total: £495
Mass Attendance: 171
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.

2nd Sunday of Lent

21 February, 2016

“...let us make three tents...”

If you could label any one of the disciples “impetuous” it would surely be Peter. There are several instances in the gospels in which we witness Peter putting little or no thought into his words or actions. Perhaps one of the most famous examples of this is the incident just prior to the Transfiguration (this Sunday's gospel passage) in which Jesus tells the disciples of his imminent suffering, death and resurrection. Peter immediately speaks up in protest: “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” Jesus rebukes Peter: “Get behind me, Satan!” Peter has failed to realise the true nature of Jesus as Saviour, his heart ruling his head.

The Transfiguration affords us another, albeit more subtle, chance to see this more impulsive side of the leader of the disciples. This event, related in all three of the synoptic gospels (Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8 and Luke 9:28-36), has divided scholars as to its meaning. Whether it is seen as Jesus encouraging his disciples by giving them a glimpse of heaven or a misplaced account of the Resurrection, Peter's response to this marvellous event is to want to sustain it. One can understand this desire. Here he is with the other two most beloved disciples of Jesus, along with not only Jesus himself but also two of the greatest figures from Jewish religious history, Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets). Peter shows that he wants to prolong this event by his words, “let us make three tents.” His idea is that Jesus, Moses and Elijah will camp there so that all six of them can spend time together. It is not to be. The Father speaks to the disciples from heaven, affirming Jesus as the Chosen One, rendering the disciples speechless, and they descend the mountain. There is to be no prolonging of this event – its purpose has been achieved.

I think for most of us such instances of bliss in the presence of God as experienced by Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration are few and far between. There may be only a handful of occasions in our life when we know of that incredible feeling of intimacy with our God. It is natural that we should want to sustain those times. Even less intense periods may warrant a response like that of Peter. Putting the explicitly “religious” to one side for a moment, we naturally want to continue those occasions of joy we might experience in the presence of loved ones or when communing with nature or even time with a much-loved pet.

One lesson we might draw from this reading of the Transfiguration is that of learning to let go at such times. For Peter, James and John the purpose of the event of the Transfiguration was an affirmation of Jesus as the Son of God. The purpose having been achieved, it was time to descend the mountain (a symbol of closeness to God) and carry on with the mission, thankful for this brief but blessed moment in time.

As we continue our Lenten observances, let us have an openness to the presence of God, be thankful of any experiences of intimacy we may have and allow those experiences to encourage us as we, like Peter, James and John, continue with our mission to build the kingdom of God in our homes, schools and workplaces.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



What's going on...?

CAFOD Family Fast Day: This weekend there will be a second collection in aid of CAFOD to support their development work throughout the world. Please be as generous as you can, remembering at this time of Lent Jesus' call to almsgiving and Pope Francis's call to remember the poor.

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: 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: 15 March 15 and 19 April. All are welcome!

Support for Fr Ejaz: Fr Ejaz needs rosaries, medals, small booklets, etc. These items are also needed for many other projects run by the Host Apostolate. All donations for postage gratefully received. An update on Fr Ejaz's orphanage appeal is available today from the back of the church. Thank you to all who continue to support these projects.

From Fr Brian.... I would like to say a sincere "Thank You" to the parishioners of St Patrick's for your very generous gift. It was lovely to see you all again and you will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

For our younger parishioners....

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Polycarp - 23 February

Polycarp (born circa 69), Bishop of Smyrna (now Izmir in modern-day Turkey), faced persecution the way Christ did. His own Church admired him for following the "gospel model" - not chasing after martyrdom as some did, but avoiding it until it was God's will as Jesus did. They considered it "a sign of love to desire not to save oneself alone, but to save also all the Christian brothers and sisters."

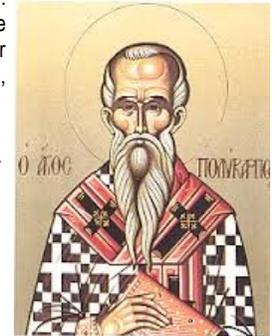
One day, during a bloody martyrdom when Christians were attacked by wild animals in the arena, the crowd became so mad that they demanded more blood by crying, "Down with the atheists; let Polycarp be found." (They considered Christians "atheists" because they didn't believe in their pantheon of gods.) Since Polycarp was not only known as a leader but as someone holy "even before his grey hair appeared," this was a horrible demand.

Polycarp was calm but others persuaded him to leave the city and hide at a nearby farm. He spent his time in prayer for people he knew and for the Church. During his prayer he saw a vision of his pillow turned to fire and announced to his friends that the dream meant he would be burned alive. This eventually came to pass, with the then 86-year old being taken into custody by authorities, under the directions of the local pro-consul.

When the fire was lit under him, eyewitnesses reported they saw a miracle. The fire burst up in an arch around Polycarp, the flames surrounding him like sails, and instead of being burned he seemed to glow like bread baking, or gold being melted in a furnace. When the captors saw he wasn't being burned, they stabbed him. The blood that flowed put the fire out.

The proconsul wouldn't let the Christians have the body because he was afraid they would worship Polycarp. The witnesses reported this with scorn for the lack of understanding of Christian faith: "They did not know that we can never abandon the innocent Christ who suffered on behalf of sinners for the salvation of those in this world." After the body was burned, they stole the bones in order to celebrate the memory of his martyrdom and prepare others for persecution. The date was about 23 February, 156.

(Taken from *CathNews*, www.cathnews.com)



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Stations of the Cross are a popular devotion during the season of Lent?

Of course, praying the Stations of the Cross (or the 'Way of the Cross') is a worthy endeavour anytime, but most especially on Fridays and during the season of Lent. Praying the Stations is one effective way of aligning our lives with that of Jesus during his greatest time of suffering, one way of thanking him for making the choice to give up his life that we may have true life. We walk with him as he makes his final blood and sweat-drenched way to Calvary, feeling something of what he felt and thus increasing our gratitude for his great sacrifice. Why not join us every Wednesday evening in Lent from 7:00pm?

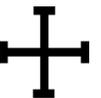
"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Our pilgrim life here on earth cannot be without temptation for it is through temptation that we make progress and it is only by being tempted that we come to know ourselves. We cannot win our crown unless we overcome, and we cannot overcome unless we enter the contest and there is no contest unless we have an enemy and the temptations he brings."

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Bishop and theologian

From *'Discourses on the Psalms'*



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!