

## The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 26 March</b>	Easter Vigil 5:00pm	Mass: <b>Ann Nixon</b>
<b>Sunday 27 March</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	10:00am	Mass: <b>Pauline Pepper and pro populo</b>
<b>Monday 28 March</b> Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: <b>Walter Staff</b>
<b>Tuesday 29 March</b> Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Wednesday 30 March</b> Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: <b>Deceased members of the Carey family</b>
<b>Thursday 31 March</b> Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: <b>Lizzabella Morris and Margaret Jane Morris</b>
<b>Friday 01 April</b> Weekday of Easter	7:00am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 02 April</b> Weekday of Easter	9:30am 5:00pm	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>  Mass: <b>Arthur and Camilla Crooks and pro populo</b>



**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.

**Easter Sunday**

**27 March, 2016**

**“He is risen! Indeed, He is risen!”**

THESE WORDS ARE KNOWN as the Paschal greeting, a greeting particularly popular amongst Eastern Christians. They sum up what this day is really all about – the fact that Jesus, executed as a common criminal and then buried in a tomb, has, two days later, been raised from the dead. This in itself is remarkable but all the more remarkable and wonderful for what it means for us: we too may share in the Resurrection and know eternal life in God's kingdom. And this resurrection and dwelling in the Kingdom is not something that we have to wait for – it can begin here and now if we open our heart to the movement of the Holy Spirit, given to us in Baptism.

Death does not have the final word. Jesus has triumphed over death and destroyed death forever! Yet though we as Christians might assent to this truth regularly at church and especially on this Sunday of the Resurrection, we need to ask ourselves how this marvellous truth makes a difference in our day to day living. Indeed, does it make a difference? Surely it ought to? Gifts are given as a token of love most certainly, but this gift is given for a specific purpose – to build up God's kingdom and spread the Good News of the Resurrection and all it means for those who welcome this message.

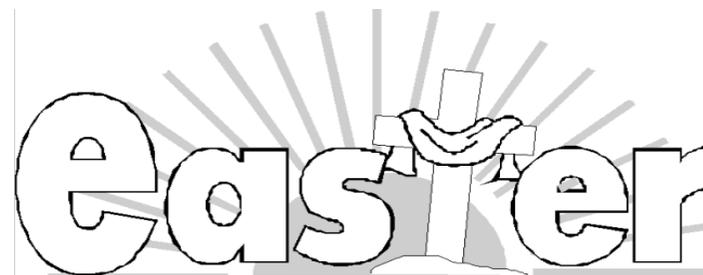
I wish to particularly welcome today those who are visiting St Patrick's this Easter as they visit loved ones in this part of Durham. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to those who live in the area but don't attend Mass here regularly. You are most welcome! Please remember that we are here to serve you in any way we can and look forward to getting to know you better.

I wish each of you a truly blessed Easter and great joy as you reflect on how you seek to spread this Good News each day. It is in doing this that we come to experience a glimpse of the kingdom of God in which, please God, we will dwell for all eternity.

And it all began with that first Easter Sunday and the empty tomb...

*Blessings and prayers throughout the Easter season,*

*Fr Robert*



**Ministries for this 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

**Ministries for next week**  
Saturday 02 April

**Eucharistic Ministers:**  
Helen Campbell, Jane Smith  
and Wilf Lavery

**Readers:**  
Maria Griffiths and  
Judith Bulmer

**Children's Liturgy:**  
No Children's Liturgy due to  
half-term break

**Welcomers:**  
Angela Harmston and  
Christine Tracey

**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION:**

**Gift Aid: £283 Loose Plate: £226**

**Total: £509**

**Mass Attendance: 164**

**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](mailto: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.

## 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.

**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.

**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](mailto:adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Want to know more about Catholic Social Teaching?** Would you like to become part of a group of individuals from across the diocese who would be willing to undertake collaborative study in Catholic Social Teaching? Perhaps you have thought at times that you would like to know more about the so-called 'best kept secret' of our Church? Would you be willing to undertake independent study online and meet regularly for discussions, say once a month, where we could serve as a support network for each other? The Diocesan Departments for Formation and Justice and Peace have funding available so no costs involved. No prior knowledge is needed. Hopefully, it would be an enjoyable undertaking too! Please contact me for any further information: Louise Harrison, parishioner of Newhouse, Esh Winning. Email: [maryalichelouise@outlook.com](mailto:maryalichelouise@outlook.com) or by phone: 07532 309 745 or 0191 375 7784.

**For our younger parishioners....**

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

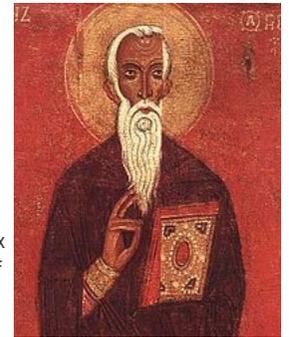
### St John Climacus - 30 March

There is almost no information about John's life. John possibly came to the Vatos Monastery at Mount Sinai, now Saint Catherine's Monastery, and became a novice when he was about sixteen years old. He was taught about the spiritual life by the elder monk Martyrius. After the death of Martyrius, John, wishing to practice greater asceticism, withdrew to a hermitage at the foot of the mountain. In this isolation he lived for some twenty years, constantly studying the lives of the saints and thus becoming one of the most learned Church Fathers. When he was about seventy-five years of age, the monks of Sinai persuaded him to become their abbot. He acquitted himself of his functions as abbot with the greatest wisdom.

Of John's literary output we know principally the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, composed in the early seventh century at the request of John, Abbot of Raithu, a monastery situated on the shores of the Red Sea. It is in the *Ladder* that we hear of the ascetic practice of carrying a small notebook to record the thoughts of the monk during contemplation.

The *Ladder* describes how to raise one's soul and body to God through the acquisition of ascetic virtues. Climacus uses the analogy of Jacob's Ladder as the framework for his spiritual teaching. Each chapter is referred to as a "step", and deals with a separate spiritual subject. There are thirty Steps of the ladder, which correspond to the age of Jesus at his baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. Steps 1-7 concern general virtues necessary for the ascetic life, while the next nineteen (Steps 8-26) give instruction on overcoming vices and building their corresponding virtues. The final four Steps concern the higher virtues toward which the ascetic life aims. The final rung of the ladder, beyond prayer, stillness, and even dispassion, is love.

Originally written simply for the monks of a neighbouring monastery, the *Ladder* swiftly became one of the most widely read and much-beloved books of Byzantine spirituality. This book is one of the most widely read among Orthodox Christians, especially during the season of Great Lent which precedes the feast of Easter.



## DID YOU KNOW...?

.....that Easter falls on a carefully calculated day, dependent upon the moon?

The First Council of Nicaea in the year 325 established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the March equinox. We have a very early Easter this year but not as early as it can be since Easter can fall on any Sunday between 22 March and 25 April. As a matter of interest, Easter Sunday is quite late next year, falling on 16 April. In 2018, Easter Sunday will fall close to the middle of the two extremes on 01 April but will be very late in 2019 with Easter Sunday being 21 April.

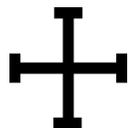
**ALLELUIA!**

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Easter season is a time of hope. There still is fear, there still is a painful awareness of sinfulness, but there also is light breaking through. Something new is happening, something that goes beyond the changing moods of our life. We can be joyful or sad, optimistic or pessimistic, tranquil or angry, but the solid stream of God's presence moves deeper than the small waves of our minds and hearts. Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when his presence is not directly noticed."

Fr Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)

*A Cry for Mercy*



**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!