

The week ahead...

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>
Sunday 28 February 2 nd Sunday of Lent		
Monday 29 February Weekday of Lent		
Tuesday 01 March St David, Bishop		
Wednesday 02 March Weekday of Lent	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: Anne Keenan <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Thursday 03 March Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: McGough and Duffy Families
Friday 04 March St Casimir, Prince	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 05 March Weekday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Living and deceased members of the Moran family <i>Confessions after Mass</i>

Ministries for this week
Saturday 14 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

Ministries for next week
Saturday 21 February

Eucharistic Ministers:
Mr & Mrs Burside and Judith Bulmer

Readers:
Ann Canavan and Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy:
Maria Griffiths and Michelle Dennis

Welcomers:
Halina Holman and Pat Middleton

Last weekend's collection:
Gift Aid: £225 Loose Plate: £244
Total: £469

CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection (to date): £405
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.

3rd Sunday of Lent

28 February, 2016

"I Am Who I Am."

WHENEVER A PARISH has catechumens, adults preparing for baptism, confirmation and Eucharist at the great Easter Vigil, the priest will usually choose to use the readings for Year A on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, regardless of which liturgical year it happens to be. This is because the catechumens undergo the scrutinies on these three Sundays, special prayers and blessings as they enter the final phase of preparation for initiation into the Church. These ceremonies are to encourage them to rid themselves of all that might stand in their way to fully embracing the faith for which they have longed. The readings for Year A on these Sundays, particularly the Gospels, are geared towards encouraging the catechumens at this special time. The Gospels are three classic passages of Jesus and his healing powers at work in others.

Having said that, though we will hear the Year C readings this year, all the readings with which the Church gifts us during Lent are classic readings that encourage us on our Lenten journey. This weekend is no exception.

Our First Reading is one such example of a classic biblical story: Moses and the burning bush. This rather strange encounter is notable for several things, but two struck me as being of particular interest (besides the manner in which God speaks to Moses!) Firstly, the fact that God chose to speak to Moses at all, and secondly, how God chooses to identify Godself.

I say that it is surprising that God chose to engage with Moses because Moses certainly did not have a 'clean slate'. Remember, Moses was a murderer on the run, having killed an Egyptian who he had caught abusing a fellow Israelite. This was not to be an isolated case of God choosing an imperfect instrument for his work: we can think of many others, including Gideon and David, to say nothing of the twelve Apostles and Paul when we move into the New Testament. God sees past imperfections and is interested in potential.

"I Am Who I Am". An enigmatic statement if ever there was one! Perhaps we can best understand this to mean that God is God and it is not up to us to try and manipulate God as so often we are wont to do. God is who God is: all-powerful, all-knowing and all-present. Through Moses, the Egyptians were soon to learn this very important truth.

This leads us to the Gospel and the parable of the barren fig tree. We learn that God is patient in waiting for fruit to blossom but God's patience is not endless even if his mercy is great. How often do we make excuses for not 'bearing fruit' in our lives as Christian disciples, thinking that God's work is only to be done by others who we believe to have greater gifts? Yet, if God calls people like Moses, David and the apostles and Paul to do God's work, God no less calls all of us to mission, each in our own way.

Let us pledge this Lent to rediscover what God has called us to and strive, with the help of the Spirit, to achieve it.

May you continue to enjoy a fruitful Lenten season.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



What's going on...?

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 Friday 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.

HCPt coffee morning: Please come along to our coffee morning on Saturday 5th March from 10am until 1.00pm at St Patrick's church house. All money raised supports funding for young people to visit Lourdes.

Lanchester & District Choral & Amateur Operatic Society presents SACRED CONTRASTS: At All Saints Catholic Church, Kitswell Road, Lanchester on Friday 11 March at 7:15pm. Tickets: £8.00 including refreshments. Please call 01207 521458 or

Social Night! St Patrick's Social Committee is holding a social night on Friday 18 March at 7:30pm. Tickets are £2.50 and available from the Social Committee. All money raised will fund the Spring Party for senior citizens later in the year.

For our younger parishioners....

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

Parish Catechesis Module: For those who may be interested, a Parish Catechesis module will take place on Saturday 12 and 13 March 2016, 9:30am to 3:30pm at St Hilda's Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. This module enables participants to gain an understanding of parish catechesis and to develop approaches to working within a parish setting. It offers an introduction to the theology, principles and goals of parish catechesis. This module is one of

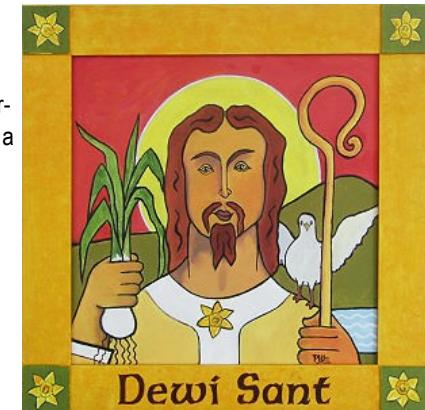
The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in this Year of Mercy, takes place from Friday 29 July to Friday 05 August flying direct from Newcastle International Airport. Posters, booking forms and all information is now available on both the Diocesan webpage and the pilgrimage webpage www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk. The pilgrimage has places available for sick pilgrims who require nursing care, a Jumbulance is available for overland travel for those unable to fly, there is a youth section for all aged 16 – 25 and there are booking forms for all the hotel pilgrims who wish to travel. Booking forms and further information available from Tangney Tours or Pilgrimage Director Fr Peter Stott on 01670 513 410.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St David (Dewi Sant) - 01 March

According to tradition, St David was the son of King Sant of South Wales and St Non. He was ordained a priest and later studied under St Paulinus. Later, he was involved in missionary work and founded a number of monasteries. The monastery he founded at Menevia in south-western Wales was noted for extreme asceticism. David and his monks drank neither wine nor beer - only water - while putting in a full day of heavy manual labour and intense study. Around the year 550, David attended a synod at Brevi in Cardiganshire. His contributions at the synod are said to have been the major cause for his election as primate of the Cambrian Church. He was reportedly consecrated archbishop by the patriarch of Jerusalem while on a visit to the Holy Land. He also is said to have invoked a council that ended the last vestiges of Pelagianism, a heresy which believed that a person's works could earn them salvation, rather than God's grace. David died at his monasteries in Menevia around the year 589, and his cult was approved in 1120 by Pope Callistus II. He is revered as the patron of Wales. Undoubtedly, St David was endowed with substantial qualities of spiritual leadership. What is more, many monasteries flourished as a result of his leadership and good example. His staunch adherence to monastic piety bespeaks a fine example for modern Christians seeking order and form in their prayer life.

(Taken from Catholic Online www.catholic.org)



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, those who are preparing for baptism undergo the ritual of the scrutinies?

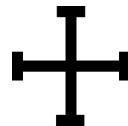
Of course, we are talking here of those unbaptised adults who are seeking initiation into the Church. The purpose of the scrutinies is to encourage 'the elect', as they are now known, to continue, in a deeper way, scrutinising their own lives so that they may be prepared for baptism at Easter with hearts and minds made pure. We too, as Catholics already baptised, are encouraged to greet the great feast of the Resurrection with renewed vigour and a heart made new through the disciplines we have undertaken during Lent.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Christians who obstinately maintain 'It's always been done this way', have a closed heart."

Pope Francis (b. 1936)

From one of his recent daily homilies



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!