

The week ahead...

Saturday 05 May Vigil Mass for Sixth Sunday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: McGough & Duffy families and pro populo
Sunday 06 May Sixth Sunday of Easter	NO MASS	
Monday 07 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Tuesday 08 May Weekday of Easter	6:30pm	Mass: Gordon Riley
Wednesday 09 May Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: Margaret & John Canavan
Thursday 10 May <i>The Ascension, (Holyday of Obligation)</i>	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: A sick person Mass: Billie Barrie
Friday 11 May Weekday of Easter	7:00am	Mass: Ian Barrie
Saturday 12 May Vigil Mass for Seventh Sunday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: Lizzabella & Margaret Jane Morris and pro populo



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Sixth Sunday of Easter

06 May, 2018

"This is my commandment: love one another...."

IF YOU WISHED to sum up the Christian faith in one phrase it would surely be the words we hear uttered by Jesus in this weekend's Gospel: "Love one another." Many of us study our catechism and have some knowledge of scripture, Church history and doctrine and so on but this is all for naught if it does not assist us to live out our faith with the witness of Christ's love. A professed atheist who selflessly loves others is surely demonstrating a greater openness to the work of the Holy Spirit (though he or she would deny it!) than a "practising" Christian who externally embraces the faith but in reality lives selfishly and demonstrates a grudging unwillingness to change. Of course, this was essentially the message of Jesus and the basis of his ongoing battles with the Pharisees.

But what did Jesus mean when he commanded us to "love one another"? The word "love" can mean so many different things depending on the context in which it is used. As always, Jesus draws us into a radical understanding and living out of love. It is not a mere feeling, it is not romance, it is not simply something "nice". The best indicator we get of what Jesus means by love is surely right there in the way he *commands* us to love. If the love he was speaking of was a feeling, then it could not be commanded. We cannot *command* another person, or ourselves, to feel anything. Feelings are beyond our control. Feelings precede action, over which we *do* have control. The love of which Jesus speaks therefore, is clearly a love which has its foundation in a choice on our part and which requires action by us. The love he speaks of, quite simply, is made manifest in his own life during his time on earth.

But the word *command* might still grate on us. No one likes to be commanded to do something. We must remember however, that Jesus would only command something of us if it was for our good, our fulfilment and our happiness. Jesus knows that when we make the choice to love in the way he did, having the good of all others always in mind, we will know the happiness which each of us craves. It is this type of love that bears fruit. This fruit is not one we can necessarily feel or see. It is intangible but for all that it is "fruit that will last". Things which are able to be seen and touched will ultimately decay, but loving as Jesus did will bear fruit that will never decay. The fruit of which Jesus speaks is the growth of his kingdom through the choices we make and the actions we undertake as his disciples.

We must remember that it is impossible to love as Jesus commands us independent of his help, given to us in the Holy Spirit at our baptism. We may believe it to be impossible to love some others, especially those who have harmed us in some way, but if we truly believe that we are gifted with the Holy Spirit then we can have no excuses for not making an effort to reach out to others lovingly – we may be amazed at the results!

Wishing you blessings during the Easter season,

Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES

Saturday 05 May

Eucharistic Ministers
Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers
Angela Tosley
Margaret Purdom

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES

Saturday 12 May

Eucharistic Ministers
Angela & Gordon Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers
Ann Canavan
Claire Lavery

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Joanne Lidster

Welcomers
Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

Music
Richard Openshaw & Choir

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin. Items need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday**.

We pray for our beloved deceased, including....

McGOUGH & DUFFY families
Mary McDONOUGH (Rec. Dec.)



Ian & Billie BARRIE
Alan LOCKYEAR
Veronica CAVANAGH
Barbara O'FARRELL

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....

*Jack Tobin, Pat Harrison,
Sylvia Kelly, Mary Spears,
Rose Crick, Doreen Carroll,
Margaret Pouton
and Tom Taylorson*



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £204 Loose Plate: £205

TOTAL: £409

Mass Attendance: 139

DIocese OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



The Ascension

