

The week ahead...

Saturday 02 February Vigil Mass for 4 th Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Mary Pattinson, Vera Kitching, Alice Egglestone and pro populo
Sunday 03 February 4 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 04 February Monday of Week 4	NO MASS	
Tuesday 05 February <i>St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Vera Keep
Wednesday 06 February <i>St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs</i>	9:30am	Mass: Billy Dickinson
Thursday 07 February Thursday of Week 4	9:30am	Mass: Harry & Teresa Coad
Friday 08 February Friday of Week 4	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 09 February Vigil Mass for 5 th Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Mulhall family and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church
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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 03 February, 2019

Praise and Persecution

OUR GOSPEL THIS WEEKEND continues on from that of last weekend when, you will remember, Jesus went to his home town of Nazareth and preached in the synagogue. The text Jesus read was from the prophet Isaiah which spoke of bringing the good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives, restoring sight to the blind and setting the downtrodden free. Jesus rolled up the scroll and, with all watching him, proclaimed: "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."

It is these words which open our Gospel today. We experienced some great dramatic tension with the ending of the Gospel last weekend. What would be the response of those who had their eyes fixed on him at his declaration?

Actually, I spoiled the ending in last weekend's bulletin column for you by mentioning that "...he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips." I also mentioned that this approval was to be short-lived. Once Jesus opens his mouth to speak again the crowd tries to murder him. The prophetic words of Jesus don't accord with the expectations of those present, especially from "one of their own." They want to hear how special they are as God's "chosen people" to the exclusion of all others. Yet Jesus puts paid to any such notion and reminds them of incidents in the scriptures concerning the great prophets Elijah and Elisha who had greater success with the Gentiles than with their own kind. Jesus preaches that God's love is inclusive. Jesus essentially cuts out from under the feet of those present their very excuse for believing God favoured them. They were using their concept of God as a justification for hatred and prejudice.

The Jews present in the synagogue had forgotten (or perhaps never even knew) that they were a people specially chosen by God not so that they could revel in their special status but so that they could be used by God to spread his message of love to others. They were called to be of service to the rest of humanity, not called to be self-serving.

This is a trap we must not fall into as Catholics. We all have an image or concept of God that influences our thoughts and actions as Christians. For some people that concept may have changed little since childhood, for others it may be an ever-changing concept in accordance with circumstances and spiritual maturity. Either way, our concept of God must never cause us to be self-serving or be the cause of us failing to recognise God's presence in another person or situation, even when that person or situation seems totally alien to our understanding of what is "Godly". After all, even the worst of sinners is loved by God. We are called to do the same. Seeing another as a lesser human being and so less a vehicle for God's love and grace is a grave sin and contrary to Jesus' own example.

And how often has such an attitude led to discord and bloodshed throughout human history!

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
 Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 02 February

Eucharistic Ministers
 Gordon & Angela Tosley
 Angela Harmston

Readers
 Marie Paily
 Stella Foody

Children's Liturgy
 Maria Griffiths
 Helen Riddles

Welcomers
 Angela Harmston
 Christine Tracey

Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 09 February

Eucharistic Ministers
 Malcolm & Teresa Wass
 Andrew Aberdeen

Readers
 Ann Canavan
 Angela Tosley

Children's Liturgy
 Carol Bainbridge
 Joanne Lidster

Welcomers
 Pat Middleton
 Mary Kitching

Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

The fourth Sunday

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 for publication need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday.**

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

Mary PATTINSON
 Vera KITCHING
 Alice EGGLESTONE
 Kevin TOMKINS (Rec. Dec.)
 Joan DAWSON
 Jimmy WALLACE
 Bob ROSS

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

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

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £212 Loose Plate: £212

TOTAL: £424

Mass Attendance: 157

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Gathering after Mass this week: As always on the first weekend Mass of the month, we will be gathering in the school hall after Mass today for fellowship over some drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome!

Now on Twitter! The parish now has a Twitter account and I hope to tweet something each day. These tweets will be both of a spiritual and practical nature. Simply search for **St Patrick's Langley Moor**.

Message from Bishop Séamus: In place of the homily next weekend, a message from Bishop Séamus will be read. Some prayer cards will also be made available for you.

White Flower Appeal: There are times when women may be pregnant yet feel unable to have another child. What can they do? Have another child anyway? Offer the child to be adopted? Some women feel trapped by the situation and think the best thing to do is to opt for an abortion. Yet what about the unborn child, deprived of a right to live? These are not easy issues to handle. The 'White Flower' appeal seeks to support those who feel pressurised into having abortions, yet also seeks to recognise the rights of the unborn. If you feel able to support the White Flower Appeal to assist the work of the **Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC)**, there will be an opportunity as you leave Mass **this weekend**.

Fr Ejaz Report: The latest report on Fr Ejaz's project is posted on the noticeboard. This has been put together by Celia Hetherington. If you would like a copy, paper or electronic, please see Fr Robert.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes: You are warmly invited to the celebration of Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is 'World Day of the Sick'. Mass will be celebrated on **Monday 11 February** at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Penshaw at 7:00pm. Refreshments are available after Mass. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to gather as a diocese to celebrate this feast. See noticeboard for more details.

Statues: The statues that we asked the students at St Leonard's to refurbish are now complete and will be back in the parish in the next week or so. I will update you when I have more information.

Rosary Group: A reminder that a group of parishioners meet regularly after the 9:30am Mass on Thursday to pray the Rosary. Feel free to join them!

Diocesan Vacancy: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancy:

Administrator: St Paul's, Alnwick – 9 hours per week, 12-month fixed term contract. Closing date: 11 February. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us 0191 243 3301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

Diocesan Church Music Association: 'Keyboard Free' Music Workshop. The workshop is at Ushaw College on Saturday 09 March, 10:00am – 3:30pm. Cost is £10. See poster for details.

Partnership Development Group (PDG) minutes: Minutes of the 11 January meeting are now available on the noticeboard and also via St Cuthbert's parish website.

Vocations Weekend for young women: Theme: **Follow your Heart - Discernment and Vocation**, 15 - 17 February 2019 in Liverpool. This weekend is organised by the sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne FCJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org.

The Kids' Bulletin

Love: True or False?

*Do you know what Saint Paul taught us about love?
See if you know which are true and which are false,
according to today's second reading...*

1. Love sometimes fails. True or false?
2. If I have faith enough to move mountains but don't have love I am nothing. True or false?
3. Love is patient and kind. True or false?
4. Love is jealous. True or false?
5. If I can prophesy and understand all mysteries but I don't have love then I'm still great. True or false?
6. When you love then you are mostly interested in taking care of yourself. True or false?
7. The three most important virtues are faith, hope and love, but love is the greatest. True or false?



SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I try to use words that make the world a better place'. We listened to the Gospel story about the healing of the ten lepers, when only one returned to give thanks and reflected on a power of a kind word.

Welcome

Three pupils have been welcomed into our school this half-term. Maksim joined us in Year 5, Osahenrhunmwun in Year 3 and Osagbemwonrhue in Year 1.

First Holy Communicants

Children preparing for First Sacraments attended another preparation session in the church house today. They join us in the celebration of Mass this evening, when they will make a commitment to listen to and act out the Word of God, shared during the Liturgy of the Word.

Masses and Liturgies

Please find below details of the celebration for the week ahead:

Wednesday, 06 February @ 3:00pm: Liturgy with Reception (School Chapel)

Thursday, 07 February @ 9:30am: Mass with Reception, Years 1 & 2 (Church)

All welcome!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Jerome Emiliani - 08 February

Jerome was born near Venice in 1486. He started his career as a soldier but after he was taken prisoner and then miraculously liberated, he devoted himself to helping the poor, distributing his own possessions among them also. Two priests joined him in this task and in 1532 he founded a religious order, the Clerks Regular of Somaschi, for the relief of poor and orphaned children. He died at Somaschi (near Bergamo in northern Italy) in 1537.



(Information taken from Universalis)

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for February

For a generous welcome of victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

"Hear the cry of our many brothers and sisters who are criminally trafficked and exploited. They are not merchandise. They are human beings, and they must be treated as such."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Prayer Group & Bible Study

Advance notice of a Lenten Group which will meet each Friday during Lent, beginning on **08 March**. The times and venue are yet to be confirmed but please keep this date in mind.

The **Bible Study Group** will next meet on **Monday, 11 February**, 3:30pm - 4:45pm at St Andrew's, Brandon. Refreshments beforehand.

All are welcome at both of these gatherings!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that Pope Francis has announced that the next World Youth Day will be held in Lisbon in 2022?

Although WYD occurs every year on Palm Sunday, the international gathering is held normally every three years. During this century WYD has been held in Rome, Toronto, Cologne, Sydney, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, Krakow and Panama City.



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"The ultimate human knowledge of God is to know that we do not know God, and that insofar as we know, what God is transcends all that we understand of God."

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
Priest and Doctor of the Church



PLEASE PRAY....for the following intentions from now up until Lent as requested by Bishop Séamus: **Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; the Unemployed.** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....

