

The week ahead...

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| Saturday 23 February Vigil Mass for 7 th Sunday | 5:00pm | Mass: Veronica & David Parkinson and pro populo |
| Sunday 24 February 7 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | NO MASS | |
| Monday 25 February Monday of Week 7 | NO MASS | |
| Tuesday 26 February Tuesday of Week 7 | 6:30pm | Mass: Bob Walsh |
| Wednesday 27 February Wednesday of Week 7 | 9:30am | Mass: Neil Hood |
| Thursday 28 February Thursday of Week 7 | 9:30am | Mass: Jim Mearman |
| Friday 01 March <i>St David, Bishop</i> | 7:00am | Mass: Private Intention |
| Saturday 02 March Vigil Mass for 8 th Sunday | 5:00pm | Mass: McGough & Duffy families and pro populo |



St Patrick's R.C. Church
A Parish of the Finchale Partnership
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7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 24 February, 2019

What we don't want to hear...

THIS WEEKEND WE HEAR some of the teachings of Jesus in his Sermon on the Plain following on from the beatitudes we heard last weekend. As we move into this more detailed teaching, we will hear things from Jesus we find challenging and uncomfortable, things we'd rather not hear. Though difficult to embrace, we need to put these principles into practice if we are to live as a people who call ourselves genuine disciples of Jesus.

Many people who don't subscribe to the Christian faith (and maybe some who do!) think that being a Christian is simply about "being nice". There is a perverted image of Christians as "wimps", people who are submissive to others and will do everything they can to avoid confrontation. Certainly, there may be some Christians who can be characterised this way but the same can equally be said for non-Christians. This is a personality trait or a product of upbringing and not a result of embracing Christian faith.

Contrary to the idea of Christians being weak, what we hear in this weekend's Gospel requires considerable strength and determination on the part of Christians. I have often said that the most radical words Jesus ever uttered are the opening words of the sermon we hear this weekend: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly." Our natural instinct is to seek vengeance when we suffer at the hands of others. After all, who hasn't heard the advice "Hit back twice as hard and that person won't bother you again"? The teaching of Jesus might seem impractical, overly pious or simply unrealistic, but as Christians we need to take it seriously.

And because these words are words we don't want to hear, we might well ask *why* we should love those who have wronged us or someone we love. The simple answer is that this is what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. When humanity had rejected God time and time again and was thus God's enemy, rather than wreaking vengeance, God sent his Son to die for us that we might be reconciled with him.

So, to love one's enemies is to be God-like. When, with the crucial help of the Holy Spirit, we resist the temptation for vengeance and instead reach out in love, we are not saying that a person's hurtful actions don't matter or that we are ignoring them or that justice is not warranted. What we are saying is that despite the harm done, we acknowledge that the person who has done us harm is, like us, made in the image and likeness of God and is, like us, prone to sin. We want them to know not only that they have hurt us but, more importantly, that they are loved by God and that they will only know true peace if they seek reconciliation with both the one they have hurt and with God. The essence of loving like Jesus is wanting what is best for the other. After all, it is likely that the question asked of us by Christ at the final judgement will be: "Did you try to love like me?"

Let us pray that we can answer in the affirmative.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
 Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 23 February

Eucharistic Ministers
 Jane Smith, Helen Musham
 Wilf Lavery

Readers
 Brendan Payne
 Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy
 Maria Griffiths
 Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
 Paul and Anne Kelly

Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 02 March

Eucharistic Ministers
 Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
 Harry Curran

Readers
 Rowan Payne
 Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy
 Maria Griffiths
 Helen Riddles

Welcomers
 Angela Harmston
 Christine Tracey

Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

The Seventh 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....

Veronica & David PARKINSON
 William Fred CUMMINGS
 Terence Anthony MORDUE
 Norah PINKNEY
 Mary Alice HILL

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

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

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £220 Loose Plate: £184

TOTAL: £404

Mass Attendance: 130

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

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

Lent: Lent is almost upon us and this means an opportunity to undertake some more intense prayer and practical opportunities to deepen and strengthen our faith. Our parish Cafod representative, Tricia Whitfield, will speak to us briefly at the end of Mass next weekend to introduce this year's Cafod theme and donation envelopes and prayer cards will be made available. Also available next weekend will be a limited supply of booklets with the daily reflective readings.

Ash Wednesday: Masses at 9:30am and 7:00pm.

Bishop's Retirement Collection: There is an opportunity for you to make an offering in appreciation of the almost ten years of service of Bishop Séamus. Envelopes are available at the rear of the church. This collection will remain open until the weekend of 16/17 March.

Installation of Bishop Robert Byrne as Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle: The Installation Mass for Bishop Robert will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral at 12:00noon on **Monday 25 March**, Feast of the Annunciation. Entry to the Cathedral for this Mass will be by invitation and ticket only.

Ministry of Consolation Day: On **Saturday 23 March**, we have our second Ministry of Consolation day. Our theme this year is "Spirituality in Times of Trauma" and our speaker is Bishop John Wilson who was involved in supporting people in the aftermaths of the murder of Ann Maguire in Corpus Christi, Leeds and the Grenfell Tower fire. We anticipate a high demand for places! The day will be held at Ushaw College and will run from 10.15am-3.30pm. Refreshments on arrival at 9.45am. Lunch will be provided. The day itself is free but any donations to cover the Diocese's costs would, of course, be most welcome! To reserve a place, please see Fr Robert. See noticeboard for more details.

Quiz Night: Martin Donbavand, a parishioner at St. Cuthbert's, Durham, is raising money to support a family whose child has Down's Syndrome and are currently facing some extra challenges. There will be a Cheese & Wine Quiz Night on **Saturday 09 March, 7:00pm** at St Oswald's Institute, to raise funds. Tickets are £5.00 and people from across the Partnership will be very welcome. For more information please contact Martin or Liz Donbavand on 07903 888 399.

Lighting: We had the lighting in the church improved earlier this week. Any comments you have would be welcomed!

Quiet Day at Ushaw: An opportunity to step aside, to listen to God in scripture and to enjoy the peace. **Wednesday, 27 March, 10:30am to 4:00pm.** Led by Sister Rosarie Spence. Cost is £10 per person, including coffee, tea and biscuits served both on arrival and to conclude the day. Lunch, with a delicious choice of great value home-made food, is available to purchase in the refectory. Bookings can be made on-line via Ushaw's website (www.ushaw.org) or call Ushaw College on 0191 334 5119.

Vacancies: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

Administrator, Dept. for Safeguarding – full-time, 12 month fixed-term contract. Closing date: **28 February.**

Cleaner, St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle – 20 hours per week, 12 month fixed-term contract. Closing date: **4 March.**

For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us on 0191 243 3301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

World Day of Prayer: The World Day of Prayer takes place this coming Friday, 01 March. Churches Together are having a prayer gathering at St John's, Meadowfield, beginning at 10:30am. Refreshments served from 10:00am. See the noticeboard for more details. A great chance to not only pray but also get to know other Christians in our local area!

The Kids' Bulletin

David and King Saul Word-Find

S O L D I E R S L H O H
T S O I V E D A V I D U
A L N S W A S U M M Y R
R E G R K I L L E D K T
T E W A R R I O R W I I
E P L E C O U R C E N N
D I O L H U N T I N G G
E N V I O U S E F T O A
A G E T S N F O U N D W
G E D E E M R U L E R A
O I N S T E A D I E S Y

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in this story of David and King Saul.

Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

LONG AGO GOD chose SAUL to be the king of the ISRAELITES. Sometimes Saul WAS a good RULER and sometimes he wasn't. When David became a great WARRIOR the people STARTED to love HIM more than they LOVED King Saul. The king became ENVIIOUS and wanted to kill DAVID, so he took his SOLDIERS and WENT HUNTING for him. But that night when the KING and his soldiers were SLEEPING, David FOUND them. He could have easily KILLED King Saul, but he CHOSE to be MERCIFUL INSTEAD. He went AWAY without HURTING Saul.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Chad – 02 March

Chad was born in Northumbria, one of four brothers, all of whom became priests. He was educated partly at Lindisfarne under St Aidan and partly in Ireland. He succeeded his brother St Cedd as Abbot of Lastingham in Yorkshire in 664. He became Bishop of Mercia in 669 and Wulfhere, first Christian King of Mercia, gave him land to establish his see at Lichfield. Chad was outstanding for his humility and simplicity of life. He died of the plague on 02 March 672. He was at once venerated as a saint and his shrine in the Cathedral of Lichfield was a place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. The cathedral in Birmingham is dedicated to St Chad.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

ASH WEDNESDAY 06 MARCH

Mass at 9:30am
(with the school)
and at 7:00pm.



Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

Lent

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Prayer Group & Bible Study

The monthly **Prayer Group** is held in the presbytery here at St Patrick's. Next meeting: **Tuesday, 19 March, 9:30am - 10:15am.** Refreshments are served from 9:15am.

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

All are welcome at both of these gatherings!



SCHOOL NEWS

Return to School

Staff and children return to school on Monday morning, following the half-term break.

CAFOD Visit

Our CAFOD representative, Trisha Whitfield, will visit school on Monday morning. Trisha will lead an assembly, to support our preparations for the forthcoming Lenten period.

Masses and Liturgies

Here are details of celebrations involving our school children, that will take place over the next few weeks.

Ash Wednesday, 06 March @

9:30am: Whole School at Mass, in church

Wednesday 13 March @ 2:45pm:

Mass with Year 6 in the school chapel

Thursday 14 March @ 2:45pm:

Mass with Year 5 in the school chapel



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that Blessed John Henry Newman will soon be officially a saint?

According to Wikipedia, "A second miracle, necessary for his canonisation, was approved by the Vatican in November 2018. This miracle concerned the healing of a pregnant American woman from a life-threatening condition. Canonisation would make Newman the first English person who has lived since the 17th century officially recognised as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church."



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons."

Blessed John Henry Newman

(1801-1890)

Priest and Theologian



CONGRATULATIONS.... to the parents, the godparents and family members of **Jax Miller BRYDEN** who was baptised here last Saturday afternoon. Please keep Jax and his family in your prayers, that he may come to know the joy of life as a Christian disciple.

