

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 09 March</b> Vigil Mass for First Sunday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Maugham &amp; Kitching families and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 10 March</b> First Sunday of Lent	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 11 March</b> Weekday of Lent	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 12 March</b> Weekday of Lent	6:30pm	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Wednesday 13 March</b> Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Thursday 14 March</b> Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Friday 15 March</b> Weekday of Lent	7:00am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 16 March</b> Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Benjamin David McQueen and pro populo</b>



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*  
**Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ**  
**Priest in Charge:** Fr Robert Riedling **Ph:** (0191) 378 4486  
**Mob:** 07904 833 785  
**Email:** langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk  
**Web:** www.stpatricksrcchurch.co.uk  
**St Patrick's R.C. Primary School:** **Ph:** (0191) 378 0552  
**Hospital Chaplain:** Fr Paul Tully **Ph:** (01388) 818 544

## First Sunday of Lent 10 March, 2019

### The Temptation in the Wilderness

THIS BEING THE First Sunday of Lent, we are presented with the Gospel passage concerning Jesus' forty days in the desert. This desert time clearly reflects that of the exodus experience of the Israelites related to us in the First Reading when they spent forty years wandering in the desert before reaching the Promised Land. The number forty figures prominently in the scriptures (the Great Flood, Moses on Mount Sinai, David and Solomon both reigned over Israel for forty years, and so on). It is a significant number for us at this time since we have forty days in the season of Lent, not counting Sundays.

Our "desert time" has just begun. It is a gift from the Church to enable us to focus more intently on our relationships with both God and our neighbours. It has been described as a type of annual retreat for all Christians. Unlike Jesus in his desert experience, we may be tempted to stray from the "straight and narrow" and thus become discouraged in our attempts to become more Christlike in our thoughts, words and deeds. We must not allow ourselves to be easily discouraged but rather acknowledge our failures and start afresh. This is the story of the saints and we can make it our story too.

One temptation that we may succumb to is that of being overly ambitious in our Lenten aims. We may examine ourselves and notice many areas in which we fall short of the Christian ideal and resolve to enter the Easter season with all those shortcomings addressed. As usually happens when we overstretch ourselves in this regard (like New Year's resolutions), nothing is achieved, or at least nothing achieved satisfactorily. A better approach is to identify one area that we know needs transformation and, with God's help, work on it. Even if we find by the end of Lent that we haven't achieved as much in that one area as we had hoped and prayed for, we have the joy of knowing that we come to the end of the Lenten season at least a little more like Christ and by no means do we have to wait until next Lent to continue our transformative work.

Another temptation is to see Lent simply as an exercise in abstinence. If a commitment is made to "give up" something for Lent, such as a foodstuff or an activity, and a person reaches the end of Lent having successfully abstained from it, it is tempting to feel a sense of achievement and satisfaction. This is to treat Lent as a personal challenge rather than as an invitation to draw closer to God. This approach is self-centred for it serves only to boost one's ego – it does nothing to help others. Rather, understanding abstaining as a means of participation in Christ's passion will yield better fruit for it acknowledges that Christ's suffering was for the benefit of humanity and our sacrifices are a means of achieving the same.

I wish each of you a truly meaningful and fruitful desert experience. Please take up the opportunities the parish and partnership offer to make the most of the Lenten season to help ensure that the celebration of Easter is as joyful as it should be.

*Wishing you a blessed Lenten season,*  
**Fr Robert**



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 09 March**  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 Gordon & Angela Tosley  
 Angela Harmston  
**Readers**  
 Stella Foody  
 Maria Griffiths  
**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Joanne Lidster  
**Welcomers**  
 Pat Middleton  
 Mary Kitching  
**Music**  
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 16 March**  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 Teresa & Malcolm Wass  
 Andrew Aberdeen  
**Readers**  
 Angela Harmston  
 Marie Paily  
**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Michelle Dennis  
**Welcomers**  
 Halina Holman  
 Janet Harrigan  
**Music**  
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**First Sunday of Lent**

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....**

MAUGHAM & KITCHING families  
 Hilda CONDRON  
 Mary HEALEY  
 Catherine McLAREN  
 Jenny TUMILTY

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

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

**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**  
**£** Gift Aid: £215    Loose Plate: £206  
**TOTAL: £421**  
 Mass Attendance: 161  
 DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**Lenten Opportunities:** Thank you to our parish Cafod representative, Tricia Whitfield, who spoke to us briefly at the end of Mass last weekend to introduce this year's Cafod theme. Donation envelopes and prayer cards are available at the rear of the church. Also available are a limited supply of booklets with the daily reflective readings. Don't forget too, that Churches Together are hosting the **Lent Study Course on Friday afternoons at 2:00pm right here at St Patrick's**, beginning **15 March**. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for more details. You can come along to any or all sessions.

**Family Fast Day Collection:** Family Fast Day is happening on **Friday, 15 March**. Can you give up something and donate the money to help the less fortunate? Collection **next Saturday**. Use the CAFOD envelopes if you wish. You can donate online at [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk).

**Gathering after Mass:** Thank you to those who came along to the gathering after Mass last Saturday. We had a terrific turnout! Thank you especially to Carol and Shirley for their hard work.

**Finchale Partnership Dinner:** The Finchale Partnership are hosting a dinner at Ushaw College for all parishioners on **Saturday 30 March**. Please see the poster on the noticeboard and use a booking form on the table at the rear of the church. A £10 deposit is requested. Total cost is £35. After dinner speaker is Canon Bob Spence. Please hand forms and deposit to Fr Robert. Next Saturday will be the last opportunity to book!

**Stations of the Cross:** These will be conducted each Wednesday during Lent beginning this week on **13 March**, beginning at 7:00pm. The final Stations will be celebrated on the Wednesday of Holy Week, **17 April**. There will be an opportunity for Reconciliation following the conclusion of the Stations each Wednesday.

**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 **next weekend**

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** The 2019/20 Gift Aid envelopes are at the back of church for collection. All unused envelopes from your existing box should be destroyed after 31 March 2019. After 31 March 2019, only use your new box of envelopes, please.

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting:** The next PPC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 20 March** following the Stations of the Cross. The minutes of the last meeting are on the noticeboard. A sign-up sheet for those who wish to attend is at the rear of the church.

**Organ Update:** All going according to plan, the new digital organ should be installed in the choir loft sometime in the week ahead.

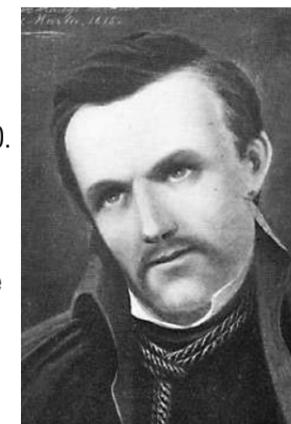
**Missio (APF/Mill Hill Missionaries):** Contributions from red boxes/ brown envelopes will be collected by sponsors during the first three weeks in this month. If you don't have an official Red Box and would like to be included in our foreign missionary work among the poor and marginalised, you can donate through our red box located in the church porch. Also, the novena to St Joseph will take place in Liverpool and Maidenhead **March 10 - 19**. Details of how you can ask for a prayer intention can be found on the Missio noticeboard in the church porch.

**Lent at Ushaw:** There is a full programme of events at Ushaw throughout Lent. Pick up a flyer at the rear of the church or check Ushaw's website at [www.ushaw.org](http://www.ushaw.org). Don't forget the **Quiet Day** happening on **Wednesday, 27 March, 10:30am to 4:00pm**, led by Sister Rosarie Spence. Cost is £10 per person.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St John Ogilvie - 10 March

John Ogilvie was born of noble Calvinist parents in 1579 at Drum-na-Keith in Banffshire, Scotland. As a boy he was sent to the continent to further his education. With the help of Father Cornelius van den Steen he was received into the Catholic Church. He entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) on 05 November 1599, and was ordained priest at Paris in 1610. He returned to Scotland, but his ministry was cut short by his betrayal and capture in Glasgow. After extreme suffering he was hanged on 10 March 1615. His last words were, "If there be any hidden Catholics, let them pray for me but the prayers of heretics I will not have." After he was pushed from the ladder, he threw his hidden Rosary beads out into the crowd. One of his enemies caught them and became a devout Catholic for the rest of his life.



(Information taken from [Universalis](http://Universalis))

### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for March

**May Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.**

*"We encounter Jesus in those who are poor, rejected, or refugees. Do not let fear get in the way of welcoming our neighbour in need."*



### ~ 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

### Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I know what humility is'. We listened to the Gospel story about Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. We reflected on the importance of imitating the loving humility of Jesus, by putting others first.

### Shrove Tuesday

On Tuesday, the children showcased their pancake flipping skills, in a sponsored event, to raise money for the school.

### Ash Wednesday

The whole school attended Mass on Wednesday, to mark the beginning of the Lenten period. Thank you to Father Robert for a lovely service and to Bill Wilkinson and the choir, for their support.

### World Book Day

This year, we chose 'Harry Potter' as our theme for World Book Day. The school was transformed into Hogwarts and the children had a wonderful time, taking part in a range of fun, literacy-based activities and playing Quidditch. Some birds of prey, including a white barn owl, were also brought into school - a session which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

### Masses and Liturgies

Here are details of two celebrations involving our school children, that will take place in the coming week.

**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



## The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent  
March 10th, 2019



Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Can you find your way into the desert to be with Jesus?*

## DID YOU KNOW...?

**...that the season of Lent is a good time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance?**

On Ash Wednesday, as we were marked on the forehead with ashes, we heard the solemn invitation, *Repent, and believe in the Gospel*. It is therefore fitting that we take up the opportunities offered to us to celebrate this often neglected but wonderful sacrament. If you haven't been for a while, don't be afraid to approach a priest and tell him your situation. If you aren't sure what to do, don't fear, the priest will guide you gently through the sacrament. Just do it!



## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"A life of faith is a life of gratitude - it means a life in which I am willing to experience my complete dependence upon God and to praise and thank him unceasingly for the gift of being. A truly eucharistic life means always saying thanks to God, always praising God, and always being more surprised by the abundance of God's goodness and love....It is the truly converted life in which God has become the centre of all."

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)  
Priest, writer and theologian



**PLEASE PRAY....**for the following intentions during Lent as requested by Bishop Séamus: **Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers; Survivors of Sexual Abuse.** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....

