

The week ahead...

Saturday 30 March Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Nellie, Tom and John Lynch and pro populo
Sunday 31 March Fourth Sunday of Lent	NO MASS	
Monday 01 April Weekday of Lent	NO MASS	
Tuesday 02 April Weekday of Lent	6:30pm	Mass: Joseph & Dorothy Dowdle
Wednesday 03 April Weekday of Lent	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: Private Intention Stations of the Cross
Thursday 04 April Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: Private Intention
Friday 05 April Weekday of Lent	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 06 April Vigil Mass for Fifth Sunday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Bryan Cheesey and pro populo



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Fourth Sunday of Lent 31 March 2019

“...his father saw him and was moved with pity.”

THERE ARE SOME stories in the Bible that are so well-known and loved that aspects of them have made their way into contemporary speech. The parable we hear this weekend is one such example. The parable of the Prodigal Son is unique to Luke and well-known even by people who would claim to have no religious faith. The timeless tale of a wastefully extravagant (prodigal) young man having a change of heart and returning home to an uncertain reception is a story which touches just about everyone and this perhaps explains why the term “prodigal son” or just “prodigal” has been adopted so readily into modern speech. This parable is also called the parable of the Loving Father, a reference to the reception received by the son and which is perhaps a more fitting focus on this fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday.

One of the reasons Jesus taught in parables so much is that stories and their meaning are much easier to absorb and recall than more abstract teaching. We can often also “put ourselves in the picture” and thus make the parable more personal and real. With the parable of the Prodigal Son, there are three characters with whom we might associate ourselves. Those of you who have children might be able to understand the attitude of the father, here representative of God, who waits anxiously for his son’s return after the son had left home and gone astray, waiting to embrace him, regardless of what he had done. Some of us can associate with the prodigal son himself, to a lesser or greater extent, having made a rash decision, fallen into sin and then having to find our way back to “the old life”. Finally, we might be able to associate with the elder son who is indignant that his younger brother is treated so well on his return despite his dissolute living when he was away from home whilst he, the “good” son, had never received any recognition for his stability and sense of duty.

The elder son is a character who sometimes is omitted from the story. The parable often ends with the commencement of the celebration at the younger son’s return and, because he only appears after this, we hear nothing of the elder son’s interaction with his father. This is a shame because I think most of us would say that we can align ourselves most readily with this character above the other two. How often have we felt incensed at some perceived injustice without considering the “other side”, in this case, the joy that the younger brother has returned home? Essentially, the older brother, despite his fidelity to his father and his role, is focused only on himself; despite his external goodness, his heart is clearly flawed and not filled with the love for which it was created.

Others may see us as “good people”, “good Catholics”, diligent with our religious and civic duties, especially as our neighbours see us regularly head off to Mass. Yet, God knows what is in our hearts and knows us as we truly are. We have an obligation to look honestly at ourselves, acknowledge our shortcomings as Christian disciples and return to the Father as did the Prodigal Son. Lent affords us the ideal opportunity for doing just that.

Wishing you a blessed Lenten season,
Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 30 March
Eucharistic Ministers
Jane Smith, Helen Musham
Wilf Lavery
Readers
Margaret Purdom
Claire Lavery
Children’s Liturgy
(Cancelled for this week)
Welcomers
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey
Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 06 April
Eucharistic Ministers
Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
Harry Curran
Readers
Greg Mearman
Brendan Payne
Children’s Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Helen Riddles
Welcomers
Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching
Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

Fourth 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....

Nellie, Tom & John LYNCH
Terry FARTHING (Rec. Dec.)
Leonie WALSH (Rec. Dec.)
Ian DEFTY

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

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

£ LAST WEEKEND’S COLLECTION
Gift Aid: £227 Loose Plate: £218
TOTAL: £445
Mass Attendance: 134
DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

RIP: Terry FARTHING: News through earlier this week of the death of Terry Farthing. Terry's funeral Mass will be celebrated here at St Patrick's on **Thursday 04 April** at **1:45pm** followed by burial at Meadowfield Cemetery. Let us keep Jennifer and all the family in our prayers. May Terry rest in peace.

Lent Study Course: Churches Together are hosting the **Lent Study Course** on **Friday afternoons at 2:00pm** right here at **St Patrick's**, beginning **15 March**. Refreshments are available beforehand. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for more details. You can come along to any or all of the sessions. Last session **12 April**.

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!

Meet the New Bishop! Bishop Robert will be visiting the partnership, including our parish, on **Wednesday, 10 April**, and he will celebrate Mass at **Ushaw College** at **7:00pm** that day, followed by refreshments. All are welcome—please jot your name down on the sign-up sheet at the rear of the church for purposes of estimated numbers for refreshments etc. Please indicate whether you can offer, or need, a lift so that as many as possible can take part in the Mass.

Family Fast Day Collection: Thank you to those who have donated. Our collection so far amounts to **333.05**. You can drop off your Cafod donation envelope, available at the back of church, in the collection basket for the next couple of weeks. You can also donate online at www.cafod.org.uk.

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

Mission Red Boxes & Envelopes: The quarterly March collection raised **£601.74**. Thank you all who contributed and helped raise this generous amount.

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.usshaw.org.

Fundraiser for Senior Citizens Summer Party: A fundraiser is to be held on **26 April** at the British Legion. Tickets for the event will be on sale on **Saturday 30 March** and **06 April**. Raffle tickets will be on sale on **Saturday 13** and **20 April**.

Partnership Lenten Reconciliation Service: On **Wednesday 03 April** beginning at 7:00pm, at St Joseph's, Gilesgate. All welcome!

Daylight Saving: Please don't forget to put your clocks **forward** one hour **this Saturday night** (30 March)!

Mothers' Day: This Sunday is Mothers' Day so there will be a blessing for all mothers at Mass this evening. Mothers, thank you for all you do!

Holy Week schedule: The schedule for Holy Week will be published next week in the bulletin. In essence though, we will be repeating the schedule that has been in place for the past few years.

Celebration of Marriage: Bishop Robert Byrne CO will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 18 May 2019 at 11:00am to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage. He has invited each parish community to be represented by at least two couples, young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary. In addition, everyone is welcome to attend. This promises to be a wonderful celebration and will provide affirmation and support for Marriage across the Diocese and the wider North-East community.

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!

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I know how to help others when they are in trouble'. We shared the story of the paralytic, whose friends went to great lengths to take him to Jesus, who then healed the man. We reflected on our responsibilities to those in need of help.

Celebration to Welcome Bishop Robert

On Tuesday, Mrs Burnside, Mrs McGillivray, Carys Payne and Vaidotas Treciokas represented our school at a welcome celebration in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Both pupils thoroughly appreciated the experience and Carys read beautifully during the service.

Pancake Challenge

A massive **£868.00** was raised for school funds, during our recent pancake-flipping challenge!

Mothers' Day Liturgy

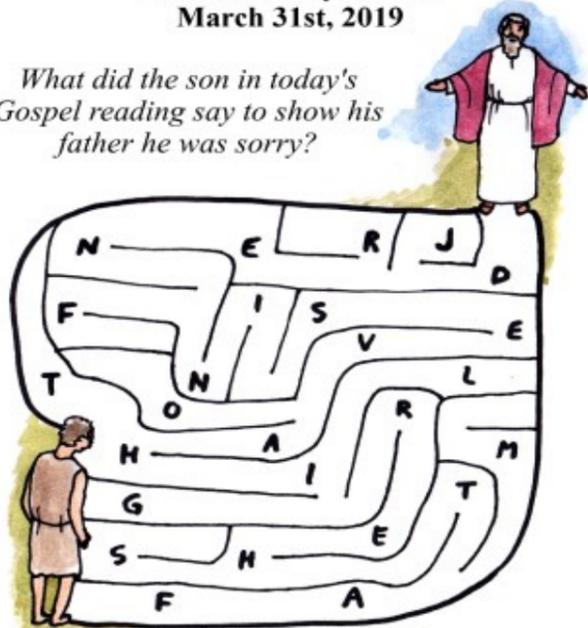
Reception Class led a Mothers' Day Liturgy in school on Friday afternoon.



The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 31st, 2019

What did the son in today's Gospel reading say to show his father he was sorry?



As you go through the maze, use only the letters in the right path to fill in the blanks:

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Vincent Ferrer – 05 April

Vincent was born in Valencia in 1350 and joined the Dominicans at the age of 17. In 1399, with the approval of the Pope, he set out on his mission as a preacher. For twenty years he travelled through western Europe, with thousands flocking to hear him wherever he was. From 1408 he worked mostly south of the Pyrenees. Among others, he preached to the Jews, of whom some 25,000 were converted to Christianity; and in the Kingdom of Granada he converted thousands of Moors. In 1417 he moved on to Brittany and continued his work there: he died in Vannes in Brittany on 05 April 1419.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

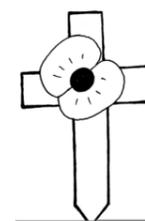
~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for

April

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives for others.

"Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Prayer Group & Bible Study

The monthly **Prayer Group** is held in the presbytery here at St Patrick's. Next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 16 April**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments are served from 9:15am.

The **Bible Study Group** will next meet on **Monday 08 April**, 3:30pm - 4:45pm at St Andrew's, Brandon.

Refreshments beforehand.

All are welcome at both of these gatherings!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the **Fourth Sunday in Lent** is referred to as "**Laetare Sunday**" just as the **Third Sunday in Advent** is referred to as "**Gaudete Sunday**"?

Both these Sundays occur at the mid-point of the two penitential seasons of the year, Lent and Advent. *Laetare* means rejoice in Latin and Laetare Sunday takes its name from the Latin translation of the opening words of the entrance antiphon from this Sunday: "Laetare, Jerusalem!" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem!") The point of both Laetare and Gaudete Sundays is to provide us with encouragement as we progress toward the end of each of these penitential seasons and both days are marked with a lessening of the austerities of these seasons, giving us a bit of a breather at the respective halfway points.

Rejoice

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"In Jesus no division existed between his words and his actions, between what he said and what he did. Jesus' words were his action, his words were events. They not only spoke about changes, cures, new life, but they actually created them. In this sense, Jesus is truly the Word made flesh; in that Word all is created and by that Word all is recreated. Saintliness means living without division between word and action."

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....

