

The week ahead...

Saturday 06 April Vigil Mass for Fifth Sunday of Lent	5:00pm	Mass: Bryan Cheesey and pro populo
Sunday 07 April Fifth Sunday of Lent	NO MASS	
Monday 08 April Weekday of Lent	NO MASS	
Tuesday 09 April Weekday of Lent	6:30pm	Mass: Private Intention
Wednesday 10 April Weekday of Lent	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: Terry Farthing Stations of the Cross
Thursday 11 April Weekday of Lent	9:30am	Mass: Private Intention
Friday 12 April Weekday of Lent	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 13 April Vigil Mass for Passion (Palm) Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Hilda, James & Joseph Condron and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church
A Parish of the Finchale Partnership
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Fifth Sunday of Lent 07 April 2019

"Neither do I condemn you..."

IT IS A FACT that Luke's Gospel has quite a few stories and parables that are not found in the other three Gospels. But today we have a story, and a famous one at that, which is unique to the Gospel of John, the story of the woman caught in adultery. Interestingly, this story was a very late addition to the Gospel. If you look up the story in your Bible (John 8:1-11) you may well find this section bracketed and a footnote indicating that this story did not appear in very ancient sources or appeared in a different part of the Gospel. One of my Bibles states that some authorities "mark the passage as doubtful".

Regardless of the authenticity or otherwise of the passage, in many ways it follows a familiar pattern found in a biblical story about the scribes and Pharisees trying to trap Jesus in order to have him arrested. Once again, Jesus is put into a seemingly impossible position: if he should agree that the adulterous woman (where is the man?) should be stoned, the Romans would arrest Jesus since only they had the authority to carry out an execution; if he should disagree with the scribes and Pharisees, then he would be condemned as being a breaker of the Mosaic Law. Not surprisingly, we witness Jesus emerge from the attempted trap unscathed as the accusers sheepishly shuffle off, leaving the accused woman and Jesus alone.

What strikes me most about the passage is the pity we immediately feel for the woman. Similar stories involving Jesus in a confrontation with scribes and Pharisees occasionally have Jesus having healed someone, often on the sabbath, and we feel pity for the person who has so long suffered through no fault of their own. In this case, the woman cannot claim to be suffering through no fault of her own; she has been caught in adultery and Jesus by no means plays down her sin. Indeed, the last words of the Gospel are "...go away, and do not sin any more." We feel pity because of the way the woman is used by the men who bring her to Jesus. They care nothing for her except as a vehicle to help them bring about Jesus's demise.

It is clear that Jesus also feels pity for the abused woman but there is something else going on here: we can see that just as Jesus helps the woman, he helps her accusers too. In bending over to write something on the ground with his finger (and wouldn't we love to know what he wrote!), Jesus doesn't look them directly in the eye in a confrontational manner but gives them the opportunity to reflect on their action with the result that they all "went away, one by one...". Of course, we don't hear what happened next for either the woman or her accusers, but it would be nice to think that the command to "sin no more" was effective not only in the woman but also in the scribes and Pharisees who used her so brutally. Hopefully they amended their lives after this encounter.

Likewise, may we take up the opportunity given to us by Lent to reflect on the actions that have fractured our relationship with God, lay them before the Lord with contrition and hear those wonderful words of mercy, "Neither do I condemn you."

Wishing you a blessed Lenten season,
 Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

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

MINISTRIES
Saturday 13 April
 Eucharistic Ministers
 Gordon & Angela Tosley
 Angela Harmston
 Readers
 Pat Middleton
 Rowan Payne
 Children's Liturgy
 (In recess during break.
 Resumes 04 May)
 Welcomers
 Halina Holman
 Janet Harrigan
 Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

Fifth 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.**

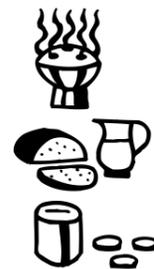
We pray for our beloved deceased, including....

Bryan CHEESEY
 Terry FARTHING (Rec. Dec.)
 Leonie WALSH (Rec. Dec.)
 Maureen McCRANN
 Mary SHARRATT

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

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

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION
 Gift Aid: £215 Loose Plate: £198
TOTAL: £413
 Mass Attendance: 133
 DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

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

First Communion Candidates: We welcome once again our young candidates for first Communion and their families. This week the children are focusing on the liturgy of the Eucharist.

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.

Lenten Alms Collection: There will be a retiring collection taken up for Lenten Alms next weekend. Please be as generous as you can as the funds go to assist **St Cuthbert's Care** and the marvellous work they do.

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.ushaw.org.

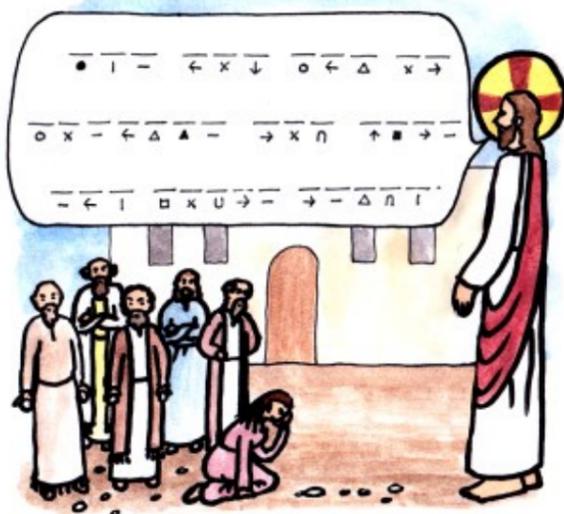
Fundraiser for Senior Citizens Summer Party: A fundraiser is to be held on **26 April** at the British Legion. Tickets for the event will be on sale on **this Saturday**. Raffle tickets will be on sale on **Saturday 13 and 20 April**.

Celebration of Marriage: Bishop Robert Byrne CO will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on **Saturday 18 May** 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.

Donations for flowers: If you would care to make a donation for Easter flowers, there will be a collection plate at the back of church.

The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 7th, 2019



In today's Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus whether they should obey their law and stone a woman who was a sinner. What did Jesus say to them? Use the code to find out!

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A C E F H I L M N O R S T U W

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday 15 April: Mass at 9:30am

Tuesday 16 April: Mass at 6:30pm

Wednesday 17 April: Mass at 9:30am

Thursday 18 April: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30pm (**NO 9:30am Mass**)

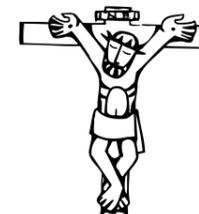
Friday 19 April: Stations of the Cross at 10:00am

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00pm

Saturday 20 April: Easter Vigil at 5:00pm

Sunday 21 April: Mass at 10:00am

Monday 22 April: Mass at 9:30am



christ became obedient for us unto death even to death on a cross

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I understand what trust means.' We shared the Gospel story, from The Sermon on the Mount, telling us not to worry and we talked about the importance of trusting in God.

Easter Journey

This week, Year 5 pupils reflected on the events of Holy Week, during a session entitled 'The Easter Journey', at St Andrew's Methodist Church.

Penitential Service

Year 4 pupils took part in a Penitential Service, in the school chapel, on Thursday morning.

First Holy Communion Preparation Session

Our children preparing for First Sacraments attended one of their sessions in the church house this afternoon. They will take a special part in the Mass this evening. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Football Team – Year 5/6

On Monday, the team took part in the School Sports Partnership football tournament at Meadowfield Sports Centre. After an intense penalty shoot-out, against Kelloe Primary School, they made it through to the final, against St. Michael's School and achieved *second* place overall. Well done!

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 10 April - Liturgy with Year 2 @ 3:00pm in the school chapel

Thursday 11 April - Liturgy with Year 1 @ 3:00pm in the school chapel

Thursday 11 April - Stations of the Cross @ 9:15am in the school hall - refreshments will follow this celebration and all are welcome.

Easter Break

School closes for the Easter break on Friday 12 April and re-opens on Monday 29 April.

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter @StPatsLM - a great way for you to find out what is happening in our school.



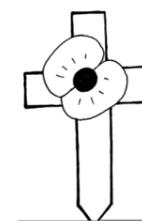
~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

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 just as we hear about stoning as punishment for a woman caught in adultery in the Gospel this weekend, this cruel practice is being introduced in the Asian nation of Brunei?

It has been widely reported this past week that the Sultan of Brunei has decided to introduce this and similar punishments under sharia (Islamic) law for various crimes such as homosexual acts and adultery. Theft is also punishable by the amputation of a hand and a foot. There has been widespread condemnation of this move by the Sultan.



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"God chose the way of downward mobility. Every time Jesus speaks about being glorified and giving glory, he always refers to his humiliation and death. It is through the way of the cross that Jesus gives glory to God, receives glory from God, and makes God's glory known to us. The glory of the resurrection can never be separated from the glory of the cross. The risen Lord always shows us his wounds... If we truly want to see the glory of God, we must move downward with Jesus."

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



PLEASE PRAY....for the following intentions during Lent as requested by Bishop Robert:
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....

