

The week ahead...

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| Saturday 20 April Easter Vigil Mass | 5:00pm | Mass: Harry and Teresa Coad |
| Sunday 21 April Easter Sunday | 10:00am | Mass: <i>Pro populo</i> |
| Monday 22 April Easter Monday | 9:30am | Mass: Private Intention |
| Tuesday 23 April Easter Tuesday | 9:30am | Mass: Carole Caile |
| Wednesday 24 April Easter Wednesday | 9:30am | Mass: Moran family |
| Thursday 25 April Easter Thursday | 9:30am | Mass: Derek Windsor |
| Friday 26 April Easter Friday | 9:30am | Mass: Private Intention |
| Saturday 27 April Easter Saturday | 9:30am | Mass: Private Intention |
| Saturday 27 April Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Easter | 5:00pm | Mass: Terry Farthing and pro populo |



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Easter Sunday 21 April 2019

“...they told all this to the Eleven...”

ONE PROBLEM THAT occasionally emerges with the scripture readings at Mass is that because they are extracts, we often don't know who the characters are in the narrative until we read further on. For example, our Gospel for Easter begins with the words “On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb...”. The question we naturally ask is: who are “they”? As we read on, we discover that “they” are “the women”, though still unnamed. Reading even further on, we discover the names of three of the women: Mary of Magdala, Joanna and Mary the mother of James. We hear that other women were with these three, though the number remains a mystery.

It is hardly surprising that women feature so prominently in Luke's account of the Resurrection since one of the characteristics of Luke's Gospel is the number of women who play an important role in his ministry, one way or another. The other three Gospels have Mary Magdalene approaching the tomb, either alone or with one or two other women, but only Luke speaks of more than three women at the Resurrection, even if not all are named.

Just as the beginning of our salvation came about in the most unexpected way through God becoming human, so the climactic act of our salvation, the Resurrection, was revealed in a manner which was almost unimaginable, for it was women who were its first witnesses. Women, of course, held little power and influence in the patriarchal world of first-century Palestine. It would be expected that such an earth-shattering event would be revealed first to the high and mighty, the rich and powerful. But such is the way of God.

God has been referred to as the “God of surprises” and I think this is a superb way of thinking about God. Too often we try to define God and God's action in our lives in a narrow way and perhaps then feel God has abandoned us when our expectations aren't met. The two great feasts of the Church's year, Christmas and Easter, remind us to “expect the unexpected”. God never abandons us and is always at work in our lives. Let us pray this Easter for the grace to understand this and give thanks for it.

I wish to particularly welcome today those who are visiting St Patrick's this Easter as they spend this Easter with loved ones in this part of Durham. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to those who live in the area but don't attend Mass here regularly. You are most welcome! Please remember that we are here to serve you in any way we can and look forward to getting to know you better.

I wish each of you a truly blessed Easter and great joy as you reflect on how you seek to spread the Good News of Christ risen each day. It is in doing this that we come to experience a glimpse of the kingdom of God in which, please God, we will dwell for all eternity.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,

Fr Robert



Peace be to you!

MINISTRIES
Saturday 20 April
Eucharistic Ministers
 Malcolm & Teresa Wass
 Andrew Aberdeen
Readers
 Angela Harmston
 Maria Griffiths
Children's Liturgy
 (In recess during break.
 Resumes 04 May)
Welcomers
 Paul & Anne Kelly
Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 27 April
Eucharistic Ministers
 Helen Musham, Jane Smith
 Wilf Lavery
Readers
 Marie Paily
 Stella Foody
Children's Liturgy
 (In recess during break.
 Resumes 04 May)
Welcomers
 Angela Harmston
 Christine Tracey
Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

Easter 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....

Harry & Teresa COAD
 Terry FARTHING (Rec. Dec.)
 James FOXCROFT
 Patrick MAUGHAN
 Joan SMITH

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

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

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION
 Gift Aid: £214 Loose Plate: £245
TOTAL: £459
 Mass Attendance: 169
 DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Thank you: A huge thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the Paschal triduum over the past few days. Thank you to all the servers and readers, those who cleaned the church and organised the beautiful floral arrangements, our Communion ministers, the wonderful musicians led by Bill, those who worked "behind the scenes" and others who helped to make this holy time of year so special. Thank you also to those who have passed onto me by word or by card, best wishes for Easter. May I take this opportunity to wish all parishioners, visitors and their families and loved ones, a blessed Easter season.

Easter Week Schedule: Please note the Mass and service times for Easter Week on the back of the bulletin. Note the extra Masses on **Monday and Saturday morning** as well as some changes to other weekday Mass times. In essence, there is one Mass each day of Easter week at **9:30am**.

Family Fast Day Collection: Thank you to those who have donated. Our collection came to **£333.05** and has been posted to Cafod.

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

Collections in May: There are several collections coming up in May. The **Marists** will be visiting us in **two weeks' time** to talk about their work and take up a collection. There will also be a collection for the **Little Sisters of the Poor** on **11 May** and one on the **18 May** for sick and retired clergy. More details next week.

Holy Places Collection: As usual, we will be taking up a Holy Places collection on Good Friday. This important collection not only ensures that key Christian religious sites remain accessible in the Holy Land but also that Christians are able to remain living in this part of the world since a lot of the donations support young families, parishes, seminaries, schools, hospitals and clinics, refugees and small businesses. Please be as generous as you can.

Stations of the Cross: Thank you to all those who led the Stations of the Cross throughout Lent. Your willingness to participate has been much appreciated.

Fundraiser for Senior Citizens Summer Party: A fundraiser is to be held on **26 April** at the British Legion. Raffle tickets will be on sale **this weekend**.

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: Thank you to all who donated towards the purchase of flowers for Easter. I'm sure you agree that they are a superb adornment to our already beautiful sanctuary! Thank you also to those who contribute regularly towards the purchase of flowers throughout the year.

Finchale Partnership open afternoons: People often say they would like to know more about the other parishes and churches in the partnership. So, 5 of our churches will host an open afternoon between May and October 2019. The first one will be at Ss Joseph, Patrick and Cuthbert, Coxhoe on the afternoon of 05 May. **Our Open Day here at St Patrick's will be on the afternoon of Sunday 02 June.** Please see the poster on the noticeboard for more details.

The Kids' Bulletin

Easter Word-Find

JGARDENEARLY
LEJESUSIMONS
ODUSTONEMARY
OIBURIALOWMS
KSCRIPTUREAW
ICARTOMBNEGS
NIREAIPDIPDS
GPECDFEDNIAE
CLOTHSTYGNLM
BELIEVEDRGP
OMTODARKHENT
DEANGELSADEY

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.



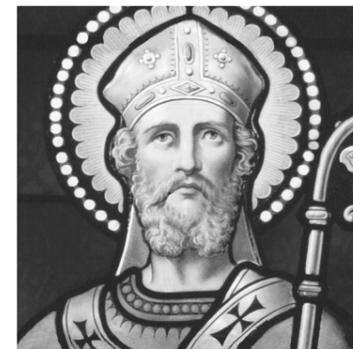
EARLY in the MORNING, while it was still DARK, Mary MAGDALENE had gone to see JESUS' TOMB. But when she got there she found it EMPTY! She ran and got SIMON PETER and the other DISCIPLE to show them. The STONE had been rolled back. The two men went in and saw that the BODY was gone, and only the BURIAL CLOTHS were sitting there. They BELIEVED although they didn't yet understand what the SCRIPTURE said about the RESURRECTION of Jesus. Mary stayed WEEPING outside, but when as she stood LOOKING in, she saw two ANGELS. Then she saw a man in the GARDEN. She thought He was the gardener until He said, "MARY!" Then she knew who it was:

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SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Anselm of Canterbury – 21 April

Anselm was born in Aosta, in northern Italy in 1033, and became a monk of Bec in Normandy, where he taught theology and devoted himself to the spiritual life. After some years as abbot, he succeeded his master Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury. His bitter disputes with the kings of England over the independence of the Church resulted in his twice being exiled. He died at Canterbury on 21 April 1109. He is remembered for his theological learning and writings, and for organising and reforming church life in England.



(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 next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held at **St John's, Meadowfield** on **Tuesday 21 May**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments are served from 9:15am.

The **Bible Study Group** will next meet on **Monday 13 May**, 3:30pm - 4:45pm at St Andrew's, Brandon. Refreshments beforehand.

All are welcome at both of these gatherings!



SCHOOL NEWS

Easter egg competition

Thank you to all the children who entered the school's recent Easter egg competition. The winners were:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Reception | 1st Jai, 2nd William, 3rd Albie |
| Years 1 & 2 | 1st Ashton, 2nd Jude, 3rd Freya |
| Years 3 & 4 | 1st Graye, 2nd Lewis, 3rd Izabel |
| Years 5 & 6 | 1st Joanna, 2nd Vanessa, 3rd Cassidy |

Winners were awarded a certificate and an Easter egg and all entrants received a chocolate treat.

Choir Concert

To celebrate their learning over the last term, the School Choir will perform a range of popular songs on Friday 03 May @ 4:00pm, in the school hall. Everyone is welcome to attend this little concert and light refreshments will be served afterwards.



Summer Term

School re-opens, following the Easter break, on Monday 29 April.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that Easter falls on a carefully calculated day, dependent upon the moon?

The First Council of Nicaea in the year 325 established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the March equinox. We have a very late Easter this year but not as late as it can be since Easter can fall on any Sunday between 22 March and 25 April. Easter Sunday falls on 12 April next year, 04 April in 2021 and 17 April in 2022. The next time Easter Sunday is in March will be in 2024 (31 March).



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when his presence is not directly noticed. Easter brings the good news that, although things seem to get worse in the world, the Evil One has already been overcome."

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



CONGRATULATIONS....to Michael HURST and Julie STOCK who were married here at St Patrick's on Wednesday, 10 April. We wish them every success in their together as husband and wife. Please keep them in your prayers.

