

The week ahead...

Saturday 27 April Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: Terry Farthing and <i>pro populo</i>
Sunday 28 April Second Sunday of Easter	NO MASS	
Monday 29 April <i>St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor</i> <i>Patron of Europe</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 30 April <i>St George, Martyr</i> <i>Patron of England</i>	NO MASS	
Wednesday 01 May Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Communion Service
Thursday 02 May <i>St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor</i>	NO MASS	
Friday 03 May <i>SS Philip & James, Apostles</i>	NO MASS	
Saturday 04 May Vigil Mass for Third Sunday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: Moran family and <i>pro populo</i>



St Patrick's R.C. Church
A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

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Second Sunday of Easter 28 April 2019

"My Lord and my God!"

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, as has been noted before, is very different to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. These three "synoptic" Gospels have a great deal in common with one another but John stands alone in many ways. Whilst the synoptic Gospels show that the man Jesus is also God, John takes a different perspective and shows that God is also the man Jesus. This is made clear by the fact that the Gospel of John is bookended by two statements that declare Jesus to be God, the only time such a declaration is made in any of the four Gospels. The first is found at the very beginning of John in the great Prologue: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (1:1) The second we hear this weekend which is found toward the end of the Gospel when we hear Thomas declare, "My Lord and my God!" (20:28) These two statements embody the flavour of the rest of the John's Gospel, elevating Jesus in a way the others do not.

That the declaration of Jesus as God comes from the mouth of Thomas is interesting. Thomas, we note, was sceptical of the words of the disciples who had witnessed Jesus among them the previous week, yet he of all the disciples goes on to make the declaration when Jesus stands before him eight days later. It would have been understandable if Thomas had simply said, "It is you, Jesus!" since, like all the disciples, he had spent plenty of time with Jesus during his ministry. But it is a true leap of faith to call Jesus God, yet this is what the "Doubting Thomas" did.

Our same belief, that Jesus is almighty God, means that we are called to mission, something that Jesus makes clear to the disciples when he says, "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." Our mission, Jesus makes clear, is one of reconciliation, bringing people into right relationship with God and one another, the two intimately connected.

And so it is the task of Christians and their communities to bring healing wherever it is needed. We see this illustrated in both a real and metaphorical way in this weekend's first reading where we hear that the work of the apostles was so incredible that "...the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past." Clearly the apostles had been given a power that was beyond anything merely human. Had Jesus simply been a good person, a great teacher or healer, then the apostles would not have been invested with such incredible powers. But Jesus was indeed God, he had risen from the dead and then passed on to his disciples the very same mission that he himself had begun and gave them the wherewithal to do it.

Let us give thanks that we too, like Thomas, recognise Jesus as God and embrace and put to good use the gifts we have been given to bring healing to our broken world.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,
Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

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

Greg Mearman & Choir

MINISTRIES

Saturday 04 May

Eucharistic Ministers

Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
Harry Curran

Readers

Angela Toslay
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Helen Riddles

Welcomers

Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

Music

Bill Wilkinson & Choir

Second Sunday of Easter

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...

Terry FARTHING (Rec. Dec.)

Terence McGARRY

Fr Jim DOHERTY

All victims of violence



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

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



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £240 Loose Plate: £466

TOTAL: £706

Mass Attendance: 262

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Mass Schedule: Please note the changes to the Mass schedule this week due to my absence from the parish for the week. Essentially, there will be only a Communion service on Wednesday morning. The Saturday Vigil Mass is scheduled as normal.

Marist Mission Appeal 04 May: Br John McAllister s.m. will speak at Mass on behalf of the missions of the Society of Mary (Marist Fathers and brothers) working in education and pastoral care in Oceania, South Asia, Africa, and South America, for which there will be a retiring collection. I know you will make Br John welcome.

Collections in May: As well as the collection for the Marist Missionaries, there will also be a collection for the **Little Sisters of the Poor** on **11 May** and one on the **18 May** for the Northern Brethren Fund which supports our sick and retired clergy.

Holy Places Collection: Thank you to those who contributed towards this important collection. A total of **£244.65** was raised to assist the maintenance of the holy places and to aid Christian families still resident in this turbulent corner of the world.

Lenten Alms: Thank you to all who contributed to the collection for St Cuthbert's Care. Our total came to **£207.30**.

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.

Finchale Partnership open afternoons: People often say they would like to know more about the other parishes and churches in the partnership. So, the parish of Bl. Edmund Duke will be hosting an open afternoon on Sunday, 5th May, from 3.00 – 5.00pm. They are looking forward to welcoming visitors from across the partnership at St

Joseph's, Coxhoe, DH6 4DA, to look around, chat over refreshments, learn a little about the parish and experience the spirituality of Church. Everyone is welcome to attend. You don't have to sign up in advance, but if you need a lift to Coxhoe, or if you are able to offer someone else a lift, please leave your details on the sheet on the noticeboard.

Our Open Day here at St Patrick's will be on the afternoon of Sunday 02 June. We will be looking for volunteers to show people around our beautiful church from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. Will you consider signing up shortly?

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): The next meeting of the PPC is scheduled for **Wednesday 15 May** at **7:00pm**. I hope to have the minutes of the last meeting and an agenda and sign-up sheet available next weekend.

Forty Great Days—Easter to Ascension: Check the noticeboard for details of this Churches Together event. There are four more weeks of meetings (at St Andrew's, Brandon), each **Friday afternoon** from **2:00pm—3:00pm**. Next meeting is **03 May**.

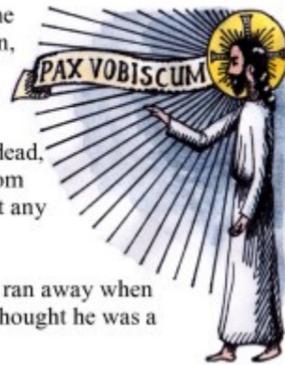
Twitter! Don't forget the parish has a Twitter account and I usually tweet something each day. These tweets are of both a spiritual and practical nature. Simply search for **St Patrick's Langley Moor**.

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 weekend for fellowship over some drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome!

The Kids' Bulletin

True or False: When Jesus Came to the Apostles

1. When Jesus first came to the Apostles after His resurrection, He said "Peace be with you" twice. True or False?
2. When Jesus rose from the dead, you couldn't see the marks from the nails in His hands and feet any more. True or False?
3. The Apostles panicked and ran away when they saw Jesus because they thought he was a ghost. True or False?
4. Jesus breathed on the Apostles and told them that they now had the power to forgive people's sins. True or False?



5. The Apostle Thomas was not with the others when Jesus first came to them after He rose from the dead. True or False?

6. Thomas believed that they had seen Jesus, so he wasn't surprised when Jesus came again a week later. True or False?

7. Jesus told Thomas to put his fingers in the nail-holes in His hands and put his hand in Jesus' side where the spear had gone in. True or False?

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Catherine of Siena – 29 April

Catherine was born in Siena in 1347 and, seeking perfection, entered the Third Order of the Dominicans when she was still in her teens. In 1370 she was commanded by a vision to leave her secluded life and enter the public life of the world. She wrote letters to many major public figures and carried on a long correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, urging him to reform the clergy and the administration of the Papal States. She burned with the love of God and her neighbour. As an ambassador she brought peace and harmony between cities. She fought hard to defend the liberty and rights of the Popes and did much for the renewal of religious life. She also dictated books full of sound doctrine and spiritual inspiration. She died on 29 April 1380. In 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church.



(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

Summer Term

School re-opens, for the Summer Term, on Monday 29 April. Staff look forward to welcoming our children back, to the final term of the school year.

Choir Concert

Pupils in our School Choir are putting on a short concert, beginning at 4:00pm, on Friday 03 May. Everyone is welcome!

SATs

Week commencing Monday 13 May, our Year 6 pupils will sit externally marked tests (Standard Attainment Tests). Please keep these children in your prayers, as they prepare for these.

Masses

This coming half term, pupils will join our parish family, in church, for the following Masses:

Year 5 @ 9:30am Mass, on **Thursday 09 May**

Years 3 & 4 @ 9:30am Mass, on **Wednesday 15 May**

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 @ 9:30am Mass, on **Thursday 16 May**

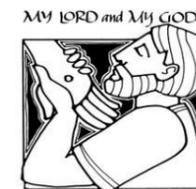
Year 6 @ 9:30am Mass, on **Wednesday 22 May**



DID YOU KNOW...?

....that St Thomas is said to have travelled as far as India after the resurrection of Jesus?

Nothing certain is known about Thomas' activities after Pentecost but tradition links him with southern India to where he is said to have travelled for some time in Syria and Persia. The place in India where Thomas is said to have been martyred is called San Tome. Indian Christians believe he is buried in India whilst others insist his remains were transferred to Italy.



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid. Trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do."

Pope Francis (b. 1936)



PLEASE PRAY.... for the following intentions during the Easter season as requested by Bishop Robert: **New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....

