

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 11 May</b> Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Easter	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>Terry Farthing and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 12 May</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 13 May</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 14 May</b> <i>St Matthias, Apostle</i>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Wednesday 15 May</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>9:30am</b>	Mass: <b>Harold &amp; Walter Tonge</b>
<b>Thursday 16 May</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>9:30am</b>	Mass: <b>Billy Barne</b>
<b>Friday 17 May</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>7:00am</b>	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 18 May</b> Vigil Mass for Fifth Sunday of Easter	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>Terry Farthing and pro populo</b>



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*  
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## Fourth Sunday of Easter 12 May 2019

### Good Shepherd Sunday

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER is traditionally referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday" because each year on this Sunday, regardless of whether we are in Year A, B or C of our Sunday liturgical cycle, we hear an extract from chapter ten of John's Gospel in which Jesus makes his role as a shepherd clear, though only in Year B do we hear Jesus refer to himself as the "good shepherd". This year, at less than seventy words, the extract is the shortest of the three extracts we hear on this Sunday of Eastertide.

Though we undoubtedly find it comforting to hear that Jesus is a shepherd (and a good one at that), the context in which he talks of himself in this way is quite ominous. As always, context is an important consideration when reading and understanding scripture. Jesus is in Jerusalem and has just healed a man born blind and the religious authorities, after hearing the testimony of the healed man, confront Jesus and demand to know his true identity: "If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus responds by telling the authorities questioning him that he has already declared himself to be the Christ but they do not believe "because you do not belong to my sheep." We then hear Jesus continue with the words of this weekend's Gospel in which he emphasises the love and care he has for his sheep, along with the promise of eternal life, and then concludes with the words, "The Father and I are one." Following this, the Jewish leaders questioning Jesus pick up stones with which to kill him, claiming that they are doing so "because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." Fortunately, Jesus manages to escape and travels back across the River Jordan.

So the context in which we hear Jesus speak about himself as a shepherd is by no means a welcoming one – far from it. Indeed, this is a warning to us to never get complacent about our faith and believe that because Jesus is our shepherd, there will not be forces arrayed against us who seek to counter our message of love and reconciliation with one of hatred and division. Certainly, we understand that the role of a shepherd is to protect the flock from harm but when we think of the martyrs of the faith we come to understand that the Good Shepherd's pastoral care is less concerned with our physical well-being than he is about our eternal destiny, something emphasised in the Gospel this weekend.

Jesus, of course, is the good and perfect shepherd, and ultimately our pastoral care is in his hands. At a more immediate level, all of us have an obligation to shepherd one another, encouraging one another in the faith or offering help at a more practical level when needed. The role of the priest, however, is unique and essential in many ways, but most especially when it comes to the celebration of Eucharist, for no Eucharist means no Church.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday as we pray for vocations, please ask yourself what more you can do to encourage vocations to the priesthood. Praying is important but if you know someone who you believe would make a good priest, why not be bold and simply tell him? It may be the very thing he was waiting to hear...

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



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 11 May

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Jane Smith, Helen Musham  
 Angela Harmston

#### Readers

Claire Lavery  
 Margaret Purdom

#### Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths  
 Michelle Dennis

#### Welcomers

Halina Holman  
 Janet Harrigan

#### Music

Bill Wilkinson & Choir

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 18 May

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Malcolm & Teresa Wass  
 Andrew Aberdeen

#### Readers

Brendan Payne  
 Greg Mearman

#### Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths  
 Joanne Lidster

#### Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

#### Music

Bill Wilkinson & Choir

Fourth 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  
 Ronald JACKSON (Rec. Dec.)  
 Teresa MULHALL



Victims of war and violence

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

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



**£ LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**

**Gift Aid: £215    Loose Plate: £243**

**TOTAL: £458**

**Mass Attendance: 155**

**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE**  
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**Marist Mission Appeal:** Thank you for your welcome to Br John McAllister last weekend. A total of £372.40 was donated to the Marist missions. There is still a chance to donate via one of the yellow gift-aid envelopes if you wish to place one in a collection basket this weekend.

**Collections in May:** As mentioned over the past couple of weekends, there will be a collection **this weekend** for the **Little Sisters of the Poor** and another collection next weekend, **18 May**, for the Northern Brethren Fund which supports our sick and retired clergy. The Little Sisters of the Poor will be using funds raised this year to implement vital fire safety improvements to their home in Newcastle, which has over 100 residents and staff. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

**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:** Thank you to Fr Shaun Swales and the parishioners of Blessed Edmund Duke for your hospitality at last Sunday's Open Afternoon at St Joseph's, Coxhoe. It was a joy to meet the members of the parish community, and fascinating to learn about the history of the church - and of course, the cakes were very welcome!  
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?

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** The next meeting of the PPC is scheduled this **Wednesday, 15 May**, at **7:00pm**. Please see the noticeboard for the minutes of the last meeting held in March and a draft agenda. There is also a sign-up sheet at the rear of the church for those who wish to attend

**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 **17 May**.

**May Procession:** Scheduled for next **Sunday, 19 May**, starting at **2:00pm**, followed by parish family picnic. Weather permitting, we will have the picnic in the parish garden. The parish will supply the drink and food but please feel free to bring along something to share with others on the day. Hope to see a big crowd there!

**Church Cleaning:** In order to have a lovely, clean church for the May Procession, we will have a cleaning hour on **Saturday, 18 May**, from **10:30am - 11:30am**. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the rear of the church.

**Statues:** As mentioned last week, the statues of Mary and Bernadette have been refurbished and have now been installed into their original places in the garden behind the church. I'd like to thank Mr Sutcliffe and his dedicated and skilled students at St Leonard's for their terrific work and also Wilf for restoring them to their original place in the garden.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Isidore the Farmer - 15 May

Isidore was born near Madrid in 1070 to very poor parents. He was a labourer and later a bailiff on the estates of a landowner called Juan de Vargas. He was noted for his piety. He died on 15 May 1130.

The biographical resources are unreliable, being essentially a catalogue of miracles. There is no reason, however, to doubt that he was a saint: devotion to him started shortly after his death, when many people who had known him were still alive. He is patron of Madrid.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for

#### May

**May the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, be the seed of unity among its members and a sign of hope for this continent.**

*"The Kingdom of God grows in a mysterious and surprising way throughout the world with the power of a tiny seed."*



### ~ 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

### Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I try to accept forgiveness from others'. We heard about the criminal who was crucified with Jesus and asked for forgiveness for his sins. We talked about how happy it makes us feel to know that God, and other people, will forgive us when we are truly sorry for our sins.

### First Reconciliation

Congratulations to Sabian, who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week, in our beautiful school chapel. Sabian was not able to receive this sacrament at the same time as the rest of the group, earlier this year.

### Test Week

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will be sitting end of Key Stage 2 tests. Please keep these children in your prayers.

### Masses

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

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**

### Twitter

You can follow us on Twitter @StPatsLM, to see what our children have been doing during the school day.



## The Kids' Bulletin

### Jesus' Sheep Word Puzzle

Use the words in the list to fill in the blanks.  
Use the numbered letters to fill in the blanks at the very end.

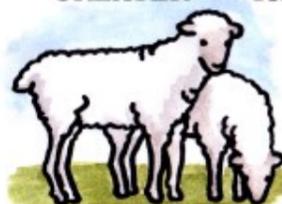
Jesus \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>  
"My sheep hear my voice;  
I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> them  
and they \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>  
I give them eternal life;  
and they shall never \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>  
and no one can take them out of my \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup>  
My Father, who has \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> them to me,  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> than all,  
and no one can take \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>  
out of the Father's hand.  
The \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> and I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> one."

FOLLOW	ME	FATHER
GIVEN	SAID	KNOW
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GREATER	THEM	ARE

Jesus is the

1 2 3 4

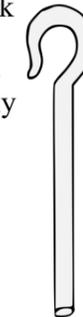
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



## DID YOU KNOW...?

**...that the crozier used by bishops in many Christian churches is shaped like a traditional shepherd's crook?**

The crozier, also called a pastoral staff, is the sign that the bishop is the shepherd of the flock of God, and there are regulations about when and how it is to be held in religious celebrations. For example, the bishop only holds the crozier in processions, when listening to the Gospel, when preaching, and giving blessings. The bishop also holds the crozier so that the open side is facing the congregation.



## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"The salt of our earth comes in fine silver salt cellars, for the seasoning of our food; but it also comes in bins at the roadside, for the thawing of snow and ice. We are called to awaken in those around us the appetite for God, and to melt away the barriers that hold them back."

**Margaret Silf** (b. 1945)  
Catholic writer and speaker



**CONGRATULATIONS....** to the parents, the godparents and other family members of **Thomas James SMITH** who was baptised here last Sunday afternoon. Please keep Thomas and his family in your prayers, that he may come to know the joy of life as a Christian disciple.

