

The week ahead...

Saturday 18 May Vigil Mass for Fifth Sunday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: Terry Farthing and pro populo
Sunday 19 May Fifth Sunday of Easter	2:00pm	May Procession & Parish Family Picnic
Monday 20 May Weekday of Easter	NO MASS	
Tuesday 21 May Weekday of Easter	6:30pm	Mass: Jim & Billie Barrie
Wednesday 22 May Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: Ronnie Jackson
Thursday 23 May Weekday of Easter	9:30am	Mass: Arthur & Kamilla Crooks
Friday 24 May Weekday of Easter	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 25 May Vigil Mass for Sixth Sunday of Easter	5:00pm	Mass: David & Veronica Parkinson and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church
A Parish of the Finchale Partnership
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Fifth Sunday of Easter 19 May 2019

"I give you a new commandment..."

THE GOSPEL THIS WEEKEND begins rather cryptically: "When Judas had gone...". We hear this weekend from chapter thirteen of John's Gospel, the same chapter we hear from on Holy Thursday when we recall Jesus's modelling of servant discipleship as he washes the feet of his disciples. Shortly after the washing of their feet Jesus declares that one of the disciples at the table will betray him. After Jesus hands a piece of bread to Judas Iscariot we hear that Satan entered Judas and he leaves the room and darkness falls. This is where we pick up the narrative this weekend.

The Gospel reading is quite short this weekend, just ninety words. Yet in those ninety words a theme is emphasised three times by Jesus: love one another. In fact, this three-fold mention of loving one another is made in fewer than forty words in the second half of the reading. Clearly Jesus cannot emphasise this point enough. Jesus could have chosen many other things to emphasise such as prayer, almsgiving, fasting, and so on. But he chose instead to emphasise the one quality for which all these actions form a firm foundation – love of God and neighbour.

Let's look at the text concerned with the emphasis of Jesus highlighted:

"I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
 just as I have loved you,
 you also must **love one another.**
 By this **love you have for one another,**
 everyone will know that you are my disciples."

In a sense, Jesus *doesn't* repeat himself because each of the calls to love one another is contextualised differently. After commanding his disciples to love one another, very importantly he qualifies the nature of this love: it is to be the same love he has shown them – it is this that makes the commandment to love a *new* commandment. Jesus then remarks on why this love is important: that others will be attracted to faith in him because they know that the love Jesus's disciples express is distinct and brings fulfillment.

The call to love is central to Christian living but, as Jesus tells us, the nature of the love is very specific. Imagine Jesus making the same remarks as above to you. When you hear that you are to love others you might well think that Christian discipleship is not too demanding; after all, you think, I *do* love many people. But as Jesus continues to speak, his intent becomes clear: loving one another means loving like Jesus and so being called to serve others tirelessly, to not seek vengeance when hurt but to pray for those who hurt you and seek reconciliation with them, and simply be selfless and generous with your love. Finally, Jesus makes it clear that the purpose of this is not for your own benefit so much as for others, so that they too will come to know the joy of discipleship. The kingdom of God and the scope of salvation are thus broadened through the manner of our love. Our love is essential for God's plan.

Let us therefore embrace enthusiastically the call to love one another as he has shown us. After all, it is not a mere suggestion or a request: it is a command.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,

Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

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

MINISTRIES

Saturday 25 May

Eucharistic Ministers
 Irene & John Carey
 Kevin Boyle

Readers
 Rowan Payne
 Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy
 Carol Bainbridge
 Joanne Lidster

Welcomers
 Angela Harmston
 Christine Tracey

Music
 Greg Mearman & Choir

Fifth 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.)
 Pat CUNNINGHAM
 Jack WILKINSON
 Terry McGARRY



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

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



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £187 Loose Plate: £168

TOTAL: £355

Mass Attendance: 120

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Recent Appeals: A final total of £372.40 was donated to the Marist missions. The Little Sisters of the Poor collection last weekend raised a total of £305.80. Thank you for your generosity!

Sick & Retired Priests Collection: We will have a collection this weekend, **18 May**, for the Northern Brethren Fund which supports our sick and retired clergy. Thank you again in anticipation of your generosity. Our next retiring collection will be on the weekend of 01/02 June for **World Communication Day**.

Finchale Partnership Open Afternoon: Our Open Day here at St Patrick's will be on the afternoon of **Sunday 02 June**. We are looking for volunteers to show people around our beautiful church from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. Will you consider signing up this weekend to help in one or more ways? We need welcomers, people to supply and help serve food and drinks and people to guide visitors around the church and perhaps help answer basic questions. Please help!

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 **24 May**.

May Procession: Scheduled for this **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!

Feast of the Ascension: This year, this feast of the Ascension falls on **Thursday, 30 May** and is a Holy Day of Obligation. To assist those who are unable to attend the usual Thursday 9:30am Mass, a Vigil Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday 29 May** at **6:30pm**.

Partnership Day – 30 June: The Finchale Partnership is organising a Partnership Day at Ushaw College on Sunday, 30 June. There will be Mass at 12.30pm (including children's liturgy), followed by activities and prayer for the rest of the afternoon. There will be a schools' choir concert and games for families, information about all the parishes in the partnership, a Memory Cafe for those affected by dementia, treasure trails and guided tours. Please see the poster on the noticeboard, and there will be more information on the programme for the afternoon and how to sign up for guided tours or if you need a lift to Ushaw, in the coming weeks.

Social Group Fundraiser: The Social Committee would like to thank all for their support. After taking expenses into account, a total of **£455** was raised. There are still two unclaimed raffle prizes with pink tickets 57 and 145. Thank you to the Social Committee for all their hard work and commitment.

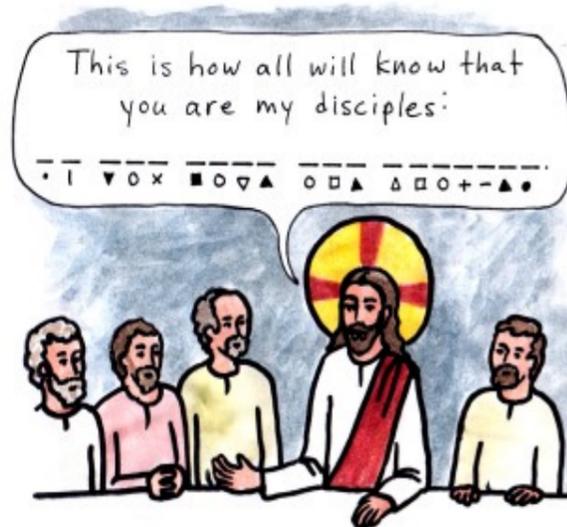
Day of prayer and reflection at Ushaw: Led by Sister Rosarie Spence RSM, Thursday, 20 June, 11:00am – 4:00pm. Experience different ways of praying, and an opportunity to step aside and enjoy the beauty of the surroundings. Cost is £10.00 per person, including coffee, tea and biscuits served on arrival from 10:30-11:00am, and at the end of the day. Lunch is not provided, but there is a delicious range of food available in the Refectory. Bookings can be made on-line via www.ushaw.org or by calling 0191 3345119.

Memory Café: The parish of Durham Martyrs hold a café on the **second Tuesday** of every month, from **1:00pm - 3:00pm**, for those affected by dementia and their carers. They meet at St Joseph's Church in Gilesgate. For more information contact the parish secretary on (091) 384 3810. See the noticeboard for more details.

He has risen, alleluia

The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 19, 2019



What did Jesus tell His disciples in today's Gospel reading? Use the code below to find out!

A E F H I L N O R T U V Y
Δ ▲ | - ● ■ □ 0 ● + x ▽ ▼

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement of the Week

This week's statement was, 'I know how to show I am sorry'. We shared the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, and reflected on the importance of reflecting on our words and actions and feeling truly sorry for the poor choices we make. We know we need to do this, in order to make positive changes to our lives.

Year 6

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils, for their hard work and resilience this week, when they sat their end of Key Stage 2 tests!

These pupils and their teachers visited the Botanic Gardens, in Durham, on Friday and enjoyed a picnic lunch. A well-deserved treat!

Mass

This week, Year 6 will join parishioners for the 9:30am Mass on **Wednesday 22 May**.

Twitter

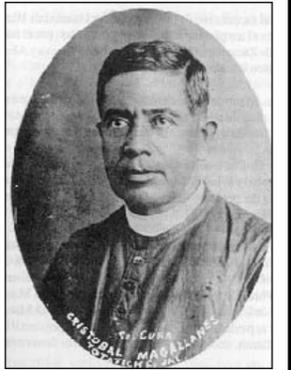
You can follow us on Twitter @StPatsLM, to see what our children have been doing during the school day.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Christopher Magallanes & Companions – 21 May

Cristóbal Magallanes Jara was born in the state of Jalisco in Mexico in 1869. He was ordained priest at the age of 30 and became parish priest of his home town of Totatiche. He took a special interest in the evangelisation of the local indigenous Huichol people and founded a mission for them. When government persecution of the Catholic Church began and the seminaries were closed, he opened a small local "auxiliary seminary." He wrote and preached against armed rebellion, but was falsely accused of promoting the Cristero rebellion. He was arrested on 21 May 1927 while on the way to celebrate Mass at a farm. He was executed without a trial, but not before giving his remaining possessions to his executioners and giving them absolution.



With him are celebrated 24 other Mexican martyrs of the early twentieth century.

(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 from 9:15am.

DH7's Pentecost Praise will be happening right here at St Patrick's on **Sunday, 09 June**, beginning at 6:00pm. There will be a guest preacher and refreshments to follow.

All are welcome at both of these gatherings!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Northern Brethren Fund (NBF), for which we take up a retiring collection this weekend, supports the sick and retired clergy of our diocese?

The Northern Catholic Calendar states that the fund was established by the secular clergy of Durham and Northumberland about the year 1660. It states that the "fund has for its objects the relief and maintenance of secular Priests belonging to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, who, from sickness, age or infirmity, have become temporarily or permanently incapable of continuing their missionary labours."



"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Easter is not a time for groping through dusty, musty tomes or tombs to disprove spontaneous generation or even to prove life eternal. It is a day to fan the ashes of dead hope, a day to banish doubts and seek the slopes where the sun is rising, to revel in the faith which transports us out of ourselves and the dead past into the vast and inviting unknown."

Anonymous



CONGRATULATIONS.... to **Adam CRUDDACE** and **Stephanie RIDDLES** who were married here at St Patrick's last Sunday, 12 May. We wish them every success in their life together as husband and wife. Please keep them in your prayers.

