

# The week ahead...

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|--|-----------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 01 June</b><br>Vigil Mass for Seventh Sunday of Easter   | 5:00pm          | Mass: <b>Kathleen Caisley and pro populo</b> |
| <b>Sunday 02 June</b><br>Seventh Sunday of Easter                    | 2:00pm - 4:00pm | <b>OPEN DAY</b>                              |
| <b>Monday 03 June</b><br><i>St Charles Lwanga &amp; Co., Martyrs</i> | <b>NO MASS</b>  |  |
| <b>Tuesday 04 June</b><br>Weekday of Easter                          | 6:30pm          | Mass: <b>Tom &amp; Sarah Tracy</b>           |
| <b>Wednesday 05 June</b><br><i>St Boniface, Bishop, Martyr</i>       | 9:30am          | Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>               |
| <b>Thursday 06 June</b><br>Weekday of Easter                         | 9:30am          | Mass: <b>Pat Curran</b>                      |
| <b>Friday 07 June</b><br><i>St Robert of Newminster, Abbot</i>       | 7:00am          | Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>               |
| <b>Saturday 08 June</b><br>Vigil Mass for Pentecost                  | 5:00pm          | Mass: <b>Kathleen Caisley and pro populo</b> |
| <b>Sunday 09 June</b><br>Pentecost Sunday                            | 6:00pm          | Praise and Worship Service<br>(No Mass)      |



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*  
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## Seventh Sunday of Easter 02 June 2019

**“...may they be so completely one...”**

WE COME TO THE third and final week of our Gospel readings from what is commonly referred to as Jesus's farewell discourse, occupying chapters 14 to 17 of John's Gospel, along with the last few verses from chapter thirteen. We hear only a fraction of this discourse over these three weeks but we always have a chance to read this in its totality for ourselves in the bible, and I would recommend you do. What we hear today is the final part of this discourse, the last seven verses of chapter seventeen. It is not insignificant that Jesus's final words of prayer to his Father are that his disciples should manifest the same unity as does he and the Father.

Over the past three weeks we have heard three well-defined themes given by Jesus in the extracts taken from his farewell discourse: we heard of love two weeks ago, peace last week, and this week, unity.

Unity can be an elusive quality, something of which we are all aware via brute experience. All too often headlines alert us of skirmishes or wars that result from a failure of governments to foster unity or try to do so by threat or force. We witness too a lack of desire on a more local level by politicians to seek unity, especially when to do otherwise might advance their political fortunes. On a domestic level, there is frequent disunity resulting in the breakdown of family life and social cohesion, manifesting in misery and violence. Finally, we are often the victims of disunity within our own being, pulled towards sin when we are seeking to be unified with Christ and live with moral integrity.

Yet, it doesn't take too much critical thinking to conclude that as a baptised and eucharistic people we, as Christians, ought to be unified, within ourselves and as a community. We are given the gift of the one Holy Spirit in baptism and we eat and drink of the one Lord when we celebrate the Eucharist. No two forces could be more unifying than these. This is why any public displays of disunity in the Church are scandalous in the true sense of the word, especially when Jesus emphasises that the unity of his followers is a sign of God's favour.

Unity does not mean that we are always in agreement. Unity means that when there is a disagreement, minor or otherwise, as Christians, we make the effort to bring about a resolution in a dignified manner, respectful of one another because we know that those with whom we disagree are, like us, children of God. Thus, as Christians, we exhibit unity and an express desire to achieve the oneness seen in the relationship between Jesus and the Father.

Of course, there is an evangelising aspect we must not overlook. Whilst it is imperative that we seek unity as Christians, this does not preclude us from seeking unity with those who are not "of the flock". Indeed, if we want others to share our joy and fulfillment as Christians, we must seek resolutions to issues in the same manner as we would with our Christians brothers and sisters. The idea that we can justify differing approaches based on those with whom we are in dispute is abhorrent to God and surely the very definition of disunity and a lack of integrity.

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



**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 01 June**  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 Jane Smith, Helen Musham  
 Wilf Lavery  
**Readers**  
 Margaret Purdom  
 Stella Foody  
**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Michelle Dennis  
**Welcomers**  
 Pat Middleton  
 Mary Kitching  
**Music**  
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 08 June**  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 Ambrose & Pauline Burnside  
 Harry Curran  
**Readers**  
 Claire Lavery  
 Marie Paily  
**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Joanne Lidster  
**Welcomers**  
 Halina Holman  
 Janet Harrigan  
**Music**  
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**Seventh 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...***

Kathleen CAISLEY  
 Ronald JACKSON (Rec. Dec.)  
 Sharon CUMMINGS  
 George MAWSON

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

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

**£ LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**  
**Gift Aid: £187    Loose Plate: £174**  
**TOTAL: £361**  
**Mass Attendance: 109**  
**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE**  
**CHARITY NUMBER 1143450**



# What's going on...?

**World Communications Day Collection:** As was mentioned last weekend, we will have a retiring collection this weekend for World Communications Day. Funds raised will assist the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in their promotion of the Gospel through digital, social, print and broadcast media. Thank you for your generosity!

**Recent Collections:** Thank you for your donations to this recent collections. A total of **£305.80** was raised for Little Sisters of the Poor and **186.55** for the Northern Brethren Fund.

**First Communion Candidates:** Once again, we welcome our children who are now nearing the end of their preparation for First Communion. At this, their final session, they will focus on a deeper understanding of the Eucharist. These children will receive their first Communion on **Saturday, 22 June**. Please continue to uphold them in prayer.

**Finchale Partnership Open Afternoon:** Our Open Day here at St Patrick's will held tomorrow, **Sunday 02 June**. Thank you to all who have offered to help. Please feel free to come along tomorrow and assist, even if you haven't signed up, as numbers are uncertain and we may need more help than has been offered. Thank you!

**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.

**Partnership Development Group:** The minutes of the recent meeting of the Partnership Development Group are on the noticeboard. The meeting reviewed the plans of our six sub-groups and shared key issues from across our parishes. The full minutes can also be found on the Partnership webpages hosted at <http://www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk/the-finchale-partnership/partnership-development-group-information>

**Senior Citizens' Party:** This will be held at the usual venue, The British Legion, on **Saturday, 15 June**, beginning at 12:00noon. The is a sign-up sheet at the rear of the church. Raffle tickets will be on sale over this weekend and next weekend.

**Fr Michael Griffiths 40th Anniversary:** Fr Michael, well known to most of you, will be celebrating his 40th anniversary of ordination on **Monday, 08 July at 6:30pm at St Joseph's, Hartlepool**. I will put out a sign-up sheet next weekend as Fr Michael would like to have approximate numbers for catering purposes after the Mass.

**Missio APF/Mill Hill Quarterly collections for the month of June:** Red boxes and brown envelopes will be collected by sponsors during the first three weeks in June. The monies go towards helping Foreign Missionaries in their work in sharing God's love with some of the most vulnerable, marginalised people throughout the world, eg. Freedom Park, one of the largest shanty towns in South Africa, supports a centre which is a refuge for young children between 3 – 21 years of age. A small team of professional nurses and volunteer carers teach children about personal safety and wellbeing and are provided with two meals per day. Many have HIV/AIDS or/and are orphans or cared for by elderly grandparents. Through your red box you are giving them hope and helping to change people's lives every day. Thank you!

## The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Ascension  
May 30 or June 2, 2019



Jesus disappeared into a cloud forty days after He rose from the dead. Where did He go?

Colour in the spaces with crosses (+) to find out!



## SCHOOL NEWS

### First Holy Communicants

This evening, our children, who are preparing to receive the holy Eucharist for the first time, join us for the celebration of Mass. They will state their commitment to the call to receive this wonderful sacrament and to being a follower of Jesus.

Please keep these children, and their families, in your prayers: Jack, Izabel, Michael, Adam, Ella, Ian, Christian, Jamie, Vaidotas and Sabian.

The First Holy Communion Mass takes place on **Saturday 22 June**.

### Masses and Liturgies (in our school chapel)

Y6 Mass – Wednesday 05 June @ 2:45pm  
Y5 Mass – Thursday 06 June @ 2:45pm  
YR Liturgy – Wednesday 19 June @ 3:00pm  
Y2 Liturgy – Wednesday 26 June @ 3:00pm  
Y1 Liturgy – Thursday 27 June @ 3:00pm  
Y4 Mass – Wednesday 03 July @ 2:45pm  
Y3 Liturgy – Thursday 04 July @ 3:00pm

Please feel free to join us in any of these celebrations.

### Meadowfield Cemetery

Recently, our Year 1 and 2 pupils planted flowerbeds in the local cemetery. Their contribution was part of, what is now becoming, an annual event and the activity involved pupils from other primary schools and nurseries in the local area. Some of our children dedicated a plant to the memory of a loved one.

### School Re-opens

School re-opens, following the half-term break, on **Monday 03 June**. We look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back to school, for the final half-term of this school year.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

**St Clotilde – 04 June**

Clotilde was a Burgundian princess who in about 493 married Clovis, King of the Franks. Brought up a Christian, she had their children baptised, and in due course, Clovis himself was baptised, somewhere between 496 and 499, marking the beginning of Christian France.

When Clovis died in 511, and especially after her son Clodomir died in 524, Clotilde devoted herself to works of charity and founded many churches and religious institutions, setting a pattern that was later followed by many royal widows in Europe, She herself died by the tomb of St Martin of Tours in 545.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for June

May priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves to an active solidarity with the poorest.

*“When disciples of Christ are transparent and sensitive in life, they bring the Lord's light to the places where they live and work.”*



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

### Prayer Group & Bible Study

The next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held at **St John's, Meadowfield** on **Tuesday 18 June**, 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.

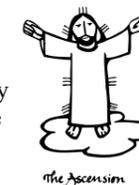
All are welcome at both of these gatherings!



## DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Feast of the Ascension is celebrated this Sunday in some parts of the world?

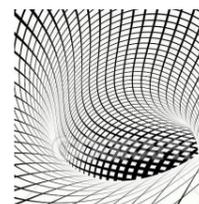
The Feast of the Ascension, of course, recalls the time when Jesus ascended into heaven. As the Catechism tells us: “Christ's ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again.” (665) When we read the scriptures we see that Jesus appeared for forty days after his resurrection before ascending to heaven. The fortieth day after Easter Sunday fell last Thursday so some parts of the world, like here, celebrate the Ascension on the Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter. Many nations celebrate the Ascension on the Sunday before Pentecost so that more people have the opportunity to share in this Feast.



## “QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

“We must not be surprised that the greatest graces are the most hidden ones. We must understand that we have to drop everything that is brilliant, obvious from the human point of view, and enter into that region of faith where great things come to pass.”

Abbess Cécile Bruyère (1845-1909)  
Benedictine nun of Solesme, France



**CONGRATULATIONS....** to the parents, the godparents and other family members of **Emily Belle McKENNA** who was baptised here last Sunday morning. Please keep Emily and her family in your prayers, that she may come to know the joy and fullness of life as a Christian disciple.

