

The week ahead...

Saturday 23 November Vigil Mass for Christ the King	5:00pm	Mass: John Middleton and pro populo
Sunday 24 November Christ the King	NO MASS	
Monday 25 November Monday of Week 34	NO MASS	
Tuesday 26 November Tuesday of Week 34	6:30pm	Mass: "Birthday memories"
Wednesday 27 November Wednesday of Week 34	9:30am	Mass: Parkinson & Kemp families
Thursday 28 November Thursday of Week 34	11:45am	Funeral Mass: John McGough
Friday 29 November Friday of Week 34	7:00am 1:00pm	Mass: Walter Staff Funeral Service: John Richardson
Saturday 30 November Vigil Mass for First Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: Sarah & Tom Tracy and pro populo



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

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Christ the King 24 November 2019

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

THIS YEAR MARKS the sixty-seventh year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, and it seems that her popularity increases year by year. Though I am a foreigner, Queen Elizabeth is also Queen of Australia and though the republican movement in my homeland is quite strong, the general consensus is that no move to cut ties with the monarchy will be made before the death of Queen Elizabeth. The last referendum to establish a republic in Australia took place in 1999 and the result was to maintain Australia as a constitutional monarchy. It seems that though the institution of the monarchy is quite ancient, in its modern form, scandals aside (such as we witnessed this past week), people are reasonably comfortable with it, at least while Elizabeth lives.

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, Christ the King, we would do well to challenge ourselves about our relationship with the other monarch to whom we pledge allegiance, Jesus Christ. The more formal title of this feast is The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It was instituted only in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and was moved to the final Sunday of the liturgical year as a result of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. To acknowledge Christ as the king not only of heaven and earth but of the universe, prompts us to understand more fully Christ's absolute sovereignty over all creation, not just that small part we encounter each day.

But what does it mean to acknowledge Christ as our king? What does it mean in terms of the way we live each day? We must be careful that our attitude to the influence of Christ in our lives doesn't mirror that of the current royal family who function largely (though not exclusively) as figureheads. We shouldn't understand Christ to be merely someone who inspires us via his teachings, his miracles and his general manner of living and relating to people. Important as those aspects of Christ are, he is more than a model. If that were so, Christ would be on the same level as any other inspirational figure such as a sporting celebrity or another famous personality.

No, we are called to something greater than merely seeking to imitate Christ: we are called to let Christ live in us and we in him. Such intimacy is extraordinary and difficult for us to comprehend, yet it is essential if we are to live the Christian life as genuinely and transparently as possible. I have always loved the image of Christ as the vine as we as the branches (John 15:5), feeding from the life-giving essence of Christ via our attachment to him. Jesus says in the same verse that we will bear much fruit if we live in him and he in us. Other verses in this same chapter reinforce the message of the importance of this intimate union.

But Christ the King is no despot. A despotic king would brook no dissent and the consequences would be dire, possibly fatal. We are free to reject the intimacy offered to us by Christ, the Universal King, but should we do so, we would never know the fullness of life that Christ desires for us.

And, for the Christian, that would be a type of living death.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 23 November

Eucharistic Ministers
Helen Musham, Jane Smith
Harry Curran

Readers
Angela Harmston
Greg Mearman

Children's Liturgy
No children's liturgy this week

Welcomers
Halina Holman
Donna Watts

Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 30 November

Eucharistic Ministers
Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
Harry Curran

Readers
Ann Canavan
Claire Lavery

Children's Liturgy
Carol Bainbridge
Helen Riddles

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

Music
Greg Mearman & Choir

Solemnity of Christ the King

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....

John MIDDLETON
John McGOUGH (Rec. Dec.)
John RICHARDSON (Rec. Dec.)
Mary PATTERSON
Christine KENNICK
Constance JONES
John BELL
James BOAL

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

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



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION
Gift Aid: £212 Loose Plate: £189
TOTAL: £401
Mass Attendance: 121
 DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

What's going on...?

John McGough RIP: The Requiem Mass for John McGough will take place here at St Patrick's on **Thursday 28 November** at **11:45am** followed by a 1:00pm committal at Durham Crematorium. We continue to uphold the family in prayer. Please note that the usual 9:30am Mass is **cancelled** for that day.

John Richardson RIP: News through this week of the death of John Richardson of Brandon. The Funeral Service for John Richardson will take place here at St Patrick's on **Friday 29 November** at **1:00pm** followed by a 2:00pm committal at Durham Crematorium. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Youth Collection: This weekend we will have a retiring collection for Catholic Youth. These funds go to support the great work done by the Youth Ministry Teams based at Consett. Gift aid envelopes are still available at the rear of the church.

Christmas Flower Donations: We all love to see the church decorated beautifully with flowers at special times of the year such as Christmas. There is a box for donations near Our Lady's statue in the narthex for the next couple of weeks for donations. Thank you for your generosity!

Confirmations: One of our parishioners, Rowan Payne, will receive the sacrament of Confirmation this weekend at St Joseph's, Gilesgate along with some other young candidates. Please keep Rowan in your prayers. Congratulations, Rowan!

Partnership Reconciliation Service: This year's Advent Partnership Reconciliation Service will be **here** at St Patrick's at **7:00pm on Tuesday 10 December**. More details next week.

Parish Pastoral Council: The minutes of the latest meeting are on the noticeboard for those who wish to read them. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 04 December** at **7:00pm**. Sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Partnership Development Group Minutes: The minutes of the latest meeting are on the noticeboard for those who wish to read them.

Evening Prayer (Solemn Vespers): To mark the First Sunday of Advent, Solemn Vespers will be celebrated at 4:30pm on Sunday 01 December in St. Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw College. The Finchale Partnership will be co-ordinating the celebration of this service, which also marks the launch of 'The God Who Speaks', a Year of the Word, proclaimed by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Vespers will be celebrated simultaneously at four other locations across the diocese. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available afterwards and everyone is welcome.

Advent Course: For four weeks on Fridays (22, 29 November, 06, 13 December) 2:00pm - 3:00pm. Meetings will be in St. John's Church, Meadowfield. Booklets to enable you to follow the course will be available at the first meeting for a small charge. All welcome!

Church Cleaning: Thank you to those who gave of their time to clean the church earlier today. We will have another clean on **Saturday, 21 December** in preparation for Christmas.

Assistance needed: We are in need of someone to spend a few minutes each week organising the Mass intentions. This is a very simple job - all that is needed is a pen! See Fr Robert please.

My Favourite Hymn: It's back! Your chance to nominate hymns for our choir. Forms are at the back of the church.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party: Taking place on **Saturday 07 December** at the **British Legion**, commencing at 12:00 noon. This is an attendance sheet at the back of church. Raffle tickets on sale this weekend and next weekend.

Concert: The Crook & Weardale Choral Singers will be performing a Christmas concert at **St John's, Meadowfield** on **Tuesday 03 December** from **7:00pm**. All welcome!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Catherine of Alexandria - 25 November

Legends coming from a number of sources say that St Catherine was very outspoken at the time of the persecutions of Christians. She even protested openly to the emperor Maxentius who had her arrested, tortured on the wheel and decapitated in 305. St Catherine's courage is a great challenge to all African Christians in their struggle for justice and peace. The witness of her life and her readiness to die for the faith encourages us to be brave witnesses to the Lord and to speak out on behalf of all those who suffer.



(Text taken from *Universalis*)

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for November

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

"If we are prepared to listen, we become truly open to accepting a call that can shatter our security, but lead us to a better life."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~ Prayer Group & Bible Study

The next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held here at **St Patrick's** on **Tuesday 17 December**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments from 9:15am.

The next **Bible Study Group** will meet on **Monday 09 December** at **St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon** from **3:30pm - 4:45pm**.

All are welcome at these events and all events organised by Churches Together!



SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live by

This week's Statement to Live by was, 'I think before I make choices that affect my health'. We shared the gospel story, in Matthew, in which Jesus tells us the importance of loving other people as much as we love ourselves. We reflected on the need to care for all of God's children, including ourselves, and reflected, particularly, on the importance of mental health and happiness.

Celebrations

Thank you to all those who joined us for the liturgies held in our school chapel, this week. Your presence is greatly appreciated.

Youth Friday

On Friday, we celebrated Youth Friday, the Friday before the Feast of Christ the King. Youth Friday was celebrated in schools across the diocese, with the theme being, 'You were born to be significant'. We also gave thanks for the work of those in our Youth Village, in Allensford, where our children visit to take part in the annual Primary Festival.

Masses and Liturgies

Pupils will take part in the following celebrations in the week ahead. All are welcome!

Liturgy in the chapel - Years 3 & 4 on Wednesday 27 November @ 3:00pm
Mass in the church - Reception and Years 1 & 2 on Thursday 28 November @ 9:30am



The Kids' Bulletin



Christ the King Word-Find

J E C H U R C H S P
U T H R O N E S H E
W O R L D L O V E A
Y F I J U D G E A C
J E S U S O O U V E
A A T S R M E K E C
M R Y T K I I I N R
B E G I N N I N G E
H A P C L I R G O A
I R O E O O U D D T
G T O N R N L O G O
H H R E D E E M E R

See if you can find all the words from the list at the bottom. Then put the leftover letters in the spaces to find a little prayer you can say any time.



BEGINNING	HEAVEN	LOVE
CHRIST	HIGH	PEACE
CHURCH	JESUS	POOR
CREATOR	JUDGE	REDEEMER
DOMINION	JUSTICE	RULE
EARTH	KINGDOM	THRONE
FEAR	LORD	WORLD
GOD		

Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44



"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob..."

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"There is something important that we need to understand about the kingdom of God: just as righteousness has no partnership with lawlessness, just as light has nothing in common with darkness and Christ has no agreement with Belial, so the kingdom of God and a kingdom of sin cannot co-exist."

Origen of Alexandria (c.184 - c.253)
Theologian and Church Father
On Prayer



PLEASE PRAY FOR....the following intentions during Ordinary Time in autumn as requested by Bishop Robert: **Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.**

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....

