

What's going on...?

Sunday of the Word of God: This weekend we celebrate the first "Sunday of the Word of God". Pope Francis has declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time be devoted to 'the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God'. It is very timely that this first celebration of it falls in our national 'Year of the Word: the God Who Speaks'. We will be blessing Bibles this weekend as a means of marking this inaugural Sunday of the Word of God, so please have yours to hand!

Change to Mass Schedule: Please note that I will be away from the parish for the week ahead, from **Monday 27 January** through to **Friday 31 January**. This means that there will be no weekday Masses. A Communion Service will be celebrated on **Wednesday 29 January** at 9:30am. The Vigil Mass will be unaffected. Thank you for your understanding.

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

White Flower Appeal: Thank you for your contributions last weekend to the White Flower Appeal. A total of **£193.40** was raised which has been sent off to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting: The next meeting of the PPC is scheduled for **Wednesday 05 February**, commencing at 7:00pm. The minutes of the December meeting are on the noticeboard. If you wish to come to the February meeting, please place your name on the sheet on the clipboard at the rear of the church.

Churches Together in DH7: The Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in DH7 will take place in St Joseph's Catholic Club, Ushaw Moor, this **Tuesday 28 January**, 6:30pm for 7:00pm.

Free To A Good Home: You might remember that we had two small palm trees decorating the manger scene throughout the Christmas season. These have been placed near the side altars but this is only a temporary measure until we can find a home for them. If you would like to take one (no returns!), please see Fr Robert.

Face to Face: an invitation from The Association of Religious: At The Mercy Hub, St Mary's Cathedral (entrance opposite the railway station), on Saturday 01 February, 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Come and share tea and a chat. Just drop in for as long or short a time as you would like. The Association of Religious are aware that there are many fewer opportunities for young adults and religious men and women to meet and get to know about each other. Among religious there can be a sense of 'invisibility.' This a chance to spend some time together. Welcome at 2:00pm. Prayer to finish at 3:40pm.

Church Photos: If you haven't looked at the parish website lately, I would encourage you to do so as there are some stunning photos that were taken a couple of months ago with a drone, both inside and outside the church building. They are on the homepage and under the "Gallery" tab.

Remembering the Sick: With regard to our responsibility to care for the sick and housebound, there is a basket on the table at the rear of the church which has a book for names of those regular parishioners who have not been able to attend Mass for some time. A card will be organised for delivery to the named person to remind them that they are not forgotten and are being remembered in prayer.

The Kids' Bulletin

Unscramble and Fill in the Blanks:

A Prophecy about Jesus...

 he people who walked in _____
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in a land of gloom
a _____ has shone.

You have brought them abundant _____
and great rejoicing
as they rejoice before you as at the _____,
as people make merry when dividing spoils.

For the _____ that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
and the rod of their taskmaster
you have _____,
as on the day at Midian.

Unscramble the words below to fill in the blanks in the prophecy from today's first reading.

OJY KOEY SNAK DRE
GLTHI EHSMSAD ASEVHRT

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Henry de Osso - 27 January

St Henry de y Osso Cervello was born on 16 October 1840 in Tarragona, Spain, the youngest of three children. In 1852 he was apprenticed to his uncle who worked in the textile trade. His growing desire to serve in ordained ministry led him to begin seminary studies in 1854 in Barcelona. Henry was ordained a priest in 1867. During his ministry he proved to be an able catechist and was particularly noted for supporting the education of women. This skill led him to found the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus for the education of women as well as two other religious societies. Henry died suddenly during his work on 27 January 1896 and was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 1993.



(Information taken from Universalis)

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for January

May all Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill, promote peace and justice in the world.

"Blessed are those who believe and who have the courage to foster encounter and communion."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~ Prayer Group & Bible Study

The next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held here at **St Patrick's** on **Tuesday 18 February**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments from 9:15am.

The next **Bible Study Group** will meet on **Monday 10 February** 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 know we are happiest when we are united'. We developed further our reflections from last week, on living together as a community. We talked about the specific ways we can be united, at home, at school and in our parish. We said that praying together, helping each other in our work and spending time together are important things to do.

Year of the Word - 'The God Who Speaks'

One way our school has decided to respond to the call from The Bishops of England and Wales to make this year a 'Year of the Word' is to circulate a number of 'Bible Bags' for our families to use at home. The resources in each bag include a Lion Storyteller Bible and a notebook for recording prayers, comments and reflections.

Fr. Robert's - Last School Mass

The last Mass that our school community will celebrate with Fr Robert will take place at 1:30pm on Friday 14 February. After this special Mass, a buffet will be served in the school hall and a presentation will be made to Fr Robert. Everyone is welcome!

Celebrations

The following celebrations will take place over the next couple of weeks:

Years 1 and 2 will lead a liturgy in our school chapel on **Wednesday 29 January** @ 3:00pm

Years 3 and 4 will lead a liturgy in our school chapel on **Wednesday 05 February** @ 3:00pm

Years 5 and 6 will attend Mass in church on **Thursday 06 February** @ 9:30am
All are welcome!



Next Week's Readings

The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40



"...my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see..."

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"For holy mother church, relying on the faith of the apostolic age, accepts as sacred and canonical the books of the Old and the New Testaments, whole and entire, with all their parts, on the grounds that, written under the inspiration of the holy Spirit, they have God as their author, and have been handed on as such to the church itself".

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (n.11)

Second Vatican Council (1965)



PLEASE PRAY FOR....the following intentions during Ordinary Time (Winter), as requested by Bishop Robert: **Peace on Earth, Christian Unity, The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; the Unemployed.**

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

