

# The week ahead...

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|--|----------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 01 February</b><br>Vigil Mass for The Presentation of the Lord | <b>5:00pm</b>  | Mass: <b>Jimmy Foxcroft and pro populo</b>       |
| <b>Sunday 02 February</b><br>The Presentation of the Lord                  | <b>NO MASS</b> |  |
| <b>Monday 03 February</b><br>Monday of Week 4                              | <b>NO MASS</b> |  |
| <b>Tuesday 04 February</b><br>Tuesday of Week 4                            | <b>6:30pm</b>  | Mass: <b>Lizzabella and Margaret Jane Morris</b> |
| <b>Wednesday 05 February</b><br><i>St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr</i>           | <b>9:30am</b>  | Mass: <b>John McGough</b>                        |
| <b>Thursday 06 February</b><br><i>St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> | <b>9:30am</b>  | Mass: <b>Vera Lumsdon</b>                        |
| <b>Friday 07 February</b><br>Friday of Week 4                              | <b>7:00am</b>  | Mass: <b>Harry &amp; Teresa Coad</b>             |
| <b>Saturday 08 February</b><br>Vigil Mass for 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday       | <b>5:00pm</b>  | Mass: <b>Vera Keep and pro populo</b>            |



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*  
**Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ**  
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**Hospital Chaplain:** Fr Paul Tully **Ph:** (01388) 818 544

## The Presentation of the Lord 02 February 2020

**"...a light to enlighten the pagans..."**

THOUGH WE RETURNED to Ordinary Time two weekends ago, we have the sequence interrupted this weekend by the Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord, which each year falls on 02 February. For our Eastern Church brothers and sisters, this day, the fortieth since Christmas Day, marks the end of the Christmas season; we, as Latin Catholics, celebrated the end of Christmas three weeks ago, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

We begin our Mass this evening with the blessing of lighted candles, reminding us that Christ is our light, the One sent by the Father to shine divine light into the darkness of human sin and to show us the best, though by no means the easiest, way to live. I always like to mention this aspect of Christ when it comes to the lighting of the baptism candle from the paschal candle during the celebration of infant baptism. At this point of the ceremony, the celebrant addresses the parents and godparents with these words:

*Receive the light of Christ. Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. She is to walk always as a child of the light. May she keep the flame of faith alive in her heart. When the Lord comes, may she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.*

Essentially, these words sum up the role of the parents and godparents from this point on. As with a wedding, it is easy for the principal participants in the ceremony to focus on their role in the relatively short rite rather than what lay in the years ahead. Of course, all members of the Church have a responsibility for supporting the baptised, but the primary responsibility falls on the parents and godparents. It is up to them, as those having the closest relationship with the child, to keep the "flame of faith" burning in his or her life, to help the child have a meaningful relationship with Christ, the light of the world.

I wonder how many people who are godparents take this responsibility seriously, who understand the role as something more than an honour bestowed by the parents? This is a constant source of frustration for many priests and deacons, who are meant to ensure that the godparents are practising Catholics, yet are hamstrung by the fact that many who bring their children for baptism simply don't have a family member or friend who falls into that category. Yet, it seems wrong to deprive the child of the graces of the sacrament and thus many ministers hope that the manner in which they conduct the sacrament may help those with a responsibility to take their role seriously. To postpone the baptism, on the other hand, may mean that it never takes place at all.

We hear that Simeon was moved by the Holy Spirit to go to the Temple at the time Jesus was brought there by his parents. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to shine the light of Christ on all we meet, but especially on those families who are drawn to the Catholic faith but need the extra support only fellow members of the faith can offer.

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*  
**Fr Robert**



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 01 February**

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 Malcolm & Teresa Wass  
 Andrew Aberdeen

**Readers**  
 Angela Harmston  
 Angela Tosley

**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Michelle Dennis

**Welcomers**  
 Paul & Anne Kelly

**Music**  
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 08 February**

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 John & Irene Carey  
 Kevin Boyle

**Readers**  
 Greg Mearman  
 Claire Lavery

**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Joanne Lidster

**Welcomers**  
 Angela Harmston  
 Christine Tracey

**Music**  
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**Presentation of the Lord**

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....**

Jimmy FOXCROFT  
 Patrick BOYLE (Rec. Dec.)  
 Frances HARLAND (Rec. Dec.)  
 Elizabeth WILSHAW  
 Fr Francis REED

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

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

£ **LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION** £

Gift Aid: £209 Loose Plate: £204

**TOTAL: £413**

Mass Attendance: 145

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**First Holy Communion candidates:** Please keep our First Holy Communion candidates in your prayers. We welcome them to Mass once more this evening. Don't forget that their names and faces are on display on the noticeboard in the narthex.

**Gathering after Mass tonight:** As always on the first weekend Mass of the month, we will be gathering in the school hall after Mass this evening for fellowship over some drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome!

**Final Mass:** Some people have been asking about the date of my final weekend Mass here at St Patrick's. It will be 15 February, two weeks' time.

**Fr Ejaz Report:** You will find the latest report on the Fr Ejaz project on the noticeboard as well as some photos on display.

**Faith and Science: The Bible and the natural world:** On Tuesday 18 February, during the February Half Term, the Finchale Partnership will be hosting a 'Rock Day'. It's a great opportunity for anyone over the age of 16 who has an interest in science, debating and faith - in particular our Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils who are studying A Level RE or Science - although all are welcome. We'll be exploring ideas of faith and science, talking about geology, evolution and creation, and

the day will include a walk round the geology of the Durham riverbanks, and a debate with experts from the fields of Geology and Theology. The cost for the day is £5 to cover food and resources. For more information contact Katie on [youth.durhammartyrs@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:youth.durhammartyrs@rcdhn.org.uk) or telephone 0191 3341656.

**Position Vacant:**

Position: Part-time Assistant at Pauline Books and Media, St Mary's Cathedral

Start date: as soon as possible

Closing date for applications: **Friday 07 February 2020**

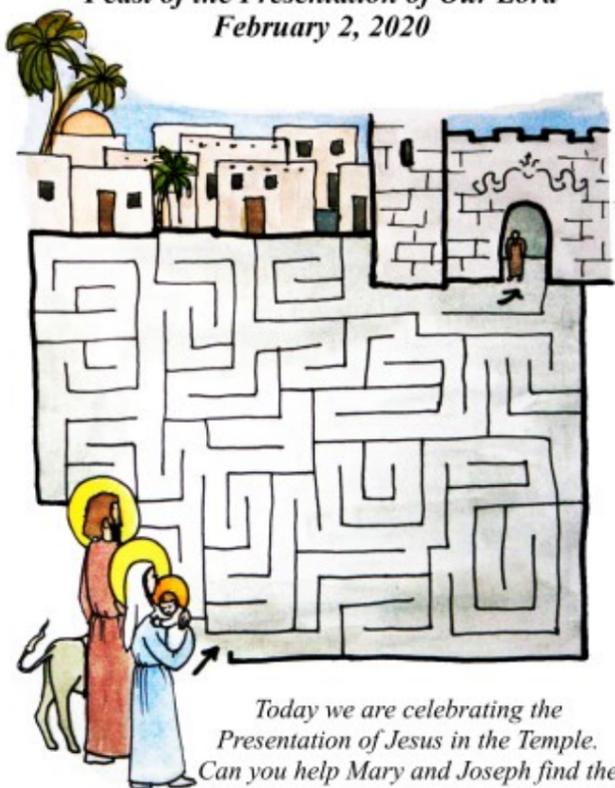
The successful candidate should have an open and friendly personality, be confident and enjoy working with the general public and within a well-established and competent team committed to the ministry of Pauline Books & Media. Competent computer skills, flexibility, initiative, good communication skills as well as the ability to relate well with people are essential qualities for this position. An involvement and interest in Christian faith and in particular the vision and ministry of the Catholic Church would make this position interesting and fulfilling. As this job is in a Christian book centre you will need to demonstrate a level of understanding of Christian faiths and their practices so that you can assist customers and promote Christian values. Please indicate in your application how you will be able to do this. A driving licence and use of a car would be necessary to allow attendance at Diocesan events.

Days and hours of working: 2 days per week: One fixed day (Tuesday - Friday 10:00am - 4:30pm). Plus one other day per week (Tuesday - Sunday) by arrangement.

For an application form and further information please send an email to: [newcastle@pauline-uk.org](mailto:newcastle@pauline-uk.org)

## The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord  
February 2, 2020



Today we are celebrating the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Can you help Mary and Joseph find the way through Jerusalem to present Baby Jesus in the Temple?

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Ansgar (or Oscar) - 03 February

Ansgar was born in Amiens, France, at the start of the ninth century and educated at the monastery of Corbie in Picardy. He went as a missionary to Denmark in 826 but had little success; but in Sweden he did better. He was elected Bishop of Hamburg (this was at that time a missionary see dedicated to evangelising the North) and appointed papal legate to Denmark and Sweden by Pope Gregory IV. He encountered huge difficulties in his work of evangelisation but he overcame them. He died in Bremen on 03 February 865.

He is known as "the apostle of the North." His diaries are an important documentary source for early Scandinavian history.

(Information taken from Universalis)



## SCHOOL NEWS

**Statement to Live By**

This week's Statement to Live By was, 'I listen to what you say. I show I am listening to you.' We shared the gospel story of the Transfiguration of Jesus, when God's voice was heard to say, 'This is my Son. Listen to him!' We know we are being listened to when people respond positively to what we say and we thought about the different ways we could respond to what Jesus taught us, to show that we have truly listened and understood.

**Fr. Robert's Final School Mass - 1:30pm on Friday 14 February**

A reminder that our school community will celebrate Fr Robert's final Mass with the school in St. Patrick's Church, 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. All are welcome!

**First Holy Communion Candidates**

Children preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time in June met again this afternoon. The theme of our session was the Liturgy of the Word. The children will take a special part in tonight's Mass, which will reflect their learning.

**University Students**

We look forward to welcoming three students from Durham University to our school. Saranya, Elly and Matthew will be helping in classrooms on a weekly basis, from next week.

**Celebrations**

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

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**

Years 5 and 6 will celebrate Mass in our school chapel on **Wednesday 12 February @ 2:45pm**

All are welcome!



### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for February

May the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters who are victims of criminal trafficking, be heard and answered.

*"Migrants are first of all human persons ... they are the symbol of all those rejected by today's globalised society."*



### ~ 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!



### Next Week's Readings

#### Fifth Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 58:7-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16



"You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world."

### "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour."

**St Sophronius** (c.560 - 638)  
Patriarch of Jerusalem



**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....

