

The week ahead...

Saturday 15 February Vigil Mass for 6 th Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Walter Staff and pro populo
Sunday 16 February 6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 17 February Monday of Week 6	9:45am	Funeral Mass: Ann Patricia Burleton
Tuesday 18 February Tuesday of Week 6	6:30pm	Mass: Betty Glancey
Wednesday 19 February Wednesday of Week 6	9:30am	Mass: Brian, Arnold & Jeffrey Allison
Thursday 20 February Thursday of Week 6	9:30am	Mass: Patrick Boyle
Friday 21 February Friday of Week 6	12:00noon	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 22 February Vigil Mass for 7 th Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Jack & Sheila Wilkinson and pro populo



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

Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ

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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 16 February 2020

“But I say this to you...”

EVERY SO OFTEN, people approach their local parish to enquire about becoming a Catholic. Everyone who does so has their own motivation: it may be that their spouse and children are Catholics, they may have experienced some sort of epiphany to bring them to this point, it may be something they have seen in the media, or it may be that they have been harbouring these feelings for many years but only now feel motivated to begin seriously investigating the faith.

In preparing an adult for baptism, or reception into the Church, more must happen than providing a programme for the enquirer. It is tempting to take the person through a catechetical program and then baptise them when they have “completed the course”. Entry into the Church is more importantly about prayer, openness to the Holy Spirit and building relationships within the parish community. It is a process, not a program. The “knowledge” side is important, however, including that of the scriptures. Whilst there is a lot of scripture that a prospective candidate will enjoy hearing and embrace enthusiastically, there is a great deal that is challenging, none less so than that we hear this weekend and next weekend.

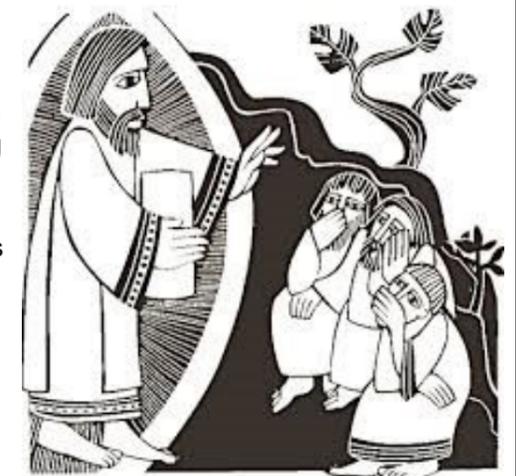
Jesus states he came not to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matthew 5:17). In the short version of the gospel this weekend, we hear Jesus focus on three aspects of the law – we will hear another two next weekend – and his call for a deeper, more radical living of those areas of life. The Pharisees and scribes were devoted to living out the law meticulously, and this is why Jesus makes the point that “if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.” The law is important, Jesus is saying, but should not be understood purely as a list of limits that cannot be overstepped. This is often how many of us understand sin: we want to know “how far we can go” before our action takes us over the threshold which will move it from the category of acceptable to sinful.

Jesus didn't understand things this way. In quoting the law he then uses his divine authority to deepen what is asked of us (“But I say this to you...”). Jesus's demanding standards are not a ploy to make it impossible to live a life of faith and frustrate us, but a call to a change of heart. If we allow our hearts to be truly converted, we won't need to focus on the details of laws and regulations; all our actions will be based on love and thus it will be impossible to break any law of God.

For those who are enquiring about entering the Church, these words of Jesus are challenging and need to be pondered before embracing the Christian lifestyle. For those of us who are members of the Church, it is equally important that we reflect on these words regularly and ask ourselves if we are truly making the effort to live as deeply as Jesus calls us to.

After all, the question will ultimately be asked of us by the very one who commands us to live in this manner.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 15 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Helen Musham, Jane Smith
Wilf Lavery

Readers
Pat Middleton
Angela Tosley

Children's Liturgy
Carol Bainbridge
Helen Riddles

Welcomers
Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 22 February

Eucharistic Ministers
Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
Harry Curran

Readers
Stella Foody
Marie Paily

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Joanne Lidster

Welcomers
Halina Holman
Donna Watts

Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

The Sixth Sunday

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....

Walter STAFF
Ann Patricia BURLETON (Rec. Dec.)
Patrick BOYLE (Rec. Dec.)
Frances HARLAND (Rec. Dec.)
Agnes CAIRNS
Jenny SPENCE

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

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

£ **LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION** £

Gift Aid: £227 Loose Plate: £169

TOTAL: £396

Mass Attendance: 116

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

RIP Ann Patricia BURLETON: The Requiem Mass for Ann Patricia ("Paddy") BURLETON will be celebrated here at St Patrick's on **Monday, 17 February at 9:45am**. Please pray for the repose of Ann's soul and for her family at this difficult time.

Fr Paul Hopper CSSp: For the information of those not yet aware, I can announce that Bishop Robert has appointed Fr Paul Hopper CSSp (Holy Ghost Fathers) as Priest in Charge of St Patrick's following my departure. I know that you will make him very welcome when he arrives later this week, especially as there will continue to be a priest in residence in the presbytery.

Bulletin & Admin Assistance: Fr Paul would like some assistance in producing the bulletin each week as well as some general assistance with typing etc from time to time. We already have a little team of three to help produce the bulletin. If you would like to join this group, please see Fr Robert.

Church Cleaning: Thank you to those who generously gave of their time to assist with the cleaning of the church this weekend.

Change of Mass time on Friday: Please note that as of this Friday the Mass time is changed to 12:00noon.

World Day of Prayer - Friday 06 March: All are welcome to this annual worldwide event, which is open to both women and men. It is taking place this year at **St Brandon's in Brancepeth**. The service starts at 10:30am, with refreshments from 10:00am. The theme this year is "Praying with Zimbabwe". See the noticeboard for more details.

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

Food Bank: St Patrick's parishioners donated 455kg of food in 2019. This is enough to feed approximately forty people. Many thanks to those who contributed and those who continue to do so. Any food that is non-perishable can be left at the back of the church adjacent to the table where Mary's statue stands.

Churches Together in DH7 – Lenten Course: The Lenten Course will take place here in St. Patrick's Presbytery on five Fridays – 06, 13, 20 and 27 March and 03 April, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm. There will be refreshments beforehand at 2:15pm. All are welcome. Booklets will be available to prepare and to follow the course.

Mass on the Feast of World Day of Prayer for the Sick: You are invited to join the Hospitalite of Hexham and Newcastle for the Celebration of Mass on the Feast of World Day of Prayer for the Sick. **Tuesday 11 February at 7:00pm** at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Refreshments available after Mass.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Vacancies: Head of Communications

The Diocese is looking for an experienced and enthusiastic individual to take responsibility for shaping and delivering its Communication Strategy. The appointed person will lead on Diocesan communications activity and be passionate about the positive impact the Church can make. Full-time. 12 month contract with the potential for the role to become permanent.

Finance Assistant – St Joseph's, Sunderland (based at St Anne's, Sunderland)

3 hours per week. Closing date: **21 February 2020**
For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Finchale Partnership Property & Community Review: In October 2019, we started a Property & Community Review, part of a Diocesan programme. Many people volunteered their time, efforts and ideas to carry out the Property Audit, a Community Audit and a 10-year financial forecast. The Diocese has now decided to pause the review and we are not preparing a report for the Diocese. However, the Partnership Development Group agreed that we don't want to lose the excellent work done so far, particularly on the Community Audit. It's not too late to contribute ideas about the needs of the community and how we may be able to help. Parish Pastoral Councils will discuss the work done so far and the Partnership will consider anything we can work together on. Thank you to all those who volunteered - your work is very much appreciated.

Lent 2020: Collections for Prisoners being released from Durham and Low Newton Prisons: Nepacs is a north east charity which has been supporting people affected by imprisonment for over 135 years. Once again, we would like to collect items for Nepacs to make up Toiletry and Homeless Packs for prisoners being released who are in particular need. Our previous collections have been greatly appreciated. Useful items to contribute to the Toiletry Packs are toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shower gel, soap, deodorant (roll-on or spray), flannels, combs and wet wipes. Packs for anyone who is homeless on their release also include socks, plasters, waterbottle/flask, bacterial gel, and a dry food pack (coffee, tea bags, hot chocolate powder, cup-a-soup, cereal bars, sugar, stirrer, Mars Bars). In addition, the packs for HMP Low Newton need lip balm and Sanitary Pack (STs, tampons, panty liners), and those for HMP Durham need disposable razors and shaving foam. A box will be placed at the rear of the church shortly.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL...

As this weekend will be my final Mass as Priest-in-Charge at St Patrick's, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the manner in which you welcomed me here a little over four years ago and have continued to support me over that time. When I came to Durham, I could never have known that the opportunity to run a parish would be presented to me, let alone one such as St Patrick's, a parish that I have grown to love and will remember fondly into the future, whatever that holds for me. One of the quirks of our Catholic system is that parishioners have no say in the appointment of clergy to their parish and so I am grateful for the welcome that you have all extended to me, especially as a son of the Antipodes, and with a funny accent to match! A parish is nothing without its parishioners, and I am grateful for the friendships I have established over my time here and can assure you of my thoughts and prayers well into the future. Of course, when I do ultimately return to Australia I intend spending my annual leave from time to time in this historic and beautiful part of the world, a beauty that is not merely scenic but which is embedded deep into each of you by our loving Creator, evidence of which has been clear to me since my arrival. Thank you, God bless you all, and farewell....

THANK YOU!

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 09 March** 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 try to use words that make the world a better place.' We shared the story of the ten lepers being cleansed by Jesus, but only one returning to thank him. We reflected on how we are often very keen to say 'please', when we want or need something, but must remember to say 'thank you', too. We thought about being grateful for the things that we are given, without even asking. These are the things that are precious, but often taken for granted.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate Mass in the chapel on Wednesday, with Class 1. It was really lovely to see so many people there.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 11 February

The whole school took part in an assembly and a range of follow-up activities, to mark Safer Internet Day. The children learnt about the importance of respecting others at all times, including, and perhaps especially, when online.

Thanksgiving Mass - Father Robert

As Father Robert prepares to leave his post as Priest-in-Charge of St Patrick's, a School Mass was celebrated on Friday afternoon. The whole school gathered and were joined by parishioners and families, to give thanks for the time that Father Robert has been with us and for everything he has done for our school, parish and families.



Half-Term Break

School closed for the half-term break on Friday and re-opens on Monday 24 February.

**PEACE
BE TO YOU**

Next Week's Readings

Seventh Sunday of the Year

Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48



"But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Duc in altum (Put out into the deep)! These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence."

Pope St John Paul II (1920-2005)
Novo Millennio Inuente, 1



CONGRATULATIONS.... to the parents, the godparents and other family members of **Rupert William SCOTT** who was baptised here last Saturday afternoon. Please keep Rupert and his family in your prayers, that he may come to know the joy of life as a Christian disciple.

