The week ahead...

Saturday 22rd February Vigil Mass for The 7th Sunday in Ordi-	5:00pm	Mass: Jack and Shelia Wilkinson and pro populo
Sunday 23rd February 7th Sunday in Ordinary time	NO MASS	
Monday 24th February Monday of Week 7	NO MASS	
Tuesday 25th February Tuesday of Week 7 (Shrove Tuesday)	6:30pm	Mass: Francis Harland
Wednesday 26th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass: Patrick Boyle
Thursday 27th February Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9:30am	Mass: Francis Harland
Friday 28th February Friday after Ash Wednesday	12 noon	Mass: Private intention
Saturday 29th February Vigil Mass for 1st Sunday in Lent	5:00pm	Mass: John Kennedy and pro populo

Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES

Saturday 29thFebruary

Eucharistic Ministers

Gordon and Angela Tosley

Wilf Lavery

Readers

Nargaret Purdom

Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths

Helen Riddles

Welcomers

Pat Middleton

Mary kitching

Music

Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES Saturday 22nd February

Eucharistic Ministers

Ambrose and Pauline Burnside Harry Curran

Readers

Stella Foody Marie Paily

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths Joanne Lidster

Welcomers

Angela Harmiston **Christine Tracey**

Music Bill Wilkinson & Choir

The Seventh

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. Please contact Doreen Jackson on: djay5966@gmail.com . Items for publication need to be submitted by 12:00noon on Thursday.

· We pray for our beloved deceased, including....

Jack and Shelia Wilkinson Ann Patricia BURLETON(Rec. Dec.)

Frances HARLAND (Rec. Dec.)



Norah Pinkney

Terence Mordue

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £200 Loose Plate: £187

TOTAL: £387

Mass Attendance: 116

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE **CHARITY NUMBER 1143450**



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, David Middleton and Frank Moran.





St Patrick's R.C. Church

A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

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

Email: langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk **Web:** www.stpatricksrcchurch.co.uk

St Patrick's R.C. Primary School: **Ph**: (0191) 378 0552 Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully **Ph:** (01388) 818 544

Priest in Charge: Fr Paul Hopper CSSp Ph: (0191) 378 4486

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd February 2020

"Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not?"

A MODERN HYMN, composed by Peter Scholtes, titled "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" is sung from time to time in various Christian liturgical settings. Regardless of one's opinion of the hymn, the sentiment it expresses is profound. It highlights the fact that Christians are distinct from other people, and the mark of this distinction is the nature of our love. As we continue to hear from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount this weekend, our final weekend before the beginning of Lent. Jesus once again challenges us to love in a radical manner; the only manner, in fact, which can change the world for the better, to give it some semblance of the kingdom of God.

Last weekend we heard Jesus call for a deeper living of the law, inviting us to a conversion of the heart which will mean that our lives are directed towards serving others in love. Living in this manner. we will not feel a need to make reference to laws or regulations, wondering 'how far we can go' before we step over the threshold from venial to mortal sin. Nor will we be unduly focused on avoiding sin. We will simply enjoy serving others as Jesus did, and so experience the fullness of life for which Jesus said he came into the world. (John 10:10)

The two adjustments of the Law we hear from Jesus this weekend are more demanding for most of us than those of last weekend, principally because they call on us to refrain from exacting vengeance on those who have hurt us. Our natural instinct, or at least our most immediate thought, when another harms us in some way, is to strike back, at least in equal measure to what has been dealt to us. Jesus references this when speaking of the "eye for an eye" precept under the Law, a sensible way of ensuring limits were placed on revenge in ancient times. A more profound and loving response is asked of us by Jesus once again: to seek no vengeance at all but rather the conversion of the other by refraining from retaliation and showing love, just as God loves us who have done nothing to deserve it. This is the meaning of the final sentence of this weekend's gospel: "You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Loving only those who we feel "deserve" our love and rejecting others is the antithesis of Christian discipleship; indeed, it is the antithesis of love itself. We don't work to earn another's love, but Jesus does ask us to work to love others. Showing love in response to those who have hurt us, or to whom we simply are not attracted, requires strength beyond what we possess as human beings: it requires divine assistance, something we receive principally through the Eucharist and prayer. If we are not striving to be distinct in the way we love, we have nothing substantial to differentiate ourselves from others, except the label "Christian".

At the final judgement, we won't each be asked if we called ourselves a Christian but rather, "Did you live as a Christian?" Let us hope we can answer with a resounding yes, evidenced by our manner of loving.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead. Fr Robert

What's going on...?

Lent: Lent is almost upon us, with Ash Wednesday falling this week on 26th February. Please note that, as usual, there will be two masses. at 9:30 am and 7:00pm.

Stations of the Cross: Over the past few years we have celebrated the Stations of the Cross throughout Lent, with various parishioners leading them each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. We will do the same this year, beginning on Wednesday 4th March

Churches Together in DH7

The Lenten Course will begin March 6th at St Patrick's Church House from 2:00 - 3:00pm. Refreshments are available from 1:15—2:00pm

Red Boxes will be collected during March.

Family Fast Day will be Friday March 6th. Tricia Whitfield will be reading a letter at the end of mass on the 29th February and the envelopes will be given out as you leave mass.

the noticeboard as well as some photos on display.

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. 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.

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. Fr Ejaz Report: You will find the latest report on the Fr Ejaz project on Thank you to all those who volunteered - your work is very much

> Memory Café: The parish of Durham Martyrs hold a café on ciated the second Tuesday of every month, from 1:00pm -3:00pm, for those affected by dementia and their carers. They meet at St Joseph's Church in Gilesgate. For more information contact the parish secretary on (091) 384 3810. See the noticeboard for more details.

True or False: What did Jesus say?

How does Jesus tell us we should act toward others? Which of these are true and which are false?

1. When someone hits you on one cheek, you should hit them back. True or False?

2. If someone tries to take your coat, you should give them your True or False? tunic as well.

3. If someone makes you walk a mile with them, you should walk two miles.





If someone asks for something, you shouldn't lend it to them, since they might not give it back. True or False?

5. You should love your friends and hate your enemies. True or False?

6. You should love your enemies and do good to the people who hate you. True or False?

> You should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. True or False?

The Kids' Bulletin

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 23rd, 2020



ABCEFHILNOPRSTUVY Hepodapodapod

What did Jesus tell the people in today's Gospel reading? Use the code to find out!

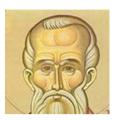
SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Polycarp (69 –155) Feast Day 23rd February

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church.

At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 155.



(Information taken from Universalis)

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 10th March, 9:30am -10:15am. Refreshments from 9:15am.

The next Bible Study Group will meet on Monday 9th March at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon from 3:30pm - 4:45pm. Refreshments from 3:15.

All are welcome at these events and all events organised by



Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Lent

Genisis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

"OUOTE OF THE WEEK"

When night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with Him. Then you will be able to rest in Him – really rest – and start the next day as a new life.

Edith Stein, also known as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



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

