

REVISED DIOCESAN ACADEMY POLICY . . . The Diocesan Academy Policy has been revised with the aim that our diocesan schools will become academies within one of four Diocesan education trusts by July 2022. Underpinning the Diocesan Academy Policy is the desire and need to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle so that it is fit for the mission of the Church. There are 156 schools in our diocese educating 53,600 children, 45 of our schools are currently academies. The implementation of this policy will happen in two stages:

Stage 1: consolidation of existing academies and trusts into one base trust

Stage 2: conversion of voluntary aided schools to academy status within their regional trust

Whenever voluntary aided schools convert to academy status, they will join their single regional trust as equal partners with all schools within the trust. All schools in the region will be included in the process from the outset. In establishing these trust structures and having a single system in our Diocese, we aim to ensure that the children and young people in our schools will continue to receive the very best educational opportunities and life fulfilling experiences, within communities which have the teachings of Christ and his Church at the very centre. A Catholic trust model where every school has its place will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in a rapidly changing environment. It will ensure that the uniqueness of each individual school is celebrated and the unique contribution of each is recognised and appreciated. In order for this policy to be fulfilled, the Bishop expects all schools to continue to work together as a Diocesan family for the good of Catholic education in our Diocese. Through the trust structures the aim is to facilitate greater sharing, adding strength and capacity to our system and ensuring that all schools are supported and included. In this way we will better fulfil the mission of Catholic education within the Church. (Bishop's House)

Eucharistic Ministers 29th December

Chris Edwards, Louise Pope
Val Railton, Anne Brumpton

Ministers of the Word 29th December

Maurice Ward, Gwen Gallagher

Home Communion 28th / 29th Dec.

Anne Brumpton, John Bowron
Mike Toole, Gwen Gallagher

Church Cleaning ~ Week Beg.
23rd December - Volunteers please

Bidding Prayer Rota ~ December
Terry & Patricia Egerton

**SPUC CLUB DRAW RESULT
15th DECEMBER 2019**

£1000	5	Sarah Callaghan
£250	56	Billy Barker
£100	1	Dave Callaghan

Many thanks to all who support the Club Draw, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



22nd Dec. 2019

St. Patrick's R.C. Church
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This Sunday we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown. Joseph did what God asked him, he allowed his life to be influenced and directed by God's will. Therefore, without complaining, Joseph decided to prepare for the birth of Jesus by caring for Mary, preparing for the birth of Jesus with gentleness and faithfulness. He cherished and supported Mary and, together, they brought Christ into the world. Mary and Joseph teach us that the true gift of Christmas is Jesus. The best gifts we can give to others at Christmas are not expensive presents but love, joy, and peace of the Lord. We do so by our prayers for others, kind words and gestures, forgiveness, a welcoming home and joyful witness.



Gracious God, who chose Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us with your grace, that like Mary we might rejoice in your salvation; send us out to finish our Advent journey filled with love and joy and peace ready to receive that promise afresh into our lives.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December . . May every country take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Gwen Gallagher is collecting used Postage Stamps for Assistance Dogs u.k., an organisation that trains dogs to help disabled people in their own homes. She would be grateful if parishioners would leave their used postage stamps in the porch. Many thanks.



St. Patrick's S.V.P will be donating all collections between now and year end to the Crisis Appeal for babies in the Sudan. Thank you for your generosity.

