

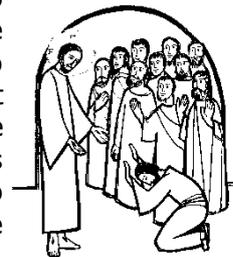


St. Patrick's R.C. Church
Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Fr. John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 19th April 2020

Doubt is a natural emotion, one that God knows we will all go through from time to time, but when we sit quietly with the Lord, wholeheartedly asking our tough questions and allowing Him to answer, our faith can and will blossom into a beautiful relationship of trust and deeper understanding of God's love for us. Jesus is always entering the locked places of our lives, He comes to us and steps into our lives, hearts and minds. Standing among us He offers peace and breathes new life into us. He doesn't open the door for us but he gives us all we need so that we might open our doors to a new life, a new creation, a new way of being.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY . . . Each year since 2000, the Church has marked the Second Sunday of Easter as "Divine Mercy Sunday." Blessed John Paul II designated that day as the Feast of Divine Mercy when he canonized Maria Faustina Kowalska (1908-38) in 2000, the first saint canonized in the third millennium.

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us, all of us. He wants us to recognise that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

God of Infinite Mercy, you chose your humble servant St. Faustina to be the Apostle of Divine Mercy in our time. Through her intercession may we come to trust in you and your unfathomable mercy more fully. We place before You today our needs, the needs of our families, our parish, and of the whole world, and we ask you to look kindly upon them. Help us grow ever stronger in our faith that we might put into practice works of mercy in our daily lives. Amen.

This Sunday there would have been a second collection for sick and retired priests. Priests dedicate their lives to serving God by caring for people in their parishes. When they retire they may require special care and support.

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for sick priests, may they find consolation in your healing presence. We also pray for the retired priests of our Diocese, that they may experience peace and joy in their retirement. Amen.

Masses with no Congregation			
2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)			
19	Sunday		People of our Parish
20	Monday		Mary Douglas
21	Tuesday		
22	Wednesday		
23	Thursday St. George – Patron of England		
24	Friday		
25	Saturday St. Mark		Thanksgiving
3rd Sunday of Easter			
26	Sunday		People of our Parish
Recently Deceased:		Monica Cole ~ May she rest in peace. Amen	
Anniversaries:			
		Riska Okninski, Monica McShane, Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Veronica Connors, Betty Griffiths, Sadie Todd, Audrey Bentley	



Gift of Art from St. Patrick's School

Thank you to the children and staff for the beautiful banner which they prepared as a gift for parishioners. It is attracting lots of attention from passers-by.

Lord protect and watch over the staff and children at this time. Amen.

Heavenly Father, grant that our priests be strengthened and healed by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate. May the Word they proclaim give them courage and wisdom. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading** ~ Acts 2: 42-47
- **Responsorial Psalm** ~ Psalm 117: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24
- **Second Reading** ~ 1 Peter 1: 3-9



Live-Streaming from the National Shrine of Our Lady . . . In addition to the regular programme there will be the following: **AN EIGHT DAY RETREAT** – Monsignor John Armitage will lead this retreat. **It will start after Compline at 8pm on Sunday 19th April and finish on Sunday 26th April.** Details of the retreat programme are given on the Shrine website: www.walsingham.org.uk.

Alone Together . . . If you are finding it difficult living in isolation you might find the advice of Fr Christopher Jamison helpful. He is president of the English Benedictine Congregation and author of *Finding Happiness: Monastic Steps for a Fulfilling Life*. Drawing on almost 50 years' experience as a monk, he has helped set up a website www.alonetogether.org.uk which addresses loneliness and self-sufficiency raised by the current crisis. For him, positivity is the key. "Do not begin the day by rehearsing your grievances. Begin by remembering you're alive and there are good things still. You may have to do tough things later, but take it one step at a time. Begin with gratitude; then ask for the grace to face the day and its difficulties.



ST. GEORGE'S DAY . . . St. George was born in Palestine of a Palestinian mother and a Greek father, and brought up a Christian. He was a soldier in the Roman Army, loved and admired by the Emperor Diocletian. In 303 A.D. Diocletian ordered that every Christian in the army should be arrested, George objected. The emperor was upset because he liked George, but George went ahead, publicly declared himself a Christian and renounced the Emperor's decision. Diocletian tried again to persuade George, but he stood firm. So the Emperor had to have him tortured and put to death. He was beheaded on 23rd April 303. He was quickly honoured by the Christian community as a martyr.

With courage, you stood up to those in power, to tell them that what they were doing was wrong. Pray that we, too, may have courage to stand up for what is right, with God's help. You were not ashamed of your faith. Pray that we, too, may be proud of our faith, and may cheerfully show the love of Jesus in all that we do. St George, pray for us. Amen.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for April . . . We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



Prayer for those affected by the Coronavirus . . . Lord Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus, may they regain their health and strength. Lord, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. May those who have died from the virus rest in peace and rise in glory. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died as they worry and grieve. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Stay with us, Lord, and grant us your peace. Amen.

Northern Cross . . . The SVP usually distributes the Northern Cross around Stockton parishes. They have received a phone call from the editor. The April issue is free, complimentary on-line. If you would like further issues, you can subscribe on-line WWW.northerncross.org.uk

Please could you pass this newsletter round the parish by forwarding to your parish contacts. If you received this email forwarded to you and would like to receive future newsletters please email St Patrick's Church requesting to be added to mailing list. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters. please email stockton.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk or stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com to be removed from the mailing list.

If you would like to have any prayers, news, anniversaries or any other item included on the newsletter please e-mail stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com or olwlynlyons@hotmail.com. Thank you.