



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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Sunday 24th May 2020

In today's gospel, Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the one who pre-existed with the Father and as the one sent by the Father to do his work on earth. In today's reading, we hear Jesus ask that the unity he experiences with the Father be extended to all who believe in him. He prays that we be one with each other, with him, and with the Father. We are reminded that Christ is the source of Christian unity. Through Christ, we are united with one another and with God our Father. Let us, as disciples of Christ, support Jesus' prayer for unity in the Church and that all Christians may unite in a common purpose to serve God and to do his will.



Today is the 54th World Communications Sunday. The theme of the day, decided prior to the global challenge that has gripped us, is devoted to storytelling. **"That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2) Life becomes history.** The Pope's World Communications Day message focuses on storytelling, truth and who we are in God's eyes. He looks to the Bible as "the great love story between God and humanity" with Jesus at its centre. Pope Francis stresses that every human story has an "irrepressible" dignity and that humanity "deserves stories that are worthy of it". He also encourages us to open ourselves to others as something that goes hand-in-hand with opening ourselves to God.

The Pope has prayed for, and asked us to pray for, all those working in communications during the pandemic. On 1st April he invited us to pray for "those who work in the media, who work to communicate today so that people are not isolated ... who help us to bear this time of isolation." He recognises that given a growing digital culture throughout the world, the media must become a primary platform for spreading the Gospel. He also said: "Studying new ways and means to communicate the Gospel of mercy to all people, in the heart of different cultures, through the media that the new digital cultural context makes available to our contemporaries is something that is very much in my heart."



Tell us your story, O Holy God, write it upon our hearts in the silence of prayer. Tell us again of your magnitude over the earth, of your presence in every breath, of your love in all of life. Write upon our hearts your story of the living stone that is a foundation for a place where all are welcome in your light. We hold onto your story above our own, grateful in the knowledge that you are a sheltering God. When we despair that justice and healing may never come, when we feel lost in all that is unknown, we hold onto your story. You hold all in your hand. Let your story be full of life within us and within the world, we pray. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen

This Sunday there would have been a second collection to fund the work of the Catholic Communications Network. On World Communications Day, we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. Vital to this is good communication - through our websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to forge positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people.

World Communications Prayer to Our Lady . . . *O Mary, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart. Teach us to recognise the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyse our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together. Amen.*

Masses with no Congregation			
7th SUNDAY OF EASTER			
24	Sunday		People of our Parish
25	Monday St Bede the Venerable		Sonny Lee
26	Tuesday St Philip Neri		
27	Wednesday St Augustine of Canterbury		
28	Thursday		
29	Friday		
30	Saturday		Josie Murphy
PENTECOST SUNDAY			
31	Sunday		People of our Parish
Anniversaries:		Patrick Lynch, Josephine Hiles, Angela Blowman, Joan Anderson, Ronald Leeming	
		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	



The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for May
 We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Acts 1: 12-14**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 26, 1, 4, 7-8**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Peter 4: 13-16**
- **Gospel ~ John 17: 1-11**



PENTECOST 2020 - All Together to ask the Holy Spirit on the World . . . At Pentecost 2019, Pope Francis launched the new unique service for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal: CHARIS. Today, one year later, we are in a period of unprecedented global crisis because of a virus that has confined a large part of the world's population to their homes, that has damaged the economies of many countries, that has closed churches, that has terrible consequences for the poor and the most destitute and that prevents us from meeting physically to pray together. But this virus does not prevent us from praying! On the contrary, it has prompted many prayer initiatives, including ecumenical prayers, around the world. On the occasion of Pentecost 2020:



CHARIS proposes to continue this movement of prayer to ask the Lord for this new Pentecost, this new outpouring of the Spirit on the Church and the world for which our Pope prays. For this, we propose to the Christians of the whole world to pray all together: Whatever their country, Whatever their language, Regardless of time zone. **JOIN US FOR THE PENTECOST VIGIL AT 10:00 PM (ROME TIME – UTC+1) to implore the Holy Spirit together and ask for a new Pentecost over the world.** www.charis.international

MAY CROWNING OF OUR LADY . . . It is a Catholic tradition to honour Mary, our Mother, during the month of May by placing on her statue a crown of flowers. This lovely devotional ceremony is held in many parishes and would have taken place in St. Patrick's Church with the First Communion children crowning Our Lady. The May Crowning gives the children an opportunity to especially honour the Blessed Mother of Jesus, and to give thanks to her for bringing our Saviour into the world.



O God, since you have given us Mary, the Mother of your Son, to be our mother and our queen, grant that we, who crown her image, may attain the glory of your children in the kingdom of heaven. Queen of Peace, Help us to love one another and help bring peace to our world. Amen

'LAUDATO SI' - 5 YEARS ON . . . It is five years since this stunning document from Pope Francis was published, across the world the Church is marking this anniversary. Visit the Diocesan website: www/rcdhn.org.uk to find a message from Bishop Robert, links to streamed services from within the Diocese to mark Laudato Si' Week (Saturday 16th – Sunday 24th May) and some very good links to deepen your knowledge and encourage you to play your part. There is also a link to CAFOD with a child friendly video that can be downloaded. **There will be a streamed Mass THIS SUNDAY at 11am, celebrated by Fr. Chris Hughes, and a streamed Rosary on the same day at 3pm.**

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH . . . All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.



(A prayer for our earth was published in Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.)

ROSARY MISSION . . . May is the month of Our Blessed Mother Mary, and this year the Rosary Shrine in London is pleased to co-host a Rosary Mission in collaboration with '**Rosary on the Coast**' whose Spiritual Director is Scottish Bishop John Keenan of Paisley, the National Marian Shrine of Scotland at Carfin and the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham. The prayer intentions of the Rosary Mission are as follows:

- For Faith, Sanctity of Life, and Peace to prevail in our nations
- For an end to the COVID-19 virus, the sickness it causes, and its effects that prevent us living life in abundance (cf Jn 10:10)
- For the protection of the common good, and people's economic livelihoods
- That the Holy Spirit will preserve us from disaster and war

Please pray the Rosary every day this month of May for these intentions, and we urge you to do so in a spirit of repentance and reparation, interceding for our nations. We invite you to **pray the Rosary together with us, and if you can, join us online at 8pm every night this week.** (To take part in the Mission please type in your search engine May 2020 Rosary Mission and this will lead you to the Haversock Rosary Shrine.)

This Rosary Mission will culminate in a Nationwide Rosary Rally on Sunday 31st May, Pentecost Sunday, from 9am to 9pm. You are invited to join the National Rosary Rally taking place in Dioceses. Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. People are encouraged to pray the Rosary individually, in families, as online prayer groups or parish groups, at any time within the specified hour. The Middlesbrough Diocese Rosary hour is at 7pm and you are warmly invited to take part. When the hour is over the next Dioceses take up the Rosary Relay Rally until 9pm when the day will end with a final online Rosary and Blessing from Bishop John Keenan at St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley. **The Hexham and Newcastle hour is at 4pm when it will be shared with the Diocese of Wrexham & Ordinariate OLW.** Please visit Middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk to access the timetable for the day.

'Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary pray for us.'



VICARIATE FOR FAITH & MISSION : Thy Kingdom Come . . . '*Thy Kingdom Come*' is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying '*Come Holy Spirit*', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. There are many different ways to get involved and supporting resources are available on the Diocesan website. www/rcdhn.org.uk The Diocese invite you to join them as we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care . . . In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week on a Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. **This will take place this Thursday at 7pm from Middlesbrough Cathedral by Bishop Terence Drainey.**



Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other. 2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation on ‘The Word of the Lord’ and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome’s death. **These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and ‘The God Who Speaks’.**

The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales website: www.cbcew.org.uk has resources to help us focus on the ‘God Who Speaks’. Throughout the year they have a different monthly focus to help explore the three themes: Celebrating, Living and Sharing God’s Word. Available at present are:

- **Ascension and Pentecost through Art:** Fleur Dorrell takes us on a visual journey using four paintings for individual reflection.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ROBERT BYRNE regarding opening of Churches.

As always, your health and safety and that of parishioners, staff and volunteers is my utmost priority. As we await guidance from the Catholic Bishops’ Conference and from the recently established Places of Worship Task Force, as to when and how our Churches will reopen, please be assured that the Diocese is developing plans which will enable the COVID-19 secure reopening of all of our buildings. I will consult with the Chapter of Canons and the Partnership Deans in the near future before deciding which Parish Priests to approach about the possibility of opening their Churches. Once we have established which Churches might reopen first, a very small number will be selected in which we will pilot the reopening procedures. Our learning from these “dry runs” will be incorporated into the approach we will take across the Diocese and it can then be shared more widely. After the risk assessment is complete, protocols and procedures will be developed and put in place to enable the building, whether that be the church or Parish Hall for example, to reopen safely and securely.

FEAST OF ST. BEDE (Monday 25th May) . . . St Bede was born at Wearmouth in 673, and was educated at the monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow where he was professed by St Benet Biscop and later ordained by St John of Beverley. He remained there as a monk for the rest of his life. He was the first historian of the English church and people, a master of the Scriptures and of the teaching of the Fathers. Known for his delight in learning, teaching and writing, he is venerated as the ‘light of the Church’ in the period sometimes known as the Dark Ages, and as a forerunner of the 8th and 9th century renaissance of the Western Church. Bede died at Jarrow on the 25th May 735.



Christ, our Morning Star, splendour of Light Eternal, shining with the glory of the rainbow, come and waken us from the greyness of our apathy, and renew in us your gift of hope.
(by Bede the Venerable)

ST PATRICK'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL . . . If you would like to see the school activities or find out more about what our children are doing please visit the school website and use the Facebook page. www.stpatricksfairfield.org.uk

THANK YOU to all St. Patrick's parishioners who are delivering bulletins, providing treats and for all other acts of kindness during these difficult times.

Please could you pass this newsletter round the parish by forwarding to your parish contacts. 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 know of any parishioner who would like to start receiving the bulletin please ask them to e-mail the above. This bulletin can also be accessed through the Parish Family Stockton website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk.

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.