



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 13th September 2020

Today's gospel deals with the important issue of forgiveness, as individuals, as communities and as a human family. For Jesus, there could be no limit to the number of times people forgive. Forgiveness was to be a continuous activity and one of the central characteristics of the Christian lifestyle. Jesus was uncompromising about the centrality of forgiveness because he understood human nature completely. He knew that if people would not forgive one another, and if they could not graciously accept forgiveness from other people when it was offered, then they would be unable to experience God's forgiveness. Jesus appreciated that the human spirit yearns for acceptance, sympathy, respect, companionship and a sense of belonging. None of these is possible in the absence of forgiveness. Our greatest gift from God, the ability to love, is dependent on our ability to forgive. Forgiveness brings healing.

When we celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation we are assured that our sins are forgiven and that we will have God's help to avoid sin in the future. We all need to experience forgiveness in our lives. The sacrament of reconciliation enables us to receive God's forgiveness for our sins. We become whole human beings again, capable of tremendous love and sacrifice.



Lord, we confess that we have not always followed Your word, there have been moments when we chose other options. We ask for your forgiveness and thank you that you do not treat us as our sins deserve, and that Your love and Your word permit a new start.

Lord, hear our prayer

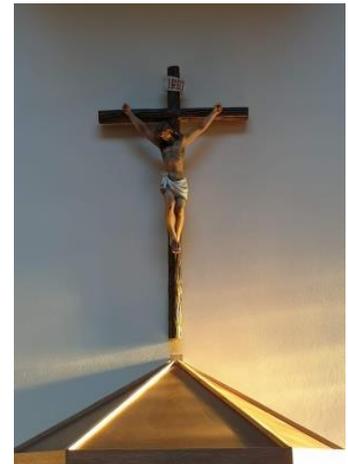
We pray for all who are sick or suffering in body, mind or spirit at this time, for those who care for them and for all who mourn the loss of loved ones. We ask you to pour your love and compassion over them, bringing them comfort and healing.

Lord, hear our prayer

For all who risk their lives for the sake of the gospel, that they may bear insult and suffering with patience, strength and hope.

Lord, hear our prayer

24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
13	Sunday		People of our Parish (Mass with no congregation)
14	Monday <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	9.15am	Frank Webb
15	Tuesday <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>		Mass at St. Cuthbert's at 9.30am
16	Wednesday <i>SS Corneliu Pp and Cyprian Bp</i>	7.00pm	Mary & Arthur McGuinness
70	Thursday		Mass at St. Cuthbert's at 9.30am
18	Friday	9.15am	Special Intention
19	Saturday	9.15am	Special Intention
25th Sunday of the Year			
20	Sunday		People of our Parish (Mass with no congregation)
Anniversaries:			
		Riska Okninski 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, Rose Marie Bruno	



May Christ be in our mind, on our lips, in our heart, in our actions and in our life. Let us not forget that to follow Christ and to live His life necessarily requires carrying His Cross and all that it entails, not with mere resignation, but with joyful acceptance and for love. Amen

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 102:1-4, 9-12**
- **Second Reading ~ Romans 14:7-9**
- **Gospel ~ Matthew 18:21-35**



PRO LIFE HOLY HOUR . . . The next Holy Hour will take place on **Wednesday, 23rd September, from 6.00–7.00pm** prior to the 7pm evening Mass at St Patrick's, Stockton. Members of Stockton SPUC Branch look forward to seeing you there.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for September

Respect for the Planet's Resources ~ We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME . . . The Pilgrimage to Rome that was to have taken place from September 21st–25th this year has been postponed until **May 3rd–7th next year.** There are still places available. If anyone would like to go please see Canon Cooper.

This Sunday is a day of Special Prayer for those involved in education. The theme for 2020 is 'A learning people in a time of change'. Education Sunday has been celebrated for over one hundred years. The start of the academic year is a perfect opportunity for schools and churches to celebrate the work of schools, nurseries and colleges. Education Sunday is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in the world of education and it provides a great opportunity for Christian leaders, churches and congregations to demonstrate their commitment to learning and education, and in particular to those people who learn and teach.

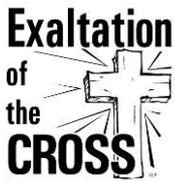
For the first time on Education Sunday there will be an inter-generational service, hosted on YouTube. This service for all ages has been produced by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work national team and friends, on behalf of Churches Together in England. **It will premiere this Sunday** and will remain active for viewing after that date. To access the link type Education Sunday 2020 into your search engine and then select 'Education Sunday Churches Together in England and Wales.'

Lord God we thank you for the education we have been privileged to receive. We give you thanks and praise for the people in our lives who have taught us and supported us and helped us to take steps forward in our journey with you. Help us to encourage and support all those who work in education and to appreciate the important work they do. Empower them by your Holy Spirit, as they seek to live out their calling and serve you in this way. Amen.



The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on 15th September. September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour, green. This symbol of hope is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

Our Mother of Sorrows, with strength from above you stood by the cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore him in your arms, mourning and weeping. We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion. Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love. Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen



We celebrate this important feast to underline the importance of the symbol and reality of the cross in the daily life of every Christian man or woman. Today the sign of the cross has become a universal Christian symbol. It is a symbolic summary of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ by which we have been redeemed. It is a symbol of our faith in the crucified and risen one, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, Walsingham.

Led by Bishop Marcus Stock (Diocese of Leeds) the Shrine are offering a 'virtual' Pilgrimage taking place on **Sunday 27th September**. It is a day of prayer and reparation for the sanctity of life. Our society has attacked the Church's deep rooted teachings on these issues for a very long time. Devotions will be streamed throughout the day, **beginning with the Mass at 12.00 noon**. To find out more details visit the Diocesan website. To access the pilgrimage, you can watch via YouTube on Walsingham Catholic TV or at the Basilica live stream. We encourage you all throughout the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle to take part where you can



SPUC CLUB DRAW . . . The next club draw will take place on **Sunday, 13th September**. Could you please let Christine or Eileen have any outstanding monies! Christine would be happy to collect it if you call her on 01642 654673. Many thanks.

DAY OF PRAYER at Minsteracres - Michael O'Halloran. This day enables you to experience different ways of praying in a beautiful setting and gives you time for quiet personal prayer. Lunch, tea and coffee are provided. Wednesday 16th September, 10am - 4pm. The cost is £20.

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 forward any prayers, thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and I will include them on the bulletin. Thank you.

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, and also English Martyr's & St Peter & Paul's, can be accessed through the Parish Family Stockton website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk.