



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 21st February 2021

The focus of Lent is not on what we give up but on what we are given. We focus our minds on the self-giving love of Jesus which we will celebrate in Holy Week. Lent pours the grace of forgiveness into our world, needed individually and as a people.



At the start of his public ministry Jesus went into the desert for forty days and our season of Lent echoes the desert experience of Jesus. In silence and in prayer Jesus prepared himself for all that God had sent him to do. We imitate Jesus when our prayer builds our relationship with God and then sends us out into our world to do good. We use the season of Lent to more carefully listen to God's call to reject what is sinful and selfish and to change our behaviour as our response to God's love for us.

Lord God, on this first Sunday in Lent we remember the trials and temptations of your Son Jesus Christ, in his journey through the wilderness, and how he triumphed over all. In our prayers we think of the difficult journeys in life encountered by so many people in the world. We pray that in their different times of need, they may find discernment to see their way ahead, and strength to overcome whatever problems they face. We pray that faith may be deepened in this period of Lent and all may walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Over the past year as the world battled the pandemic, like Jesus many people have found themselves in the wilderness of isolation and loneliness. We pray that the light of God's love gives them strength and bring them hope in their lives.


Lord of Lent, renew our lives

We pray for those all those who mourn and for those who still miss the companionship and care of loved ones. We pray that as they journey in this part of their life, that the challenges of Lent and the assurances of Easter will bring to them new strength and new purpose.

Lord of Lent, renew our lives



WHITE FLOWER APPEAL . . . A big thank you to all who supported the SPUC White Flower Appeal, **the total raised through your generosity was a fantastic £413.20** which is greatly appreciated.

1st SUNDAY OF LENT			
21	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
22	Monday The Chair of St. Peter	9.15am	Dickinson & Thomas Families
23	Tuesday		
24	Wednesday		
25	Thursday		
26	Friday	9.15am	Michael Nertney
27	Saturday Vigil Mass	3.30pm 4.00pm	Stations of the Cross Michael Morton (SVP) Confessions after Mass
2nd SUNDAY OF LENT			
28	Sunday	9.00am	Norma Robinson (SVP)
Anniversaries:		John Leslie Shaw	
		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, Rose Marie Bruno, Teresa Carrick	



The Chair of St Peter is a relic conserved in St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the sovereign enclave of the Pope inside Rome, Italy. The relic is a wooden throne that tradition claims the Apostle Saint Peter, the leader of the early Christians in Rome and first Pope, used as Bishop of Rome. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI described the chair as "a symbol of the special mission of Peter and his Successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity."

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Genesis 9:8-15**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 24:4-9**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Peter 3:18-22**
- **Gospel ~ Mark 1:12-15**



Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle – Lent Resources . . . This year as we enter Lent, we are considering what it means to be Missionary Disciples. Reflecting on our calling to '**Go and make disciples**', the Vicariate for Faith & Mission has worked with Clergy and Laity to produce daily reflections that offer support as you reflect on the readings for the day.

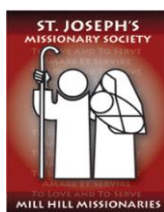
The Lenten Daily Reflections are now available by visiting the Diocesan website. To view, read, download and print. Whilst we acknowledge many of our parishioners enjoy the printed versions of the daily reflections, this year the Diocese are also offering the daily reflections by email – one sent per day – for anyone who would like to receive them digitally. You can subscribe on the website.

YMT has produced '**Wait a Minute – It's Lent**' videos, which are available to watch on their [YouTube channel](#).

This Lent CAFOD's Family Fast Day is Friday 26th February. Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please help to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. To find out more please visit cafod.org.uk

Loving God, we hear your call to all who thirst for a brighter future, come to the water. Pour out your Spirit upon us and lead us to walk alongside one another. Let a desire for change well up within us. May we overflow with compassion and love. As a stream wears away stone, may we reshape our world together to reflect your Kingdom of hope for all. Amen.

CAFOD has an online calendar for Lent 2021 providing the opportunity to reflect, pray and take justice actions. Visit CAFOD's website for more information.



National Novena to St Joseph: 10th – 18th March 2021 . . .

In this year dedicated to St. Joseph, I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you regarding this year's Novena and to thank you for any support you can give us. The Mill Hill Missionaries will offer their annual Novena of Masses and Prayers in preparation for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead from Wednesday 10th to Thursday 18th March.

In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on **Zoom** and **YouTube** via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet. You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the **Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW**, or email novenamhm@gmail.com. May the coming Novena to St. Joseph, in this Year dedicated to him by Pope Francis, be a source of comfort and support to all who have lost loved ones and whose lives have been adversely affected by this pandemic. With every good wish, (*Novena Director*)



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (Friday 6th March) . . . On The first Friday in March every year a service is held where a chosen country produces materials for the world to worship. The women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean) have prepared this years' service. The theme this year is **'Build on a strong foundation'**.

Women, men and children of all ages are called to build on a strong foundation and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity like Vanuatu and so many other places around the world. For further information and resource, please visit www.wdp.org.uk

CAFOD's Prayer for Women ~ *Lord God, we give you praise and thanks for your loving kindness to us. Make us aware that it is not just what we do that is important but how we do it. Help us to be courageous, strong, caring, passionate and compassionate whatever our age, race or circumstances. Let us bear witness to your love for all people so that we may be peaceful and joyful. Amen.*



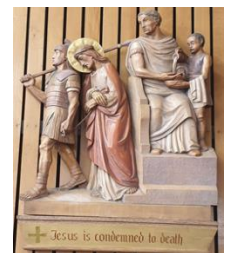
As we journey with Jesus during his final hours on earth as a human being, we place ourselves on the journey, reflecting on the familiar story, sensing what it would have been like, remembering the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for humanity. By meditating on each of the stations we increase both our sorrow for our sins against God and our need for His help in bearing our own crosses. When we meditate on the Stations of the Cross, we can learn the true meaning of love, perseverance, obedience, humility and patience.

We adore you, O Lord, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

First Station ~ Jesus is Condemned to Death

Jesus stands in the most human of places. He has already experienced profound solidarity with so many on this earth, by being beaten and tortured. Now he is wrongfully condemned to punishment by death.

Lord Jesus, often I judge others and fail to be understanding or loving. Help me to see the people in my life through Your eyes, not the eyes of Pontius Pilate.



Second Station - Jesus Carries His Cross

Jesus is made to carry the cross on which he will die. It represents the weight of all our crosses.

Lord Jesus, You embraced Your cross to redeem the world. Help me to embrace the crosses in life, the hardships, struggles, disappointments and pain. Only by recognizing my own weakness can I discover Your strength.

Third Station - Jesus Falls for the First Time

The weight is unbearable. Jesus falls under it. How could he enter our lives completely without surrendering to the crushing weight of the life of so many on this earth!

Lord Jesus, You know how often I fall trying to follow You. Yet, You are always there to lift me up. Help me always to trust in Your loving care for me.



COMPASSION AND CARE . . . Connecting with God, creation, others and ourselves. A retreat from the New Story eco-community based at Minsteracres. Taking place on Friday 12th March, 7pm to 8.30pm and Saturday 13th March 10am to 1pm. To register go to <https://compassionandcare.eventbrite.co.uk> or e-mail admin.caritas@diocesehn.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 forward any prayers, thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and they will be included 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.