



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
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Sunday 14th February 2021

This Sunday's gospel shows Jesus moved to compassion when he met a leper. He reached out to touch and comfort the infected man. This is only one of many personal encounters between Jesus and sick people, where his compassion and care is evident. It conveys a deep message about God's desire to help and to heal, to be a source of mercy when people are in need. As Jesus reaches out to heal the physical condition that is leprosy he also reaches out to heal the not so obvious spiritual conditions that cut us off from God.



Jesus does not want us to sit comfortably admiring what he has done. He wants us to imitate his example and to move around in our families and our communities healing, reconciling and loving unconditionally, leaving no-one out. If we are true companions of Jesus there are no lepers, no outcasts that we exclude from our lives.

God of love, source of mercy and compassion transform our lives so that we may accomplish Your purpose. Give us a new urgency to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and visit those who live in isolation. Help us to reach out to those whom no one else will touch. Surround us with Your love, fill us with Your grace and strengthen us for Your service. Empower us to respond to the call of Jesus, to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses, and to follow. Amen.

On St Valentine's Day we come before you with our prayers and rejoice in the wonder and power of your never ending love for us and our love for you.

Lord, because love is patient help us to be slow to judge others but always quick to listen. Make us hesitant to criticize, but always eager to encourage, remembering your endless patience with us.

Lord, because love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs help us to forgive others as you forgive us. When we hold onto a grudge, gently help us to release it so that we can reach out instead with a hand of love and friendship.

Lord, because love always hopes and always perseveres help us to see each new day as an opportunity to give ourselves to your service. Help our hearts to always beat with love for you and others and we think especially of those we love but see no longer and we remember that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench.



6th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
14	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
15	Monday		No Mass
16	Tuesday		
17	Ash Wednesday 	7.00pm	For Families
18	Thursday		
19	Friday	9.15am	Alan Taylor
20	Saturday Vigil Mass	3.30pm 4.00pm	Stations of the Cross Margaret Bentley Confessions after Mass
1st SUNDAY OF LENT			
21	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
Anniversaries:		Kate Pickering, Alan Roberts, Paul Tebbs, William Anderson, Alan Taylor,	
		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	



Lord Jesus, as the Holy Season of Lent draws near I come to you for help. Send your Holy Spirit upon me to open my mind and my understanding so that I can begin to grasp the magnificence of Your love for me. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 31: 1-2, 5, 11**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1**
- **Gospel ~ Mark 1:40-45**



ASH WEDNESDAY . . . Mass times for Ash Wednesday are:

9.30am - St. Cuthbert's RC Church, **12 Noon** - St. Mary's RC Church
7.00pm - St. Patrick's RC Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are going to be held on **Saturday Evenings at 3.30pm** (before the 4.00pm Mass). **Starting on Saturday 20th February.**



Ash Wednesday begins the forty-day journey of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Easter. It sets us on a time of self-examination and repentance, to wait upon and prepare for the renewal given by God's Spirit in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We will spend Lent journeying with Jesus toward the cross; toward the death that ultimately brings Resurrection Life.

Lord, forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. In both we have failed ourselves, and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow the way that you first trod. Lead us to the Cross and meet us there. Amen

Thank You

THIRD WORLD . . . Thank you. During the unusual year of 2020, we gratefully received a **total of £1292** via our Third World box and private donations. We were able to send donations in total of £1350 to the following:

January CAFOD for Zimbabwe and Zambia Food Crisis ~ £500

March John Bradburne Memorial Society (Leprosy) ~ £300

September CAFOD ~ £300

December Fr. Cooper's charity 'Home for Disable Children', Kenya ~ £250

We send our sincere thanks to all for your continued support and generosity. Thank you and God Bless

This Sunday is a Day of Special Prayer for the Unemployed ~ The following is a prayer to St. Joseph, the Patron of Workers.

Saint Joseph, we pray to you for those who are out of work, for those who want to earn their living or support their families. You, who are the patron of workers, grant that unemployment may vanish from our ranks; that all those who are ready to work may put their strength and abilities in serving their fellowmen and earn a just salary. You are the patron of families; do not let those who have children to support and raise lack the necessary means. Help our political leaders and captains of industry find new and just solutions. May each and every one have the joy of contributing, according to his abilities, to the common prosperity by an honourable livelihood. Grant that we may all share together in the abundant goods God has given us. Amen.

Pat Kennedy MPS has shared a Reflection, 'God's love letter to me' which you can read by visiting the Diocesan Website. www.rcdhn.org.uk



This Lent CAFOD's Family Fast Day is Friday 26th February. Abdella has a ten-hour daily walk to find water through the mountains in Ethiopia, where it is getting hotter each year. CAFOD would love the whole of the Catholic community in England and Wales to go the distance this Lent and walk alongside Abdella by taking part in the **Big Walk for Water** virtual event on **Saturday 20th February at 2pm.** You can choose a 5-mile journey (10,000 steps), or something shorter. If you cannot make the date and time given please organise your own walk on a date to suit yourself. If you are up for an even bigger challenge you can walk for 10,000 steps a day throughout Lent and get sponsored to make an even bigger difference.

To find out more or to sign up please visit cafod.org.uk/walk Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking on Saturday 20th February at 2pm.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle ~ Resources for the Season of Lent

With the changing COVID-19 landscape, the temptation may be not to plan too far ahead, but we know that we will eventually emerge from lockdown and we need to start looking at the rebuilding of our Parish Communities and beyond. The Vicariate for Faith & Mission is busy putting together resources for Lent with the help of volunteers. These will include **Daily Reflections booklets** written by gifted writers from across the diocese, and **Daily Reflective videos** expertly produced by the Youth Mission Team. The resources will be available soon on the Diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for February . . . We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



Monday 8th February was the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita – the Patron Saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. St Josephine Bakhita was born in 1869 in Olgossa, Darfur, Sudan. She was born into a wealthy Sudanese family, kidnapped by slave traders while still a child, but was eventually taken to Italy to work as a nanny.

She converted to the faith in 1890, taking the name Josephine, and entered the Institute of the Canossian Daughters of Charity some three years later where she worked unstintingly for the next fifty years. Surrounded by the sisters, she died on 8th February 1947. She was beatified on the 17th May, 1992 and was canonised on 1st October 2000. She is believed to be the only saint to have originated from the Sudan.

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.