



Sunday 14th March 2021

St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper

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This Sunday we are invited to meditate on our own lack of response to God's invitation to us. Each one of us can find ways in which we have lived without faith and without response to God who loves us. The incredible thing is that God continues to offer us His love no matter how many times we reject Him. His forgiveness is unconditional and knows no limits. Lent is about our journey to accept God's love for us, God's divine presence in our lives. It is about accepting that Jesus is truly man and truly God. It is a journey to accept our own sinfulness and to be able to give that sinfulness back to God in asking for forgiveness. Our faith is that he sent his son from love. Jesus is the one who went through all we go through and rose from death. As our faith in this becomes strong, then we find love active from God in our lives. We unite ourselves with the sufferings of Jesus and rise with him. God, being love, promises not an easy life nor magical solutions, but love always.

Gracious God, change our hearts that we might work diligently in the world you have given us, seek healing for those who are hurting, and care for all without discrimination. Above all help us to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and witnesses of the Holy Spirit. Raise us up that we might become beacons of your love. Amen.



We pray for all who work with the sick and infirm. We name in our hearts those we love who are in need of your healing touch. We pray that your blessing be upon them and those who love and care for them and we pray that they may find encouragement and peace, that their sorrows and concerns be transformed into comfort, and their loneliness into fellowship with you.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March ~ Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God



HOLY WEEK SERVICES – Tickets are needed for every Liturgy except the Easter Vigil

Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St. Cuthbert's ~ 6.00pm
Good Friday	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	St. Mary's ~ 3.00pm
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil	St. Patrick's ~ 8.00pm There will be no Mass at 4pm
Easter Sunday		St. Patrick's ~ 9.00am

Deacon Mick Wood will be leading the Stations of the Cross in St Patrick's Church on Good Friday at 12 noon.

4 th SUNDAY OF LENT			
14	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
15	Monday	9.15am	80 th Birthday
16	Tuesday		
17	Wednesday St Patrick		
18	Thursday		
19	Friday St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	nb 7.00pm	Jim Faley
20	Saturday Vigil Mass St Cuthbert, Patron of the Diocese	3.30pm 4.00pm	Stations of the Cross Denise Wood Confessions after Mass
5 th SUNDAY OF LENT			
21	Sunday	9.00am	Julia McAndrew
Recently Deceased:		Irvin Eeles, Sadie Todd, Fr Ronnie Richmond May they rest in peace. Amen.	
Anniversaries:		James Faley, Mary Boyle	
		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, Rose Marie Bruno, Teresa Carrick	



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 136**
- **Second Reading ~ Ephesians 2:4-10**
- **Gospel ~ John 3:14-21**



Gracious God, we thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other. Today, loving God, we pray for our mothers, who cared for us when we were helpless and comforted us when we were hurt. We thank you for the qualities of mothers, their patience, kindness, concern and understanding. We thank you for the part they play in our lives.

We also remember mothers who have been drawn to their eternal rest and are now in your safe keeping. For mothers and motherhood, for children and families we bring you this day our grateful praise. Amen



St Patrick was humble and courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ. Patrick was an intensely human person and offers us a challenge to live our own Christian life today in changing and turbulent times. He gives to us the Celtic vision of the intimate presence of God in creation, in the church, in people and in Scripture. Throughout his missionary work, Patrick supported church officials, created councils, founded monasteries and organized Ireland into dioceses.

Prayer for our Parish on St Patrick's Day

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on all who share in the life and work of our Church and Parish. In the ministry of Word and Sacrament, in teaching and pastoral care and in the community working with those in need, We pray for all members of the congregation, that in their life and work they may advance Your Kingdom and bear witness to Your love, shown in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The new church envelopes for 2021/22 are at the back of the church ready for collection. The box numbers have been adjusted, you might not have the same number as last year. If anybody would like a set of envelopes or to set up a standing order or to Gift Aid, please email or phone parish office on 01642 580171. Thank you

The time for the Pro-Life Holy Hour on Sunday 21st March is now 4pm. Father Shaun is leading the Pro-Life Holy Hour. Access via diocese website live streaming Newcastle, St Teresa face book. Please join in praying for unborn and sanctuary of life.

St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Why did the Pope declare a year of St. Joseph? In making his declaration, Pope Francis noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on 8th December, 1870. Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.



"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," the Pope wrote. He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, "Our world today needs fathers." He is invoked as the Patron Saint of the Universal Church.

ST JOSEPH NOVENA . . . There will be a Daily Novena from 11th to 19th March. On the Feast of St. Joseph, 19th March, there will be the Novena and also a time to reflect upon the teaching given in Pope Francis's Apostolic Letter 'With a Fathers Heart' (Patris Corde). This teaching will be given by David Wells. Please visit the Diocesan website where you can watch the daily Novena via the YouTube channel. www.rcdhn.org.uk

ST CUTHBERT – c, 634 – 687 (Feast Day ~ 20th March) . . . Cuthbert spent his early life in north Northumberland. As a teenager, he joined the monastery at Melrose under St Eata. He was made prior of Lindisfarne, where he persuaded the community to change from Celtic to Roman customs and practices. His love of solitude took him to St Cuthbert's Isle, just off Lindisfarne, but he later sought permission to live as a hermit on the remote island of Inner Farne. In 684 Cuthbert was asked to become Bishop of Hexham. His time as a bishop was short and, sensing that his life was drawing to a close, he returned to his beloved Inner Farne, where he died in 687. During the Middle Ages his shrine became one of the most popular places of pilgrimage.

Ever living God, you called your servant Cuthbert to proclaim the Gospel in northern England and blessed him with a loving heart and gentle spirit, grant us grace to live as he did, in simplicity, humility and love for the poor; through Jesus Christ, who came among us as one who serves. Amen

SPUC CLUB DRAW . . . The next draw will take place on **Sunday, 14th March.** Please could you drop off any outstanding monies at Christine's home address of 242 Oxbridge Lane or she will be happy to collect - just give her a call on 01642 653673 or 07980 290432.

The CAFOD Family Fast collection has so far raised £371.55. If you wish to add to this, please put your donation in an envelope marked 'CAFOD Family Fast' and hand it in at Church by 14th March at the latest. Thank you.

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission: As we move further into March, it appears that the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel may be in sight. In the Vicariate for Faith & Mission, we are giving careful thought and discernment as to what the post COVID-19 Church community might look like. I am reminded that we are living in a time when church attendance is in decline. Will the temporary restrictions have created more of a thirst for the Eucharist? Or for Community? Will watching a live-stream have become too comfortable? Will some people have fallen out of the routine of attending Mass and struggle to come back? These are all unknown answers at this point in time. What we do know is that the Church is in the hands of the Holy Spirit and that God works to turn all things to good. My Lenten prayer is that God will call us individually to something fresh and new as people of faith and that we will experience a deep desire to know him and love him and to share this with those all around us. As a Vicariate, we continue this month to offer resources and opportunities for people to grow deeper in their relationship with God. If you would like to suggest further ways we might support your faith journey, we invite you to please get in touch. (Amy Cameron)

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission can be contacted through the Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan website.



As we accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary, let us take a moment to remember how difficult that journey was. The way was often steep and many mocked, jostled and took pleasure in watching as Jesus struggled with his heavy burden. The journey that Jesus made on that day remains a symbol of Christianity in the world, as it struggles with its own crosses and failures and the challenges of modern life. Let us pray that we will be open to whatever he wants us to see, hear and understand.

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

Tenth Station ~ Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

As the clothes were ripped from Jesus, he was stripped of his dignity in front of an irreverent mob. Jesus sacrifices everything. He holds nothing of himself back. Here, on the threshold of death, even more intensely than during his lifetime He surrenders everything in order to ransom all.



Lord, may we respect the dignity of others and leave judgement to God. Let us see the good in those around us and so enable them to reach their full potential.



Eleventh Station ~ Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Jesus is nailed to the cross, cannot move. The hand that has wiped blindness from the eyes; the hand that touched a heart and cured a leper; the hand that blessed children and those with a disability is joined to the wood. As the cross is put in place, he hangs there between us and God, a blood stained victim for love.

Jesus, we pray on behalf of those who cannot reach out to you at this moment. We pray for all victims of violence, and for children and the elderly who are too vulnerable to defend themselves. May victims of cruelty and oppression know that you are always with them.

Twelfth Station ~ Jesus Dies on the Cross

As the life of Jesus ebbs away His words are not of condemnation or of pity for himself, but of forgiveness; In the midst of His anguish and suffering Jesus calls upon his Father to forgive those who are putting Him to death. This is the real challenge of the cross, forgiveness, even of those who hurt us most.



Let us stand with those who watched and prayed in silence while Jesus breathed his last. As we cannot measure love, so we cannot dilute this ultimate act of love and forgiveness with words. Let our love span the silence. Lord, let our love and forgiveness speak your praise.

Answers to Books of the Bible Quiz - This is a **most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to a friend. She **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involved that **she brews** up a cup of tea to help her concentration. There will be some names that are easy to spot. That's a **fact**. Some people however will soon find themselves in a **jam**, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised. **Truthfully**, **from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or scholar to see **them at the worst**.

Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing books in the writing. During a recent fund-raising event, which features this puzzle, the 'Adelphi' **lemonade** stall set a new sales record. Our local paper, 'The **Chronicle**', surveyed over two hundred readers who reported the puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As one put it "Books are all here but hidden from sight". **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown.

One **revelation** that might help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** occur without their **numbers**. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. A **chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers.

Remember there is no need for a mass **exodus**, there really are 25 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this article – waiting to be found.

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.