



## St. Patrick's R.C. Church

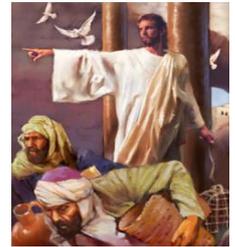
Glenfield Road, Fairfield,  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper  
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Lent is a time when we renew our minds and hearts by reflecting on what is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who came to do the Father's will, to establish the new covenant, and who shares his conquest over death with us all.

In this Sunday's Gospel we get a glimpse into Jesus' humanity. God dwells in the hearts of his people. When we come to worship God, we must put aside all distractions and agendas. Jesus wants his people to experience the joy and peace of undistracted devotion to Him. Jesus cleansed the Temple because sinful activities interfered with worship.



*Jesus, my life is filled with lots of thoughts, words and activities. Please show me which of them are good and which are not, so I can be like God's Temple, empty of anything wrong and filled with your love. Amen.*

As Pope Francis visits Iraq this weekend, we pray that his journey be a safe one and that his message of peace contributes to bringing reconciliation and unity to the people of that war-torn nation.

**Lord of Lent, hear our prayer**

We pray for everyone who is sick or afraid, bereaved or isolated around the world; and we pray for all who support them. May God grant each of them peace and comfort, courage and perseverance.

**Lord of Lent, hear our prayer**



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

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

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b>			
7	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
8	Monday	9.15am	Monica McShane
9	Tuesday		
10	Wednesday		
11	Thursday		
12	Friday	9.15am	Eddie Southgate
13	Saturday Vigil Mass	3.30pm 4.00pm	Stations of the Cross Eileen Ingleby Confessions after Mass
<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b>			
14	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
<b>Anniversaries:</b>		John Ferguson, Paricia McNeerney	
		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	



**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.

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .**

- **First Reading ~ Exodus 20:1-17**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 18:8-11**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 1:22-25**
- **Gospel ~ John 2:13-25**



**It is with sadness the Diocese has informed parishes of the death of Fr. Tomas Cunningham.** He died on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 aged 89 years. His Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon and will be live-streamed on Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Facebook page. Please remember him in your prayers. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**Father Shaun is leading a Pro-Life Holy Hour on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 3pm.** Access via diocese website live streaming Newcastle, St Teresa face book. Please join in praying for unborn and sanctuary of life.



The Stations of the Cross are a journey. 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.

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



### ***Seventh Station ~ Jesus Falls for the Second Time***

Stretched to breaking point by his awful scourging, bowed under the weight of the cross, worn out by the abandonment of all his friends, Jesus stumbles again.

*Jesus, from deep within yourself, you found the courage and strength to get up once again and continue the journey. Give us your strength to keep going, even when hope is dim.*

### ***Eighth Station - Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem***

The women of Jerusalem, and their children, come out to comfort and thank him. They had seen his compassion and welcomed his words of healing and freedom. He had broken all kinds of social and religious conventions to connect with them. Now they are here to support him. He feels their grief. He suffers, knowing he can't remain to help them more in this life. He knows the mystery of facing the separation of death.



*Lord, open our hearts to the suffering of all people in our world. Give us the generosity of spirit to help us recognize their pain, the courage to challenge the systems that place intolerable burdens on them and the compassion to support them.*



### ***Ninth Station - Jesus Falls for the Third Time***

Jesus falls for a third time, broken and exhausted physically and emotionally. Lying on the ground Jesus must decide, does he get up once more or does he just stop and give up. We see him rise again and with all his power he continues on his journey. Jesus shows us that we can go on, even if nobody else thinks that it is possible.

*Lord, we pray that when our strength fails, when our hope fades and when our spirit grows weary that we will put our unbounded trust in You. In turn may we bring Your love, in a word or action of comfort to another, in their moment of meaningless, depression or despair.*

**SPUC CLUB DRAW . . .** The next draw will take place on **Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> March at the latest. Thank you.

**The January 200 Club Draw has finally gone ahead and the results are as follows:** £1,000 Lee Thornton, £250 Alan Foster, £100 Mrs S Chambers and £50 Mick Wood. The next draw will take place next month, after the Easter holidays. Thank you to all who support the 200 Club Draw.

**POPE FRANCIS IN IRAQ . . .** Pope Francis is making a historic first visit to Iraq from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. It's the first visit of any Pope to the country. In the 'What's on' section of the Bishop's Conference website they celebrate the visit and speak to the Syriac and Chaldean Catholic leaders about their Christian communities and hopes for Iraq. [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

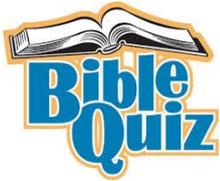


**There is a lovely video to watch where the Pope receives and talks about the Sacrament of Confession.** The Pope says, *"When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul. To leave with greater spiritual health. To pass from misery to mercy. The centre of confession is not the sins we declare, but the divine love we receive, of which we are always in need. The centre of confession is Jesus who waits for us, who listens to us and forgives us. Remember this: In the heart of God, we come before our mistakes. Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God, and let us pray that God may give His Church merciful priests."*  
Pope Francis – March 2021. [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org)

**Feast of St. Joseph, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – 7pm . . .** This year the Pope has proclaimed a 'Year of St Joseph from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Fr. Michael Humble and members of the Lourdes Pilgrimage will lead us in prayer to celebrate this important feast. The virtual prayer service will be uploaded to the Facebook Page & YouTube. [www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk)  
Facebook: Hexham & Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes

**Later in 2021 ~ Mass in Celebration of Marriage and Family Life.**

Bishop Robert has kindly agreed to presiding at a live streamed Mass from St. Mary's Cathedral in celebration of Marriage and Family Life on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 at 12.00 noon. We look forward to as many as are possible to participate with us in our celebration of Spiritual Communion



## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PUZZLE ~ 25 books are hidden in the article below

A Parishioner has kindly sent in the following puzzle. The answers will be given next week. The first book is underlined.

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](mailto:stockton.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk) or [stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk).