



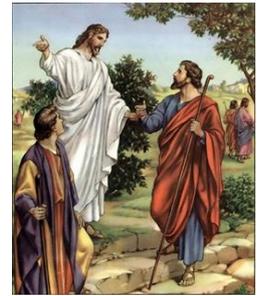
St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 18th April 2021

In Luke's gospel we find the resurrection story is built around the theme of a journey. We are invited to understand through our prayerful reading of the scriptures and the events that occur 'on the road' of our lives that the risen Lord still walks with us and meets us. When we share in the Eucharist we meet the crucified and risen Lord just as the disciples did. Jesus' resurrection is a source of life for us today. Its power is to be experienced in the ordinary events of life as we struggle to be faithful. However, it is often only with hindsight that we can see the ways the Lord has accompanied us on the road.



Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you."

Lord God, we pray for those who are not at peace. For people and nations at war and for those who need reconciliation to one another. We pray for freedom from conflict, discord and dispute. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

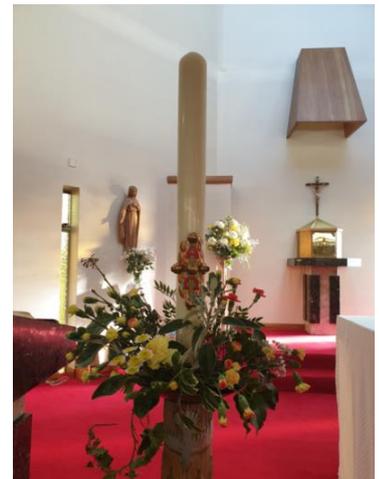
Jesus asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

Lord God, we pray for those without food. For people who are hungry or starving and for those who desperately need aid. We pray for freedom from injustice, inequality and negligence. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Robert Byrne CO has released the following statement: "It is with a sense of deep shock and sadness that I have to inform you that Canon Michael McCoy died on Saturday 10th April 2021. This is a time of great grief for Canon Michael's family, his friends, his parishioners and for our whole Diocese. I would ask you to pray for the repose of his soul, and also to keep his family in your prayers at this most painful time."



3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER			
18	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
19	Monday	9.15am	Special Intention
20	Tuesday		
21	Wednesday		
22	Thursday		
23	Friday St George	9.15am	Robert Parkinson (SVP)
24	Saturday Vigil Mass	4.00pm	Bernard McGuinness Confessions after Mass
4th SUNDAY OF EASTER			
25	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
Recently Deceased:		Canon Michael McCoy May he rest in peace. Amen.	
		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	



Lord, you are light, in you there is no darkness at all. Please shine within me that I may see my life in a new light, live in you and illuminate the way for others. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Acts 3:13, 17-19**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-9**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 John 2: 1-5**
- **Gospel ~ Luke 24:35-48**



“Having heard the sad news of the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, I am sure that Catholics throughout our Diocese will join me in praying for the repose of his soul. Throughout his long life he was not only a great support to Her Majesty the Queen but also someone who contributed a great deal to our national life through his support of many charities and initiatives such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. His life of generous service and devotion to duty is an example to us all. I shall be offering Mass for the repose of his soul in St. Mary’s Cathedral in the near future. Further details will be posted on the Diocesan website in due course.” (Bishop Robert Byrne CO)

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has also issued a statement, please visit www.rcdhn.org.uk

Lord God, we give thanks for the long life of Prince Philip, for all that he has contributed to our nation and beyond and for his support of our Queen. We pray that he will be at rest, trusting in the grace of God. We remember Her Majesty, the Queen, and her family, praying that they will know your comfort and strength. Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY will mark the 58th World Day of Prayer for Vocations: 'St Joseph: the Dream of Vocation.' The day is an opportunity for Catholics around the globe to pray more intentionally for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and religious life.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL . . . We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

St George was canonised in AD 494 by Pope Gelasius, who claimed he was one of those 'whose names are justly revered among men but whose acts are known only to God'. Following the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, St George's Day became one of the most important feast days in the English calendar. St George is an international saint and England is not the only country or region to claim him as its patron. England shares St George with Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia among others as their patron saint and many of these places have their own celebrations and ceremonies in his honour.



During the Middle Ages, people believed that St George was one of a group of saints who could help during epidemic diseases. St George's protection was invoked against several diseases, many fatal and with infectious causes, including the Plague and leprosy. George's reputation grew with the returning crusaders. A miracle appearance, when it was claimed that he appeared to lead crusaders into battle, is recorded in stone over the south door of a church at Fordington in Dorset. This still exists and is the earliest known church in England to be dedicated to Saint George. The Council of Oxford in 1222 named 23rd April Saint George's Day.

In 1940 King George VI created a new award for acts of the greatest heroism or courage in circumstance of extreme danger. The George Cross, named after the king, bears the image of St George vanquishing the dragon. The image of St George also adorns many of the memorials built to honour those killed during World War One. It is thought that the killing of the dragon represents fighting against injustice.

Heavenly Father, give us the bravery of St George to stand up for the truth and the glory of God that we have seen in the face of Jesus Christ. Give us the strength to overcome in our lives and in the world all that is contrary to your rule of justice and love. Amen

Just a quick reminder, the Church envelope numbers for this year have been changed. Can you please ensure that only envelopes dated 4th April 2021 and following are now used. If you have any envelopes before this date you still wish to hand in, can you please just put any money into one of this year's envelopes. Thank you.

Your SVP Conference receives donations of furniture and we can transport them to needy people because of your very kind donations. If you know of any one in our parish we could help materially or if they are lonely we could make a doorstep visit maintaining social distancing, keeping us all safe, all information will be treated confidentially. After the lockdown we will be able to visit people in their own homes, care homes, hospitals or prison. If you would like to join us in God's work then please have a word with one of our sisters or brothers.

Barry Holliday on behalf of all our members

Community Organising in the North East: An Ecumenical Conversation. Wednesday 5th May 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Over the last five years Christians have been working alongside people of other faiths, and none, to challenge the injustices that shape our communities in the North East. During this online event we want to share some of the stories of how together we have empowered people to tackle low wages, mental health provisions, hate crime, free-school meal access and climate change. Along with the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, and the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, Robert Byrne, we will be asking how community organising is part of our faith journeys. Storytelling is at the heart of challenging injustice and we hope our stories will engage and inspire you. Please visit the Diocesan website to sign up online and login details will be sent out the week before the event. www.rcdhn.org.uk

Thank You to all St. Patrick's parishioners who have delivered 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.parityfamilystockton.org.uk.