



Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

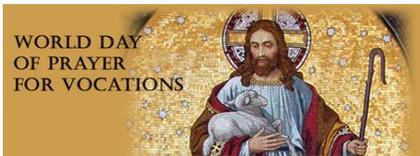
Glenfield Road, Fairfield,  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper

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This Sunday reminds us that we do not come to God alone, our worship draws us into community and identifies us as sheep of the Good Shepherd. Jesus revealed himself as a good shepherd who knows his own flock and is a sacrifice for them and as our struggles become real even as others turn to us for guidance, we also have a shepherd to turn to for help. Jesus is the good shepherd, He lays down His life for the sake of His sheep. There is nothing that Jesus will not do for us. He won't always give us what we want, but He will meet every need that we have.

He knows us by name and sees us the way we really are. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses, our victories and our failures. He knows us as closely as He knows the Father, and He loves us. He wants us to know Him also. To have the strong, unbreakable bonds of friendship. He wants us to invest time and energy in seeking His face.



Today marks the 58th World Day of Prayer for Vocations: **'St Joseph: the Dream of Vocation.'** The 8<sup>th</sup> December last year marked the beginning of a special year devoted to St. Joseph. Pope Francis says, "God looks on the heart, and in St Joseph he recognised the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. St Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of 'the saints next door.' At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey."

The Good Shepherd still seeks people to continue in our time and place the work that He began. May the example and service of Priests, Deacons and Religious, alongside the voice of the Good Shepherd, inspire people today to respond and offer their lives in the service of God and God's people.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** . . . *God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Visit [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) then select 'News' to read the message of Pope Francis for the 2021 World Day of Prayer for Vocations and also click on Vocations Sunday 2021 to watch a video titled 'What's God's Dream for You?'

<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>			
25	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
26	Monday	9.15am	Sadie Todd
27	Tuesday		
28	Wednesday		
29	Thursday <b>St Catherine of Siena</b>		
30	Friday	9.15am	Special Intention
1	Saturday Vigil Mass <b>St Joseph the Worker</b>	4.00pm	Special Intention Confessions after Mass
<b>5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>			
2	Sunday	9.00am	Anthony Ward
<b>Anniversaries:</b>		Mavis McQuillan, Cecily Waters	
		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	



*I have a vocation from God. If I already know what it is, I pray to be faithful. If I am still searching, I pray to hear God's voice and to respond generously.*

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

- **First Reading ~ Acts 4:8-12**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 117: 1,8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 John 3:1-2**
- **Gospel ~ John 10:11-18**

We pray for the Church of God reaching out to care for and protect all who are lost and longing to belong to a fellowship of love.

**Good Shepherd, hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

**Good Shepherd, hear our prayer**

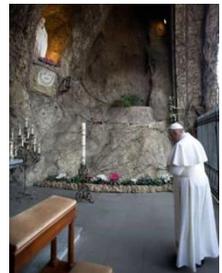
**The Collections for the 11th April was £466.86 and 18th April £368.06**

**200 Club Result for April Quarter;** £1000 - Mrs A Naisbitt, £250 - Eileen Brydon, £100 - Lynne Brumpton, £50 - Sue Dobbing. Thank you for your continued support.

**Today there would have been a second collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor.** In 1866 the Little Sisters arrived in Newcastle upon Tyne. Within two years they moved to Westmorland Road where St. Joseph's Home stands today. In 1989 major renovation work began, transforming the Home into a modern well equipped Nursing and Residential Home. They are a charity committed to providing safe accommodation and professional care for vulnerable older people, and in these unprecedented times, our staff and volunteers are going above and beyond to make sure that this high quality care continues. They accompany those who they serve with love, compassion and skilled care.

This was taken from the Diocesan website: David and Theresa O'Neill have asked us to share their fundraising efforts for the Little Sisters of the Poor. David says, "*Over the years, with the help of parishes & individuals, we have raised over £12,500 for the home. We collect used postage stamps (any country or period), currency (notes & coins from any country or period), broken gold & silver (even earring backs) & military medals (any conflict or period). We can be contacted by phone at 0191 264 5771*" They can also be contacted via e-mail and their home address is also on the April Newsletter. [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

**Pope Francis urges Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic.** The Pope will lead the major shrines around the world in praying the Rosary to implore Mary's intercession and protection. It takes place under the theme 'The whole Church was fervently praying to God,' which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).



Pope Francis will open the Marian Month of Prayer on 1<sup>st</sup> May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms. Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6pm Rome time from the various Shrines taking part in the initiative. The Pope will also close the month of prayer on 31<sup>st</sup> May with another specially broadcast Rosary.



#### **MASS IN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE:**

Bishop Robert is presiding, along with Deacon Rob Wareing, 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.**

Due to the limited capacity and in keeping with the current COVID restrictions, anyone wishing to attend the Mass **MUST BOOK** in advance by contacting the Cathedral office on 0191 232 6953 or by email. Anyone celebrating a significant anniversary should also provide the details of this at the time of booking and a certificate of celebration will be offered. Sadly, we were unable to hold our annual open Mass in 2020 due to Covid, but we have an opportunity this year for engaged couples preparing for marriage, those who were married in the months prior to lockdown, all married couples, and those celebrating a significant anniversary. We invite too those widowed and bereaved who were unable to visit their wives and husbands in hospital and homes prior to their deaths and in our unprecedented times, adults and children experiencing difficulties and abuse in their family relationships. We wish all to know that none is forgotten and that the Sacramental life, despite Covid, is very much alive and prayed for. We look forward to as many as are possible to participate with us in our celebration of Spiritual Communion. (Deacon Rob Wareing, Diocesan Lead for Marriage and Family Life.)

## **Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> May is the Feast of St Joseph the Worker.**

Joseph, by the work of your hands you supported Jesus and Mary and had the Son of God as your fellow worker. Teach me to work as you did, with patience and perseverance, for God and for those whom God has given me to support. Teach me to see in my fellow workers the Christ who desires to be in them, that I may always be charitable and forbearing towards all. Grant me to look upon work with the eyes of faith, so that I shall recognize in it my share in God's own creative activity and in Christ's work of our redemption, and so take pride in it. Amen.



*Dear St. Joseph, I entrust myself today to your loving care. Be my protector and guide on this earthly pilgrimage. Intercede for me that, like you, I may be truly devoted to Jesus and Mary. Amen.*

**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](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.parityfamilystockton.org.uk](http://www.parityfamilystockton.org.uk).