



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 20th February 2022

Jesus' words remind us clearly that we are called to treat others as God has treated us, by loving and caring for them, being merciful and by not judging. We don't always do this, yet Jesus is clear, as God has loved and cared for us, and shown us God's mercy in so many ways, so we are called to do this for one another. It is a command given to all those who seek to follow Jesus Christ. God wants us to love each other in the same way that He loves, unconditionally. Love is the most powerful force in the world, in dealing with individuals as well as in building communities.

Father, I thank You for looking beyond my faults and for loving me unconditionally. Forgive me when I fail to love others in the same way. Give me eyes to see the needs of people in my life, and show me how to meet those needs in a way that pleases You. Amen.




STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND EXPOSITION . . . The Stations of the Cross will be held each Thursday at St Patrick's during Lent at 6.00pm, followed by Exposition till 7.00pm. The first evening will be held on Thursday 3rd March. **Parish groups are invited to lead a meditation on the Stations.** If your group would like to choose a date to lead, please contact Deacon Mick on 01642 580171 to make arrangements.

Red Box - Caring for our Church family around the world . . . Thank you to all collectors and supporters of Red Missio boxes. **St Patrick's collections are taking place in March.** If you have a red box that needs emptying and do not have a collector you may bring it along to Crèche after Mass on Sunday 13th and 20th March.

If you would like a red box or need to arrange your red box to be picked up or to make a donation to Missio come along to the Crèche on the above dates or contact Veronica or John Bowron 01642 581788.



7th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
20	Sunday	9.00am	Margaret Bentley
21	Monday	9.15am	Ian Cowan
22	Tuesday <i>The Chair of St Peter</i>		
23	Wednesday <i>St Polycarp</i>		
24	Thursday		
25	Friday	9.15am	Michael Nertney
26	Saturday	9.15am	Holy Souls Confessions after Mass
8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
27	Sunday	9.00am	Denis Watt
Anniversaries:		Sheila Norman, Irvin Eeles	
		Billy McGuinness, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Betty Griffiths, Rose Marie Bruno, Dave, Pauline Davies	



Please keep the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion, and their families, in your prayers.

Lord Jesus, be with our children as they prepare to encounter you more deeply in the celebration of the Eucharist. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 2-23**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 15:45-49**
- **Gospel ~ Luke 6:27-38**

The next pro-life Holy Hour will take place on Thursday 24th February after 9:30pm Mass at St Cuthbert's RC Church. All welcome. Please come and pray for the Sanctity of life and the unborn.

Please Note - The Northern Cross on sale in the Church Porch, price £1.50

As the Church sets out on the Synodal pathway, we pray that our Heavenly Father gives us the grace and encouragement we need to bring faith, hope and love in abundance to meet the challenges before us. Amen.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - NEW TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED!



It is intended that the Children's Liturgy will recommence in the next few weeks. To help deliver the sessions during Sunday Mass, volunteers are needed to join the team. If you're interested, please contact Julie Hawke on 07778 743517.



Walk Against Hunger – CAFOD . . . CAFOD are asking if people will sign up to 'Walk against Hunger' this Lent. They hope lots of people all over England and Wales will take up the challenge themselves to walk 200km this Lent (walk 5km each day of Lent 40 days - 200km) and get sponsored to raise funds to stamp out hunger, one step at a time. A poster will be displayed on the notice board as soon as we receive it. To sign up or for more information go to cafod.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING UPDATE . . . Three years ago we held a number of workshops after the Sunday morning Masses to renew the DBS clearances for those parish volunteers who needed it to continue their role. This year those clearances will expire. Those who signed up to the DBS Online Update Service (OUS) will have a very quick and easy renewal, just one form to fill in and no need to bring identity documents. Those who didn't sign up will have to renew as before. The Diocese Safeguarding Department is now urging everyone who needs clearance to renew as soon as possible and sign up to the OUS so that in three years' time, renewal will involve minimal work for everyone.

The Diocese would now like everyone who needs clearance to contact them either directly or through me, Maurice, and tell them if you are signed up or not. The diocese cannot check your OUS status without your permission because of the data protection laws. The phone number is 0191 243 3305. My number is 07531 721 274. Please, everyone who intends to continue their role do this as soon as possible. It will reduce parish costs from £10 per person to nothing. Even if your clearance has several months before it expires, still do it now. If you need any help with anything, I will be only too pleased to help since this will cut my work down a huge amount in the future.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY ~ We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.





Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle . . . As we approach the season of Lent, the Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the first part of the booklet of Lenten reflections.

Last year's Lenten booklet was very well received. The past couple of years have probably felt like a very long Lent to many people, so now is a very appropriate liturgical season to express and engage fully with our tribulations. As Christians, we have a hope that shines at the end of every rough road, and we trust that this year's booklet will foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures' relevance to our daily Christian living as we look forward to Easter. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy, religious and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community. To access the booklet visit www.diocesehn.org.uk, select 'Liturgy & Prayer', then scroll down to Lent Reflections.

The Chair of St Peter (Tuesday 22nd February) . . . The Chair of Saint Peter, also known as the Throne of Saint Peter, is a relic conserved in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, This feast brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by Christ on Peter, and continued in an unbroken line down to the present Pope. This feast celebrates his authority and endless efforts to build a strong community around the teachings of Christ and has been celebrated since the earliest times in the Christian era.

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI described the chair as "a symbol of the special mission of Peter and his Successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity." Celebrating the "Chair" of Peter means attributing a strong spiritual significance to it and recognizing it as a privileged sign of the love of God, the eternal Good Shepherd, who wanted to gather his whole Church and lead her on the path of salvation.



O God, Shepherd and Ruler of all the faithful, look favourably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd. Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to the flock entrusted to his care. Raise up in our own day teachers and prophets inspired by your Spirit, whose voices will give strength to your church and proclaim the reality of your reign. Amen.

'The Synod and a listening Church' -Webinar 5th March at 11am

Sr. Nathalie Becquart . . . Sr. Nathalie Becquart is the under secretary to the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican. She is currently organising the synod process and empowering the Church across the world to journey towards the international Synod. **She will be the guest speaker at a webinar on the 5th March 11am-12.30pm for people across the diocese.** A time to listen, discuss and question her on the church and the way forward. To register please email admin@ymt.org requesting 'webinar registration'

Please forward any prayers, thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and I will include them 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.