



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
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Sunday 27th February 2022

The theme of last week's gospel continues this Sunday, which is to treat people with decency and fairness, show compassion and to avoid condemnation and judgement. Jesus used words to heal and to restore and to encourage and support. The season of Lent presents us with a good opportunity to reflect on what needs to change in our lives and to ask for God's grace as we try to become better people.

Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent. May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in those we often ignore. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity and encounter. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give. Amen.




When we receive the ashes we are reminded of two things. First, that Lent is a season of repentance and conversion, a time of blessing and opportunity to return to the Lord our God. Secondly, that we are pilgrims journeying to the Father's house. Ash Wednesday is a moment of grace; a time of hope, blessing and joy. The ashes are a public sign of our faith and penance and of our desire to enter the season of Lent full of hope and expectancy that God will pour out his mercy and grace upon us.

As this holy season begins may we think more of the blessings than of the hardships it will bring. As we receive the ashes on our forehead so may that sign, as the sign of the Cross given at Baptism, remind us that our faith is a source of blessing for us and for others. Amen.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND EXPOSITION . . . Thank you to St Patrick's SVP members for volunteering to lead the first Lenten Stations of the Cross on Thursday 3rd March. The Way of the Cross will begin at 6.00pm, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament till 7.00pm. If your group would like to choose a date to lead please contact Deacon Mick or leave a message on 01642 580171.

8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
27	Sunday	9.00am	Denis Watt
28	Monday		No Mass
1	Tuesday St David		
2	Wednesday Ash Wednesday	7.00pm	Special Intention
3	Thursday	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross and Exposition
4	Friday	9.15am	Michael, Dora & Maureen McWilliams
5	Saturday	9.15am	Jean Hemblade Confessions after Mass
1st SUNDAY OF LENT			
6	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
Anniversaries:		John Leslie Shaw, Patrick Cooper	
		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	



God our Father, You called your servant David to uphold the Christian faith amongst the people of Wales, to encourage them by his observance of fasting and obedience, and to show them compassion through small acts of great love. In this changing world may he help us to hold fast to the values which bring eternal life. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 91:2-3, 13-16**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 15:54-58**
- **Gospel ~ Luke 6:39-45**



ASH WEDNESDAY . . . Mass times for Ash Wednesday are:

9.30am - St. Cuthbert's RC Church, **12 Noon** - St. Mary's RC Church,
7.00pm - St. Patrick's RC Church

Pope Francis has invited everyone to make the 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace. "I encourage believers to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war," he said.

Bishop Robert Byrne has issued a statement of solidarity for Ukraine on behalf of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the local Roman Catholic community. To read the statement please visit the Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan website.

There will be tea, coffee and biscuits after Mass this weekend.

This is the first of two 'one-off only' occasions. The second one will be on Sunday 19th March. These 'pilots' are being held to see if parishioners want to resume refreshments after Sunday Mass, however, volunteers will be needed.

Safeguarding Note: If you intend to continue your Ministry for the next three years please contact the Diocese on 0191 2433305 and give them permission to check your Online Update Service (OUS). Also those who are in the process of updating their certificates please note when your certificate arrives as you will have thirty days to register for the Online Update Service. Details are sent with your certificate.

This Sunday is a day of Special Prayer for the Unemployed.



Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labour; Guide the leaders of our country, that they may make wise decisions which will benefit us all. Finally we ask you Lord to guide us in the knowledge that we all have worth in ourselves and that we are all of equal value in your eyes, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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.



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

Sycamore for Lent . . . "We are pilgrims 'journeying together' whose listening and speaking is that of those who seek and not that of those who believe they have found." This quote leapt out at me when I attended Synod meetings. I have been extremely privileged to host two online sycamore.fm get togethers. Sycamore opens up the heart of the Christian message and helps people to grow in faith. The films give an inspiring vision of Catholic Christianity. They involve some clear teaching and thought-provoking testimonies. The discussion groups, even online, help people grow in friendship and build a sense of community. This was evident in the people who took part. They showed an amazing openness and willingness to share and listen to each other's stories. It epitomised the "journeying together" in the quote above.

I invite you to join me on such a journey this Lenten season. We will gather online each Sunday from 6th March to 10th April at 4.00pm until 5.15pm. This is a free course, registration closes Wednesday 2nd March. To register visit the Diocesan website www/diocesehn.org.uk go to the Menu and select 'What's On'. On page two you will be able to register for the course.

(Mike Weetman Co-ordinator for Sycamore, Vicariate for Faith & Mission)

Women's World Day of Prayer . . . 2022 is a special year for the World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI). These 'Home Nations' have prepared the World Day of Prayer service, which takes place on **Friday 4th March**. The worship service shares the letters of encouragement sent to women who faced suffering and injustice. Their stories of faith contemplate issues that are shared by women and girls around the world and that continue to challenge us to prayerful action. To read more visit www.worlddayofprayer.net. A service will be held at Norton Methodist Church on the 4th March at 2pm. All welcome.



The artwork for the World Day of Prayer, created by Angie Fox using a combination of embroidery, appliqué and metalwork, depicts key words such as; **Freedom**, represented as an open door to a pathway across an endless open vista; **Justice**, represented by broken chains; God's **Peace and Forgiveness**, represented by the dove of peace and a peace lily breaking through the pavement. Over all, a rainbow which has come to represent all these things from the story of Noah through to the modern day. It is a symbol of the overreaching love of God.

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. 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.

Vacancy in the Diocese . . . The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint a new Head of Finance. The role will be based in the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle, and agile working is available. Full-time or thirty hours a week. Closing date for applications: Saturday 12th March 2022. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301.

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.