



Sunday 5th February 2023

St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

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Jesus used the image of light when speaking to his disciples. He told them that they were the light of the world, just as he was their light. By imitating his teaching and example in their own lives they could offer guidance and direction to other people. The light of Christ is God sharing his life and love with us. It is the life of Christ that is shared with us in the Eucharist. Jesus invites us to be the 'salt of the earth,' to be people whose lives are centred on helping others and making the places around us places of kindness, compassion and hope.

Today is a Day of Prayer for Racial Justice Sunday, it is the day the church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme for 2023 is "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together." It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. Racial Justice Sunday is a day for all churches to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for the gifts and beauty of human diversity, and to commit to end racism and acts of discrimination.


God of our past, present and future, you created each one of us in your image and likeness, help us to recognise you in each person. As we pray for an end to suffering caused by racism lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another and work together, so that we create a future based on justice and healing, where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. Amen.

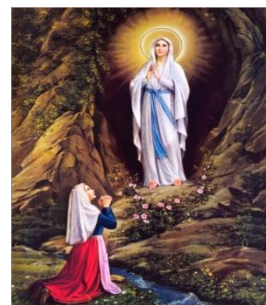


A feature of our parish since its inception over 50 years ago has been the involvement of parishioners in the running of both the spiritual and social aspects of parish life. In the background for many years there has been a small cohort involved in the management of our premises in accordance with diocesan and statutory requirements, from church upkeep and building maintenance to paying the bills. For the last couple of years or so, much of this has been put on hold because of Covid, but now things are returning to normal and the parish premises are starting to be fully used again.

However there needs to be an appraisal of how we manage this. Most of the cohort mentioned above have been involved for many years. Ill health and old age are starting to take their toll and so we may need to introduce some new blood into our 'back room' set up. Involvement would mean not necessarily being able to 'do things' but also being able to get things done. So if you feel you can contribute to this 'behind the scenes' team, please contact Bill Douglas on 0795 4422636.

The Men's Club Social is on Saturday, 18th February, in the Parish Centre, 8pm. There will be music, a quiz and bingo. £5 per couple. Everyone welcome.

5 th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
5	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
6	Monday <i>St Paul Miki and Companions</i>	9.15am	Dennis Gander
7	Tuesday		
8	Wednesday		
9	Thursday	6.00pm	SVP Rosary
10	Friday <i>St Scholastica</i>		No Mass
11	Saturday <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	9.15am	John & Mollie Cawood
6 th Sunday of the Year			
12	Sunday	9.00am	Ann Harbron
Anniversaries:		Bernard Hillerby, John Duffey	
		Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Betty Griffiths, Rose Marie Bruno, Brian Lee,	
Reader for Sunday 12 th February ~ Christine Pope			
For Parish Centre bookings please ring Rebecca on 07514 335003			



Saturday 11th February is the 31st World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care.

Lord, in all pain, weariness and anxiety teach us to yield ourselves to your never failing care, knowing that your love and power surround us, trusting in your wisdom and providence to give us health, strength and peace. We thank you for carers whose love and compassion bring spiritual comfort in times of need. Amen

Thank you to St Patrick's school children for composing the bidding prayers this weekend.

New stock has arrived in the Parish Shop, including First Holy Communion gifts and cards. All welcome.



CAFOD Big Lent Walk . . . Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Go to CAFOD website for further information <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Church Action on Poverty Northeast are organising an event for Poverty Action Sunday. This will be at St Cuthbert's Church, Albion Road West, North Shields, NE29 0JB on Sunday 19 February at 3.00pm. The event will be a combination of prayer, shared experience, song, prayer, music and poetry to acknowledge the reality of those struggling during this current crisis. For more information, e-mail: northshields.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk or tel. Fr Chris Hughes 0191 257 5801.