



Sunday 16th April 2023

St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

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The gospel for this Sunday's Mass, after narrating the first appearance of our Lord to the disciples, focuses on the figure of the apostle Thomas, who was not present on that occasion. When the others, overflowing with joy, tell him they have seen the Lord, Thomas refuses to believe them. Jesus returned when Thomas was there and invited him to touch his wounds and see that it was really him. This act of compassion and patience led Thomas to proclaim, "My Lord and my God." Thomas' story shows us that God's mercy involves more than just the forgiveness of our sins, it also involves his compassion for our weakness and, like Thomas, it allows us to experience Jesus' divine life more fully so that we can follow him wherever he leads us.

Risen Lord Jesus, in the evening when the disciples met, frightened behind locked doors, You came to them with words of peace. Breathe your Spirit of peace and hope on all whose lives feel locked in and who struggle to cope. Life-giving God, We give you thanks, for Jesus has risen. He comes to us with words of peace. Amen.



After Mass this Sunday there will be a Special Collection for the Northern Brethren Fund. (Sick & Retired Priests). The Sick and Retired Clergy Support Service provides care and support for clergy in times of ill health and in their retirement and old age, after their lifetime of service and devotion to Christ, His Church and His People. They also provide emotional and practical support to those considering or planning for retirement. The Fund will remain open until 5th May for anyone who might like to make further or individual donations.

St. Bede's form groups from Our Lady and St. Bede RC School would love to invite you all to a very special Mass. The Mass will take place here in school at 2.20pm on Wednesday 19th April. All of the pupils in St. Bede's form groups have prepared this Mass. It will include introduction, readings, reflection and bidding prayers. We would love to see as many of you as possible at this Mass and we thank you for always showing us your care and support.

SPUC National Prayer Campaign . . . Stockton Branch is organising a local Prayer Relay on Thursday, 27 April, 55th Anniversary of the Abortion Act, in support of a National Prayer Campaign to pray for an end to the culture of death and for a flourishing of the culture of life in this country. This day will be divided into 15 minute time slots and the prayers can be said at home or in church. If you would like to take part please sign up on the form at the back of church. Many thanks.

Pro-Life Chains . . . The SPUC annual Pro-Life Chain to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the implementation of the Abortion Act will take place on Saturday, 29 April, from 11 am to 12 pm on Marton Road, Middlesbrough. If you would like to join us please meet in the car park at St Thomas More's Church, Middlesbrough, at 10.50 am. For further information please contact Eileen on 07890 721444.





2nd Sunday of Easter			
16	Sunday	9.00am 3.00pm	Albert Patterson Divine Mercy Holy Hour
17	Monday		No Mass
18	Tuesday		
19	Wednesday		
20	Thursday	6.-7pm	Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion
21	Friday		No Mass
22	Saturday		No Mass
3rd Sunday of Easter			
23	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
Anniversaries:		Catherine McIntosh	
		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, Kathleen Hanley	
Reader for Sunday 23rd April ~ Alfred McAndrew			
For Parish Centre bookings please ring Rebecca on 07514 335003			

Lord of Mercy, help me today to begin to understand what mercy is all about. Help me to first be open to the mercy You wish to bestow upon me. As I receive Your own Divine Mercy, help me also to be an instrument of that mercy for all to see. Jesus, my Lord and God, I trust in You. Amen

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for April

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Divine Mercy Sunday was celebrated for years as a private devotion but in the year 2000 Pope Saint John Paul II, who himself was an extraordinary instrument of God's mercy, put this feast on the Church's official calendar as he raised Sister Faustina to sainthood. It is our Saviour loving presence, the incarnation of God's mercy, which changes our lives. For when we go about the world, we are filled with that merciful compassionate love, and it is this that changes the world. Jesus has made us vessels of his own Divine Mercy.

There will be a Holy Hour for Divine Mercy this Sunday, 16th April, beginning with the Divine Mercy Prayer at 3pm. All welcome.



Cleveland Circle of the Newman Association . . . The next talk will be on Wednesday 19th April. Angela Wills will talk on "**Dorothy Day - a new saint for our times.**" Dorothy Day was an American journalist and "A Servant of God." Angela Wills is a member of the Spirituality Formation Team in the Portsmouth Diocese. As usual the talk is open to all and will be in St Mary's Cathedral Hall starting 7.45pm (coffee/tea from 7.30pm). We look forward to seeing you and please bring a friend.

Open House at Minsteracres . . Monday 1st May, 10am to 4pm. Have you ever wanted to look round our house and gardens and discover hidden secrets from the past? Now is your chance! With exhibitions, tours, moments of reflection, refreshments and lovely home cooking to sample. Donations welcome. Visit minsteracres.org, select retreats to book a place for the day.