

Sunday 4th February 2024

St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

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The heart of Jesus went out to those in need. The healing He communicated was not only physical but was also a healing of anxiety, guilt and all that weighs us down. A strengthening of ourselves that gives a lift for the future, this happens still in His care for people today. The Gospel stories tell us that as well as healing, casting out demons and preaching, Jesus was in the habit of going off to a quiet place to pray. This contact with the Father is a much needed source of energy and inspiration that gives Jesus the ability to fulfil His mission. We too can turn regularly to the Lord in prayer so that He can replenish our spirits and nourish our hearts, it is time spent in quiet prayer that can help us to discern the priorities for each day.

St. Teresa'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 7th February. All of the pupils in St. Teresa's form groups have prepared this Mass. It will include introduction, readings, reflections and bidding prayers. Our school Praise and Worship group will be leading the music and Fr. Ollie will be celebrating the mass. 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.

Important Safeguarding Update . . . The safeguarding office for our diocese has decided to spread the huge volume of work involved updating several thousand volunteers every 3 years. Accordingly, they have asked parish reps to go through their parish lists and ask everyone who's valid clearance is 18 months old, or more, and are registered with the On-Line Update Service (OUS) to UPDATE NOW! The unregistered can run to the end of their three years, then update as normal. This will mean that a smaller percentage of the diocese will be dealt with NOW and a smaller percentage in 18 months' time. All clearances will be for the usual 3 years. For those who are registered with OUS already, your work is very easy. You will be handed a SAE with one easy form to fill in. It is the form you have filled in numerous times and then you place it in the envelope and post it off. That's it for three more years. Those not registered will continue until their 3 years are up. As always, I will help all who need it. Just let me know. Thanks for all the work you do for the parishes and RASPS. (Maurice 07531 721 274.)

Marriage Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. It is celebrated this year from Wednesday 7th to Wednesday 14th February. Bishop Stephen will celebrate **Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 17th February 2024** at 12.00pm to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage and Family Life.

God our Father, we pray in thanksgiving for the vocation to marriage and for each couple that you join together in order to make a family. We ask that every marriage brings each couple closer to you and closer to holiness. We pray for those who are struggling in their marriage at present, that they can make it through this tough time and support each other in their differences. Amen.

There is a Holy Hour at St. Joseph's RC Church on Sunday, 4th February, at 4pm. All are welcome

5 th Sunday of the Year			
4	Sunday	9.00am	Wendy Clarke
5	Monday	9.15am 5.30pm	Ray Chesser (SVP) Medjugorje Rosary ~ All welcome
6	Tuesday		
7	Wednesday		
8	Thursday	6.00pm	SVP Rosary & Healing Exposition
9	Friday	9.15am	Nicola Holmes
10	Saturday	9.15am	Fred & Bessie Cain
6 th Sunday of the Year			
11	Sunday	9.00am	Doreen Hill (SVP)
Anniversaries:		Rosa White, John Duffey	
NOW THE WAY THE		Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Betty Griffiths, Rose Marie Bruno, Brian Lee, Kathleen Hanley, Samuel Kiberu Brian Wetherell, Sheila Kerr	
Reader for Sunday 11 th February ~ Patricia Egerton			
Feast Days: 5 th Feb. St Agatha: 6 th Feb. St Paul Miki and Companions: 10 th Feb. St Scholastica.			
For Parish Centre bookings please ring Rebecca on 07514 335003			



Next Sunday is World Day of Prayer for the Sick and a Day of Special Prayer for the Unemployed.

Pope's Prayer Intention for February

~ For the Terminally Ill ~

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

White Flower Appeal

A big thank you to all who supported the SPUC White Flower Appeal, the total raised through your generosity was a fantastic £444.80 which is greatly appreciated.

The Masses on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, will be at St. Mary's RC Church at 12 Noon and St. Patrick's RC Church at 7pm.

Diocesan Lenten Reflection Booklets . . . Last year's Lent booklets were very well received. As we prepare to commemorate Jesus' salvific death and resurrection at Easter, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of purpose and hope amongst the people of the Diocese. The reflections have been written by a variety of people to express the richness of our diocesan community. Please visit the Diocesan website to access the Lenten resources.



St. Patrick's Men's Club Present 'An Evening with Paul Tilley.' He is a renowned and accomplished musician, composer and singer. Saturday 24^{th} February, 8pm to 11pm in the Parish Centre. Order your tickets now (£6). Contact Ken Marr, tel. 01642 602336. Please bring your own drink and food.

Double knitting wool needed in white and pastel colours for new baby matinee coats and hats. Do you have any spare double knitting wool that you can donate to help Paulene Major carry on her loving knitting project for babies in need? (Only white and pastel colours please.) Please leave in the church porch marked for the attention Paulene Major. Thank you.