



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

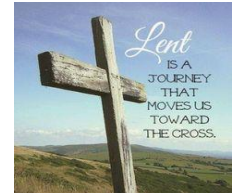
Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper

Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 21st March 2021

As our Lenten journey brings us nearer to Jerusalem, this week's readings promise us the hope of forgiveness and eternal life as we try to stay alongside Jesus in his suffering. In the Gospel, Jesus describes the grain of wheat that dies and is buried before it bears fruit. In the same way, Jesus himself will die and rise again, drawing all of us to him. Like Jesus, we, too, are made for eternal life, and are united with him as we serve him. This week, let us ask the Lord for strength as we try to follow him in love and obedience. We pray that he will keep us safely by his side even when our own path leads us to share in his suffering. Jesus rises above his troubled heart and shows that the way to peace and fulfilment lies not in avoiding the cost, but rather in following God's will. This is the way of love and all who would follow Jesus must walk this path, by so doing they participate in God's ultimate victory over evil.

Lord, we stand at the beginning of a new week. As you journeyed on trusting in your Father's love, so let us also go on in faith and hope into the days ahead with all their joys and sorrows. Guide us on our way with your Spirit's presence within us. Amen



During this time of Lent, we pray that forgiveness be at the heart of our family life so that we can grow to know the Lord's mercy and forgiveness together.

Lord hear our prayer

With sadness we remember those who have died. Give us thankful hearts for the privilege of knowing them and strengthen our faith in your Son who died for us.

Lord hear our prayer





HOLY WEEK SERVICES – Tickets are needed for every Liturgy except the Easter Vigil

Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St. Cuthbert's ~ 6.00pm
Good Friday	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	St. Mary's ~ 3.00pm
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil	St. Patrick's ~ 8.00pm There will be no Mass at 4pm
Easter Sunday		St. Patrick's ~ 9.00am

Deacon Mick Wood will be leading the Stations of the Cross in St Patrick's Church on Good Friday at 12 noon.

5th SUNDAY OF LENT			
21	Sunday	9.00am	Julia McAndrew
22	Monday	9.15am	Tillie & Charlie Stephens
23	Tuesday		
24	Wednesday		
25	Thursday <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>		
26	Friday	9.15am	Joe Gallagher
27	Saturday Vigil Mass	3.30pm 4.00pm	Stations of the Cross Niamh Salter Confessions after Mass



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 			
28	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
Recently Deceased:		Eric Burns, Fr Wilf Elkin May they rest in peace. Amen	
Anniversaries:		Thomas Cooper, Sheila Willis, Joe Gallagher, Edward Hills, John Leslie Shaw	
		Riska Okninski Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Veronica Connors, Betty Griffiths, Rose Marie Bruno, Teresa Carrick	

God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year and all its problems. Help us to focus on what we have, not on what is removed or changed. We are constantly aware of how much we need You, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days. Embrace us so that we know Your loving presence within us and among us. Amen

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Jeremiah 31:31-34**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 50:3-4, 12-15**
- **Second Reading ~ Hebrews 5:7-9**
- **Gospel ~ John 12:20-30**



The new church envelopes for 2021/22 are at the back of the church ready for collection. The box numbers have been adjusted, you might not have the same number as last year. If anybody would like a set of envelopes or to set up a standing order or to Gift Aid, please email or phone parish office on 01642 580171. Thank you

The time for the Pro-Life Holy Hour this Sunday is now 4pm. Father Shaun is leading the Pro-Life Holy Hour. Access via diocese website live streaming Newcastle, St Teresa face book. Please join in praying for unborn and sanctuary of life.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD . . . The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. When Mary agreed to the Angel's request to be the Mother of God, she did not know what the future might hold. She had to repeat that 'Yes' daily, even to standing beneath the cross of Calvary. None of us can see into the future, we need the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit. Mary's strength and humility can be ours if we listen to the will of God and follow it as she did.

Almighty Father, You have revealed the beauty of Your power by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth and making her the mother of our Saviour. May the prayers of Mary bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the void of incompleteness with the presence of the Child. Amen.



SPUC CLUB DRAW RESULT ~ 15th March 2021

1st Prize	No. 45	Lorraine Toole
2nd Prize	No. 44	Pat Kennedy
3rd Prize	No. 14	Veronica Bowron

Many thanks to all who support the Club Draw, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales . . . The following is taken from correspondence from Cardinal Vincent Nichols. **"We welcome the designation of Tuesday 23rd March** as a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minutes silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm. We ask you all to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer. In reflection we ponder on all that has taken place; in prayer we bring this to our Heavenly Father . . . We reflect in sorrow on all those who have died, whether family members, friends or those unknown to us personally. We pray for them, asking our Father to welcome them into their heavenly home, the destiny for which God first gave us the gift of life. We reflect with compassion on all those who have suffered during this last year, whether through illness, stress, financial disaster or family tensions . . . May Tuesday 23rd March be a great day of prayer that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God's Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come."



The Stations of the Cross are a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. When we pray the Stations of the Cross we are tracing the footsteps of Christ, in his journey from being condemned to death to his resurrection. In knowing that our Lord and Saviour died for us, meditating on the Stations of the Cross becomes an experience where we can unite with Christ.

We adore you, O Lord, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.



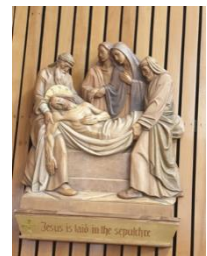
Thirteenth Station ~ Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Mary takes the broken body of her son in her arms. In her grief she remembers the words he spoke over the bread, "This is my body, broken for you." She remembers that little baby in Bethlehem worshipped by shepherds and kings. She remembers the days when the crowds followed him and she is full of sorrow.

Help us Lord to accept the partings that must come. Help us to offer our loved ones back to you as Mary offered her son. Faced with the silence of death, let us not despair but find hope. Help us to trust in you, the Lord of the living and the dead.

Fourteenth Station ~ Jesus is Laid in The Tomb

They take the body of Jesus to its resting place. All those who had loved him felt emptied and exhausted. There seemed no longer any sense or purpose in anything, but at least no more harm could come to him. They closed the tomb and left. In this final act of surrender who would have imaged this tomb would soon be empty or that Jesus would show himself alive to his disciples.



Jesus, each day you put before us life or death. Help us always to choose life. We pray for all those we have known who have died, and for those who have no one to pray for them. May we have eyes to see the promise of new life that the darkness can hold.

I love you, Lord Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love You always and then do with me what you will. Amen.



During Holy Week we follow Christ from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his death and Resurrection. If you visit the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales website, choose 'What's On' and then select 'Vatican Live' you can take part in all the key Papal events and liturgies. These will be broadcast live by the Vatican and will have an English language audio. Sign language streaming is also available.

www.cbcew.org.uk

Thank You to all St. Patrick's parishioners who are delivering bulletins, providing treats and for all other acts of kindness during these difficult times.

Please forward any prayers, thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and they will be included 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.