



Catholic Parishes of ST. JOSEPH SACRED HEART ST. PATRICK

Stanley

Byermoor

Dipton

Pontop Partnership Dean: **Father Dermott Donnelly**
Parish Office: 01207 299012 (Open Tuesday-Friday)
Email: stjosephstanley@hotmail.com
Deacon Paul Nichol (07906 489152)

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

20th March

Listen to the Word 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15 Psalm 102 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 Luke 13: 1-9

We planted the sapling one October day when the sun was still warm and the ground heavy with autumn rain. It survived that first winter and when the spring came it began to grow and take leaf. For four years it grew stronger and took to covering the ground around until it was as high as it was wide but of fruit, we saw nothing. Each autumn the leaves fell, each spring they returned but for all we fed it and pruned it into shape still no fruit came. It stood in the centre of the garden, in the best spot, and we cared for it as we cared for the children who played in its shade. We gave it everything; it gave us nothing.

Then, one summer, we decided that it had to go. We took the axe and, as I was about to take the first cut my wife cried "Stop", I lowered the axe and gazed at the bush, there in the centre were buds of life, tender white flowers springing on the old wood. As we watched over those summer days the white flowers blossomed and that August the fruits came, bright and red, the bush seemed to be burning with the promise of a harvest to come.

Children's Faith is like that sapling; beginning with much promise and then, as the growing years go by, and we feed our children with our prayers and our dreams, nothing much seems to happen. They grow straight and tall, coming into their beauty and grace, but faith sometimes seems to lie fallow and no fruit comes. Then, as the rain and the sun weave their magical ways suddenly faith blossoms and we gaze in wonder at the awakening of God's grace in our children's lives.

Sometimes faith grows quickly, sometimes it grows over many years; when the days of childhood are left long behind, but, if faith is planted with love then someday the bush will burn and the fruit will be rich and plentiful. God must be a gardener, planting saplings of faith in every nook and cranny he can find, he uses rich soil and arid desert, he plants in spring, summer, autumn and winter, he sits patiently waiting for the blossom to show, sometimes it comes late, but never forget that, with God's love, the fruit will eventually arrive.

David Frank

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT NEED HEALING IN OUR PARISHES:

Anne Kennedy, Margaret Convey, Martin Bryce, Maureen Dixon, Danny Fagan and Mark Pinkerton

Saturday 19 th March St Joseph, Husband Of The Blessed Virgin Mary	St Joseph's Church Sacred Heart Church	11:00am 4:30pm	Mass: PRIVATE INTENTION Mass: MICHAEL MORRIS
Sunday 20 th March 3rd Sunday Of Lent	St Patrick's Church St Joseph's Church St Patrick's Church	9:00am 11:00am 5:00pm	Mass: RICHARD CHRISTON Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Stations Of The Cross and Benediction
Monday 21 st March			
Tuesday 22 nd March	St Joseph Church	9:30am	Mass: JULIA PROUD
Wednesday 23 rd March	St Joseph's Church	9:30am	Mass: WAYNE KEENAN
Thursday 24 th March	St Joseph's Church	9:30am	Mass: LAURENCE BARRON Followed by Exposition Of The Blessed Sacrament
Friday 25 th March The Annunciation Of The Lord	St Joseph's Church	9:30am	Mass: FOR PEACE AND THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE
Saturday 26 th March	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP
Sunday 27 th March 4th Sunday Of Lent	St Patrick's Church St Joseph's Church St Patrick's Church	9:00am 11:00am 5:00pm	Mass: MONA HERDMAN Mass: WILLIAM HURRY Stations of the Cross and Benediction

WAIT A MINUTE Make the journey of Lent special this year by checking out the daily YMT 'Wait A Minute' short reflections. Visit our Facebook page every day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday! journey with us!

UKRAINE APPEAL Many thanks to everyone who collected, donated, packed and delivered donations for Ukraine to the Polish Centre in Newcastle. It is much appreciated. Any further support will be in cash, donated through Parishes to the Diocese who will take the donations and remit them to CAFOD, who as a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee, is a major co-ordinating partner in the efforts to ensure that support reaches those who most need it in an appropriate and swift manner. The donations will be used by CAFOD to provide displaced families with food, water, healthcare, shelter, and clothing.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. Your generous gifts will ensure that CAFOD's local experts, like Sister Anthonia in Sierra Leone, can support families with training in growing and making healthy food so that children can grow up big and strong. You can still donate on the CAFOD website (cafod.org.uk/lent) or join CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger to raise vital funds to tackle extreme hunger and its causes.

EMMAUS CONFIRMATIONS FOR PUPILS AT ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL: The Enrolment Mass for candidates preparing for Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at 7 pm on Tuesday 29 March at St. Joseph's church, Blaydon. Candidates, parents and sponsors are invited to attend. (No booking required.) Please be reminded the Emmaus Retreat (26-27 March) has been postponed. Further details will be announced in due course. Have you chosen your Confirmation name? There are books and online resources available to help, or ask for guidance from your parish catechist or school chaplain.

Do you feel called to accompany those seeking inner healing? The Diocese will be providing training in this ministry, initially to help you discern how God may be directing you. A residential training course will take place at Minsteracres Retreat Centre and will run across 2 sessions: Session 1: 22nd - 23rd April 2022, Session 2: 15th - 16th July 2022. For more information look for the poster on your parish notice board, or contact the Vicariate for Faith & Mission admin team who can provide further details and application forms. adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) is an international charitable organisation working with people in need. St Joseph's Conference of the SVP works within our family of Parishes, visiting housebound, sick and lonely people in their own homes, or care homes. We may also be able help families in need. Do you have a family member or friend who would like SVP members to visit them for a friendly chat? Or do you have a couple of hours to spare, and would like to volunteer to visit parishioners with us? To find out more please telephone Christine in the Parish Office or Barbara on 237910. Thank you

Catholic Women Speak, an international forum for dialogue and awareness-raising around issues to do with women in the Catholic Church, invites Catholic women to take part in a survey that will form part of a submission to the Synodal process. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and is available in six languages, with further information available here: <https://catholicwomenspeak.com/catholic-women-international-synod-survey>