



Catholic Parishes of ST. JOSEPH SACRED HEART ST. PATRICK

Stanley

Byermoor

Dipton

Pontop Partnership Dean: **Father Dermott Donnelly**
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17th April

Listen to the Word Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34, 37-43 Psalm 117 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-9

Faith has many forms; we each believe in the same things but our focus, our foundations differ. There are probably as many different forms of faith as there are Christians. We each come from different experiences and the changes that help to evolve us as human beings also have a unique effect on how we believe. To some the Eucharist is the centre of faith, to another scripture, to a third, prayer or working for the poor and marginalised. We all worship the same God but our worship is formed by the way we approach Him.

The Gospel passage today is based around the resurrection experiences of three people; Mary Magdalene, Peter and “the other disciple, the one Jesus loved” who we recognise as the apostle John. They each see the same event but their response to what they have seen is different. This reminds us that each one of us approaches God from a different perspective, this does not change God but it changes us.

Mary is a very courageous woman; someone with a great sense of righteousness; she knows that the burial of Jesus was far from perfect, that the careful preparation of the body was incomplete, and she is determined to correct the situation. She is not frightened to go to the tomb as perhaps the apostles are. She knows what is right and proper and nothing will prevent her from her duty. The tomb is empty and Mary rushes back to rouse the apostles to action; in another Gospel Mary returns to the tomb and has an encounter with Jesus who she recognises when he speaks. Many others are brought to faith through the voice of Jesus speaking to us in the Gospels.

Peter and John, in contrast to Mary, are initially frightened to visit the tomb. It is only through Mary that they gain the courage to go and see. Again, we have a contrast, Peter is the one who needs physical evidence, he inspects the grave cloths, the empty tomb, John however believes without seeing this evidence. Some of us are like Peter, some like John; this does not make us less faithful only different, and our faith overcomes difference because we all believe in the empty tomb and the ever new gift of Easter.

David Frank

Saturday 16 th April Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	St. Joseph Church	7:00pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP
Sunday 17 ^h April Easter Sunday	St Patrick’s Church Sacred Heart Church	9:00am 11:00am	Mass: CHIRNSIDE FAMILY Mass: SARAH & JOHN NELSON
Monday 18 th April			
Tuesday 19 th April	St Joseph Church	9:30am	Mass: MURRAY
Wednesday 20 th April	St Joseph’s Church	9:30am	Mass: THANKS TO STAFF OF WARD C33 AT SUNDERLAND ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR EXCELLENT CARE AND ATTENTION GIVEN
Thursday 21 st April	St Joseph’s Church	9:30am	Mass: BETTY BRADLEY Followed by Exposition Of The Blessed Sacrament
Friday 22 nd April	PRIVATE		Mass: PRIVATE INTENTION (M.L.)
Saturday 23 rd April	Sacred Heart Church	4:30pm	Mass: ETTIE & JOHN BOYD
Sunday 24 th April 2nd Sunday Of Easter	St Patrick’s Church St Joseph’s Church St Joseph’s Church St Patrick’s Church	9:00am 11:00am 3:00pm 5:00pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP Mass: CLAIRE MILLS FIESTA MASS & CONSECRATION TO THE DIVINE MERCY Rosary and Benediction

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT NEED HEALING IN OUR PARISHES:

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

MASS INTENTIONS for our parishes are most welcome. Please be aware that weekend Masses are booked at least 2 months in advance.

APRIL 2022 SPECIAL COLLECTION Sick and Retired Priests (24th April open until 15 May).

FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY On the 24th of April, we join the universal Church in celebrating the feast of the Divine Mercy. The Filipino community within the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle will enthrone in St. Joseph's Stanley the image of the Divine Mercy. An hour before the 3pm Mass, there will be Confessions and praying of the Divine Mercy chaplet. Simple refreshments will follow after the Mass. Everyone is invited.

SAVE THE DATE There will be a special Mass for Father Dermott on the evening of 27th June in celebration of the 30th anniversary of his ordination. There will be more details to follow in the coming weeks.

Proud Catholics - Thine be the Glory Do you identify as LGBT+ or are you questioning your sexual or gender identity? Support group will meet on Tuesday 19th April at 7.30pm at St Andrew's RC Church, Worswick St. Join us as we journey together in hope through the blessed Easter season. For more details, phone Isabel on 07858 934457.

FAITH WITNESS AGAINST HASSOCKFIELD A monthly faith witness against Hassockfield is held at the barrier to Hassockfield on the first Sunday of each month at 3:30pm.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION is on the weekend of 23rd / 24th April 2022 The Northern Brethren Fund, (NBF) which looks after our sick and re tired priests, gives out approximately £15,000 per month to our Sick and Retired Priests. We need your support to keep this going. In recent years our collections have been very small ... In 2021, the Collection raised just £5,928; in 2020, it was £7,908; and in £2019, it was £21,465. TOTAL in 3 years = £35,301 Each sick and retired priest can receive a grant of £450 each month. We have forty seven retired priests. So your financial support is greatly needed. We need your support to pay out the grants to our Sick and Retired Priests. More information is available from the NBF Treasurer, Father Ian Jackson on 0191 586 4319

VACANCIES The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

Property Surveyor :Full-time, fixed term contract – 2 years. Flexible working is available. Closing date for applications: 28 April 2022.

Hexham, St Mary: **Parish Secretary** – 20 hours a week and also **Cleaner** – 14 hours a week. Closing date for applications: 4 May 2022 Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301.

BEQUESTS UPDATE Father Derek Peel very generously left 2 Viscount classical organs to the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle, one of which is currently used in St Patrick's Church and will remain there. We are pleased to be able to update parishioners that the 2nd organ has been relocated to a new home in St Joseph's Church, Gateshead. It will initially stand near the Lady Chapel and then later it will be lifted into the Gallery. A small brass plate will be fixed to the side of the organ naming Father Peel as the donor.

GOOD PRACTICE The following points are suggested by the Diocese as methods of good practice against the transmission of the virus in our churches

- sanitise Hands entering Church.
- The necessity for social distancing is removed so churches should operate up to their normal capacity figures.
- Face coverings are recommended during the celebration of Mass.
- Holy Communion is to be distributed to the faithful under one kind only i.e. the Sacred Host.
- Those who distribute Holy Communion should wear a face covering and sanitise their hands before doing so.
- There is a general encouragement for the congregation to wear face coverings while singing. However, it is recognised that not everyone will feel able to do this.

Parish Collections	Offertory totals 10/04/22	Weekly Standing Order	Holy Places
St Joseph's	£443.95	£197.25	£19.00
St Patrick's	£145.50	£157.15	£25.20
Sacred Heart	£102.50	£57.69	-----