

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - 23rd February 2020



A Better Attitude

How do we honestly react to this Sunday's gospel reading? It's very likely that some of us may have our doubts about some of it. We may have trouble with what Jesus says about loving our enemies, turning the other cheek, giving without expecting repayment, refusing to pass judgement on people and praying for those who treat us badly.

If we turn the other cheek aren't we likely to get hit again? And if we're not supposed to judge people surely the prisons would be empty and criminals could get away with anything? Jesus is not asking us to be uncritical when something is unjust or evil, nor is he asking us to be completely passive in the face of physical abuse or danger. What Jesus is doing is asking us to recognise where many of us are in our behaviour a lot of the time. What he's trying to do is move us from one set of attitudes to a better set of attitudes. We can't assume that the attitudes we have now are in all respects right.

Let's take a look at where we are. We're not bad people but think of the energy we waste on holding onto grudges or trying to settle old scores. And why do we waste time passing judgement on people when we're not equipped with X-Ray powers? We don't know what is going on internally, in other people. This lack of charity, this meanness of spirit is the kind of thing Jesus is trying to eliminate in our lives. The reluctance to forgive and the rush to judgement weren't just confined to his time. They are alive and well in our time too!

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)
502196

Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

Website: www.pontoppartnership.org.uk

Facebook: Pontop Partnership

GENERAL NOTICES

Around the Partnership

A date for your diary!: The Novena to The Holy Face will take place each day at St. Patrick's Church at Noon, commencing Sunday, February 16th until Monday, February 24. A Partnership Mass to celebrate the Feast of The Holy Face will take place at St. Patrick's on Shrove Tuesday (February 25th) at 10am and include an opportunity to be anointed with Holy Face Oil. All are welcome to take part in both events. Refreshments and a bookstall will be available. See noticeboard for further details. Maggie Quinn (01207) 506425

The Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary: Will take place through-out the country on Sunday 29th March at 12 Noon. We are invited to rededicate ourselves, as the people of this country, to Our Lady. Bishop Robert will celebrate the 11.30am Mass in St Mary's Cathedral and asks every parish in the Diocese to take part by making the communal 'Act of entrustment' during Mass. We are asked to pray the Angelus each day, in preparation for the rededication.

The annual pilgrimage to Walsingham: will take place from Friday 21st to Monday 24th August 2020. The cost will be £205.00 standard and £255 ensuite. We are limited to 49 places. This means that places will be allocated strictly on a first come first served basis. Would those wishing to take part in the pilgrimage please contact Jim McArdle on 501938 as soon as possible. A deposit of £50 is payable when booking your place.

St Patrick's 60th Anniversary Pie and Pea Quiz Night: Saturday 29th February. £5 per head including glass of wine/beer on arrival and pie and peas. Over 16s only. 6 Players per team. Please note only drinks purchased at the bar can be consumed. Email ted_young@hotmail.com (underscore _ after ted) or contact St Patrick's Parish Office 01207 502196 to book a team. Tickets available from the Parish Office or the Piety Shop at St Patrick's. All Partnership parishes are welcome.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations: Come Celebrate St Patrick's Day with a traditional Irish Ceilidh which is to be held at St Patrick's Church Hall Consett on Saturday 21st March 7.30pm until 11pm. Dancing to Highly Acclaimed "The Hedgehog's Skin Band" you're sure to have a fun packed energetic night. Tickets are Adults £5 each/Children £2 each. Bring your own food (but not your own drink) Bar, raffle and Bingo. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are available at the back of church after mass or from any of the Parish Offices.

Tea On Tuesdays: welcomes you at 2:00pm on 3rd March 2020 in St Patrick's Hall Lounge. This month we will spend time together with a couple of games of Bingo, our usual raffle, refreshments and a chance to catch up with our friends. See you there!

St Mary's Convent Valentine's day afternoon tea: Our Easter Fayre and egg hunt will take place on the 13th April from 1.30pm.

The National Novena to St. Joseph: will take place from 10th-18th March 2020 at St. Joseph's Church, Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill

Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Novena Director, St. Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

Around the Diocese

Lenten Retreat For Young Adults (aged 18-35) at Stanbrook Abbey 6th-8th March 2020. £30 per person. For more information and to book, contact Sophie Taylor.

Email: spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk. Phone: 0191 4100776.

Diocesan Church Music Association: The Diocesan Church Music Association have set up a link on their page of the Diocesan website, asking parish musicians to sign up to give them an idea of the resources around the Diocese and to keep people up to date with news of workshops etc. If you would like to sign up the form can be found on the Diocesan website, clicking on 'Departments', then 'Liturgy', then Diocesan Church Music Association. Scrolling down will reveal a paragraph headed 'Join our mailing list'.

Catholic Miracle Rally (north): on Sunday 15th March 2020, All Hallows Catholic High School, Crabtree Avenue, Preston PR1 OLN. Information leaflets at the back of church including booking forms.

Saturday 29th February 2020. 12.30pm Holy Name, Jesmond, NE2 3JX. Eamon Duffy Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity at the University of Cambridge on John Henry Newman, England's newest saint, canonised by Pope Francis in October 2019. Duffy's new book is the perfect introduction to Newman's life and legacy. Robert Byrne CO. Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, will introduce Professor Duffy. Copies of the book will be on sale afterwards during a reception in the Hall. Tickets are free via:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/john-henry-newman-a-very-brief-history-with-professor-eamon-duffy-tickets-91545955417

Vocations Weekend for young women - Theme: Discernment and Vocation: Dates: 28th Feb - 1 March 2020 Location: Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

ST MARYS NEWS AND NOTICES

Eucharistic Ministers: Sunday 23rd February 2020: Mary O'Connor, Michael O'Connor, Kath Bowman, Tina McAloon, Elizabeth Murray

Sunday 1st March: Lorna Hayes, Pat Andrews, Maureen McCrory, Jimmy McCrory, Paul Nugent.

Stations of the Cross: in St. Mary's at 4p.m. beginning Sunday 1st March.

Retiring Collections: This week: Premier Christian Radio Appeal

Sanctuary Candle: Anyone wishing to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle at a cost of £10, for one week, in memory of a deceased relative or a special intention, please leave information at the presbytery, with Margaret Alderson. This week the candle will burn in loving memory of Michael & Molly Glancy

Breakfast Club: After 9.30am Mass. Bacon/Sausage Sandwiches, Tea/Coffee Toast. All welcome.

Wednesday Coffee Morning: Thank you to the Wednesday Coffee Morning for their generous donation of £100, which will go towards the J.F.K. roof repairs.

Thank you: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate has collected 66.46kg of food for County Durham foodbank in 2019, providing 83 meals making a real difference to local families in need.

Irish Night Local Talent: Saturday 7th March at 6pm. Bar, Buffet, Bingo, Raffle. Tickets £3. Doors open 5.30pm.

Coin Boxes For Sudan: As in previous years, small coin boxes will be available at the back of church for your Lenten Contributions. These funds will go direct to SVP Feeding Centres in South Sudan. Please return boxes by Easter. Thank you for your continuing help

Blue Cross For Pets: would like to say thank you to family and friends of the late Dorothy McKean for their kind donation of £77.50 raised in Dorothy's memory.

Lenten Alms Appeal 2020: This Lent, I kindly ask you to support our Hardship Fund which allows us to offer financial support to older Catholic people wishing to live in one of our nursing homes in Newcastle or Sunderland. Your support ensures that no one is turned away from one of our homes because of the inability to pay. For more information please contact

Newsletter items to be in office by Tuesday evening please.

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thurs. 10am-2pm. Fri. 10am-12noon Tel: 01207-502320

Email: stmarysblackhill@outlook.com.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY NEWS AND NOTICES

Readers: B Powell.

Eucharistic Ministers:

For the Altar, S Smith & D Watson.

For the sick, T Dixon/S Smith.

Service of the Word and Communion will continue every Tuesday at 10.00am.

Cleaners: No volunteers this week.

Retiring Collection: No collection this week.

Lately Deceased: Ellie Snyder (McNally) Toronto, Canada

Coffee Mornings: Every Monday morning after Mass or Service of the Word and Communion.

St Patrick's Day Ceilidh Saturday 21st March. Tickets available at the back of the church this Sunday. £5 each/ Children £2

CAFOD: The Lenten Family Fast Day is on Friday March 6th, the focus is Sister Consilia, her picture is on the Fast Day envelope. She is a pharmacist working in Cokwe, a rural part of Northern Zimbabwe 🇿🇼, as a child Sister Consilia caught malaria and had to walk four hours through heavy rain to get treatment. Happily she survived. Through our donations, CAFOD supports local people and organisations in the combat against different problems e.g. ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo, peace activists in Columbia, disability rights in Bangladesh.

Please observe the fast and be generous with your donations.

Justice and Peace Coin Boxes For Sudan: As in previous years, small coin boxes will be available at the back of church for your Lenten Contributions. These funds will go directly to SVP Feeding Centres in South Sudan. Please return boxes by Easter. Thank you for your continuing help

Items for the Newsletter: Items for the newsletter to be in the church post box or by e mail to rayfenwick@talktalk.net by 10.00am Tuesday morning.

ST PATRICK'S NEWS AND NOTICES

Readers: 23rd February: R Lenaghan
1st March: T Davison,

Ministers: 23rd February: B Bowley, G Brown, J Dimambro, M Dimamro, R Huntley
1st March: M Lenaghan, M Walton, J McMenamin, T Mullholland, C Robson

Retiring Collections: This Week: Liberia Next Week: Lenten Arms

Services this week: Service of the Word and Holy Communion Monday 10am. Novena to Our Lady Monday 7.00pm.

Divine Mercy Chaplet: is said every first Friday of the month at 9.30am followed by Holy Mass.

The Novena to the Holy Face: will end on Monday February 24th at noon at St Patrick's. A Partnership Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Face will take place at 10am on Tuesday 25th February (Shrove Tuesday). All are very welcome to attend both events. Refreshments and a book stall will be available. Further details on the Parish Notice Boards. Contact Maggie Quinn (506425)

World Day of Prayer: This year's service for the World Day of Prayer will take place at 2pm on Friday 6th March in St Patrick's Church. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe who call us to "Rise! Take your mat and walk." All are warmly invited to the service. Tea/coffee will be served in the Hall afterwards.

URGENT!! St Patrick's Pie & Pea Quiz: Numbers are urgently needed for the pie and pea quiz in order that the correct number of pies etc. are ordered. If you are intending to come along and enjoy the pies etc. please notify the Parish office or the piety stall. If you only want to take part in the quiz and not the pie and pea supper the cost will be £2.50

Lenten Soup Lunches: Everyone is invited to the Soup Lunches which will be served in the Hall each Friday in Lent after Stations of the Cross. All donations will go to CAFOD and church funds. Anyone who would like to donate a pan of homemade soup please contact Geraldine or Bernadette at one of the lunches

Please Note: that for the first week (February 28th) we will be using the Lounge as the main hall is in use.

Notice Board: All items for the Church notice board must first be shown to Fr John.

Newsletter items: All items for the newsletter to be in by 6pm Tuesday evening to stpatricknews@aol.com

ST PIUS NEWS AND NOTICES

Parish Memorial Book: Anyone wishing to add the name of a loved one to this, and our list of those prayed for each year, are welcome to submit the details. Forms are available in the Porch. A blue folder is available near the cabinet if you wish to check any current entry.

Food Bank: A box is now permanently available in the entrance foyer for donations. Should you wish to donate money for food, or help with the taking of donations to Glenroyd House, please speak to Maria Devlin.

Service of the Word & Holy Communion: Wednesday 10 am (Also Monday 10 am if no Mass)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: From 9.30 am before 10 am Mass each Thursday.

Benediction on Wednesday Evenings: Each Wednesday evening from 6.00 pm there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Evening Prayer at 6.45pm followed by Benediction. Please take this opportunity to come and spend some time in prayer at the midpoint of your week.

100 Club: Please consider joining this club. Numbers are 50p per week and all profits go to Church Funds. Winning numbers are on the notice board. Prizes of £50, £20 and 3 x £10 awarded monthly

Coffee Mornings: After 9.30am Mass on Sundays and 10am Mass on Mondays – always a great way to catch up.

Parking: Please consider our neighbours when parking your car.

Statue of Our Lady: With Agnew Family. There are vacancies on the rota to have the statue of Our Lady for one week at a time. If you want to join there is a list at the back of Church.

Church Cleaning Rota: 17th February - Group E – M Thompson and A Warnaby

Ministries: 1st March 2020:

Reader: TBA Extraordinary Minister: TBA

Newsletter Items: By 6pm Tuesday to 7, Consett Park Terrace or
susan.j.mcgee@btopenworld.com

OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH'S NEWS AND NOTICES

Eucharistic Ministers: February 22nd J. Fenwick, R. Dixon, C. Wilks

February 29th M. Harker, J. Carr, M. McCabe

Readers: February 22nd M. Parkinson

February 29th A. Thompson

660 Club Winning Numbers:

(£50) – 460 (£20) – 2 (£10) – 544 (£5) – 505

Funeral Donations: Thank you for kind donations to Brooms parish at recent Requiem Masses. £165 was received at Sister Mary Josephine's funeral and £154 at Gerard McCabe's funeral.

1p and 2p Sudan SVP Appeal at Brooms: Please keep donating your 1p and 2p coins to this worthy cause. £1.00 worth of your copper feeds a baby for a week. Thank you for your generous contributions so far, which makes a total of £1,817.

Justice and Peace Refugee Project (Our Lady of Lourdes Centre, Newcastle)

Many thanks for the generous response to the request for winter coats and shoes. The stock of tins of tomatoes and baked beans are now in good number thanks to your help.

Pie and Pea Supper

A pie and pea supper, raffle and bingo will take place on Friday March 27th 2020 at Leadgate Cricket Club beginning at 7.30pm. Proceeds in aid of Brooms Church. Tickets costing £3 are on sale now and are available at church.

Retiring Collection: The retiring collection this week will be in aid of The People's Kitchen in Newcastle.

Thought for the Week

"Don't focus on your fears but rather your hopes and dreams. Don't worry about what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible to do" – Saint Pope John XXIII.

Partnership Newsletter Rep for Brooms

All newsletter items must be received by Tuesday evening. Contact Christine Wilks on 01207 501869 or wilksc68@yahoo.com

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: James Rogan, Pat Capstick, Monica Redmand, Robert Lawrie, Audrey Charlton, Rebecca Kendall, Winifred Howe, Amanda Jane Brewer, Anthony Aubrey, Lawrence Boyle, Felix Rogan, Bernard Grimes, Michael Grugan, James Robinson,

Our Lady Of The Rosary: Tom and Margaret McKie

St. Patrick's: Terry Murray, George Dixon, Raymond Barrie, Albert Pegram, Martin Smith, Mary Crozier, Margaret Malone, Lottie Martin, John Routledge, Eric William Malloy, Molly Wight, Rose Clark, Patsy Foley, Tony Gowland, Mary Teresa McCrory, Maureen Hurson, Mildred Scott, Patricia Barrass.

St Pius X: Tony Bennett, Lawrence Boyle, Colin Embleton and Olive Veitch

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bobby Fountain, Joseph Hurst, Joan Callaghan.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISH

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Tilly Lockey, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Norman Riches, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Joan Kennedy, Tom Slane, Tony Quinn, Julianne Kennedy, John Winch, Eileen Haughey, Catherine Murphy, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, David Oliver, Teresa Rogan, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross, Alma Byrne.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reilly, Judith Hindmarsh, Nora Robson, Veronica Naisbett, Geraldine Donnelly, Margaret Naughton, David Wallace.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Dot Atherton, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Ann Hodgson, Paul Hunt, Nancy Malone, Gerry McArdle, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell and Jade Telford.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Sue Robertson, Thomas Williamson.

PARTNERSHIP PRAYER

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.
As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede
may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth:
to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.
We pray in trustful confidence
that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Patrick's: every Saturday 11am - 11.50am or by appointment or on request.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Saturday evening from 4.45pm - 5.15pm

St Pius X: Thursday morning from 9.30am - 9.55am

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St Mary's: every Tuesday morning 10.30 - 11.30am.

Our Lady of the Rosary: every Friday 9.30 - 10.00am

St Pius X: An hour before Mass on Monday, Wednesday at 6.00pm and half an hour before communion services on Wednesday.

St Patrick's: Half an hour before each weekday mass with recital of morning prayer of the church. Saturday 11.00am - 12 Noon exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Saturday of the month from 11.00am - 12 Noon and after Mass until 4.00pm.

Novena to Our Blessed Lady: St Patrick's Monday at 7.00pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Is said every first Friday of the month at 9.30am

BAPTISM PREPARATION FORM

Please deliver the completed form to St Mary's or St Patrick's Presbytery. If you have any queries ring St Mary's 502320 or St Patrick's on 502196