

6th Sunday of the Year - 11th February 2024



Beyond the Miracle

Leprosy is a curse which thankfully these days can be treated with medication. But until very recently there wasn't much hope for the individual (unless it wasn't actually leprosy) so they were excluded from society until they could prove they didn't have it. We read those rules set out in Leviticus effectively being broken when the leper approaches Jesus and, against the "Law", Jesus responds with compassion, including physical contact.

Truly a great miracle of healing has occurred and we can surely forgive the man whose burden has been lifted for ignoring the instruction to stay silent and instead sharing his good news. Perhaps Jesus had more hope than expectation but it does lead us to another truth beyond the miracle. Surely he must have realised that responding to the leper's plea would get in the way of any plans to control the pace of his ministry.

An important point to note here is that Jesus does not allow "the plan", whatever that may have been, to stop him responding with love. He is called upon for help and he gives it. Remember as well, this is just one of many hurdles Jesus faced with – yet the plan was still fulfilled.

The question for us is, of course, when in our lives do we let our plans get in the way of helping those who look towards us? And if we do give help, do we make sure people know just how much we have put ourselves out. We, also "of course", know that isn't the way we should act. We all have the chance to create our own small miracles of love, just don't let our plans get in the way.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

Deacon Chris Callan

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon David Westgarth (Retired)

General Notices Around the Partnership

Partnership - Sacrament of Reconciliation: St Patrick's, Consett; Saturday after 10am Mass. Our Lady and St Joseph's Brooms on Saturday's before the 5.30pm Vigil Mass 4.45pm-5.15pm.

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully, tel: 01388 818544/ 0191 3332183. Please telephone the chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit.

Mass Intentions: Just to remind parishioners that Mass intentions need to be requested at least '*3 months*' beforehand. If not using the Mass envelopes provided could you please remember to name the church in which you would like the Mass said.

Sunderland Empire Musical Six: From the West End to Broadway, the international smash hit musical Six is on its Tour and we have negotiated 30 seats at Sunderland Empire on Wednesday 3rd July at 5pm in the Dress Circle. The tickets have been discounted from £49 to £43. Following the Show the coach will take us to the coast for fish and chips or even a ride on the shows. Numbers are limited on a first come first served basis . If you are interested and would like to go please hand in to St Patrick's Parish Office the Envelope provided at the back of church with your ticket money included on or before the 22nd February 2024. Bus fare collected nearer the time will be approximately £7.50 per person. Contact Christina Parkin 01207 509541. FEW PLACES LEFT

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 5th mARCH 2pm at St Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too as there will be bingo and a raffle everyone is welcome.

The Divine Mercy Celebration: will take place on Sunday 7th April at St Mary's (Our Blessed Lady Immaculate) Church Blackhill DH8 8PQ. The celebration will begin at 2.30pm. Light refreshments (Tea and Coffee) will be served in the Kennedy Centre afterwards. Further details of the Celebration will be placed in parishes throughout the partnership during the coming weeks. Julie Brown and Kathleen Carroll are the named people organising this.

Irish Night: The Partnership presents 'Irish Night' on Saturday 16th March at St Mary's, Blackhill (JFK Centre). Doors open at 6.30pm. Bar, Bingo, Raffle, Buffet. Tickets £5.

Around The Diocese

"CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers." **Diocesan Lenten Reflection Booklets**

The Vicariate for Faith and Mission: are producing booklets of Daily Lenten Reflections which will be available for viewing, downloading and printing from the Diocesan website, using this weblink: <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>. The weblink will go live in time for Ash Wednesday.

The Source Returns at St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle: Thursday March 21st from 7pm onwards. If you have a teenage son or daughter who would like to attend The Source we will arrange a bus if there is enough interest. More details to follow.

SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO): The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic lay organisation whose members seek out and help those in need in the community. It would like to recruit an MSO for the Hexham and Newcastle diocese to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between groups and the National Office. This is a part time, home-based role (22.5 hours per week – 3 days equivalent) working as part of the SVP Membership Team. For further information and details how to apply contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at lancep@svp.org.uk Closing date for applications is Sunday 7th April.

St Mary's News

Collection: This week – St Bedes Lourdes Pilgrimage Next week - S.V.P.

Lately Deceased: Elizabeth Connor. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: This week the candle will burn 'In Loving Memory of Robert, Mary and Vincent Farrell and Mary Davison'.

Thank You: Maria and family would like to thank Fr Tom and all parishioners for their kindness and support after the loss of Robert, and for the many Mass/Sympathy cards received.

Legion of Mary: Will say the Rosary and Legion Prayers on Tuesday Evenings at 6pm.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound since the lockdown, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

Sudan Coin Boxes: As in previous years coin boxes are available at the back of church this Lent. The money is vital to provide food and medicines to Sudan's SVP child feeding centres. Please return boxes at Easter. Thank you for your continued support.

In Need of Support: If you are in need of support from the SVP Society please put your name and telephone number in a sealed envelope marked SVP and place it through St Mary's presbytery door. A member of the SVP will contact you.

Lets Celebrate - Shrove Tuesday: 13th February in JFK Centre doors open 1.30pm. Hot Dogs, Pancakes and a cold drink. Raffle and Tombola. Competition prizes on the Air Hockey Table. Karaoke and Pancake Tossing! Tickets £4 each or £12 per family of four.

Welcome Thursday: The church hall will be open from 10.30am on Thursday's for anyone to pop in for a coffee after Mass. Lunch from 12 noon.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – St Bedes Lourdes Pilgrimage Next week - Social & Welfare

Divine Mercy Devotions: The Divine Mercy Devotions are held every Thursday at 3pm.

Recently Deceased: Moira Paul and Theresa Gaines. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

Novena to the Holy Face: The Novena to the Holy Face of Jesus for 2024 begins this year on Sunday, February 4th. The Feast of The Holy Face of Jesus will be celebrated on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th, with 10am Mass at St. Patrick's, Consett. There will be an opportunity to receive an individual blessing with Holy Face Oil following this Mass, and also a Holy Face Stall will be available. All are welcome. [See poster for details]. Maggie Quinn [01207] 506425.

Holy Infant of Prague: Items associated with The Holy Infant of Prague Devotion will be on sale

after 9.30am Mass on Sundays at St. Patrick's, Consett at the front of the church.

Lenten Soup Lunches: This year the soup lunches will be on each **Friday** in Lent following Stations of the Cross. Come into St Patrick's Hall for a bowl of delicious homemade soup, tea/coffee and a chat. All proceeds go to CAFOD and St Patrick's Church. Donations of home made soup would be gratefully received.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week – St Bedes Lourdes Pilgrimage Next week - Cemetery Upkeep

Collections: Thank you for your generosity, a total of £195 was raised for the Racial Justice collection. The collection for Church flowers realised £98, thank you.

People's Kitchen: Thank you for your continued donations of coppers and small change which is forwarded to the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. Your donations can be deposited in the named tin at the back of the church.

Lenten Soup Lunch: As part of the Lent Season on March 1st we will be serving a soup lunch at the Salvation Army. Volunteers needed. See Angela Allum for more details

St Pius News

Collections: This week – St Bedes Lourdes Pilgrimage Next week - Social & Welfare

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 27th February 2024 at 6pm

Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent at 6.30pm

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: Starting 21st February at 10am. Tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards.

A reading of Mark's gospel on Wednesday 27th March: If you would like to read a section of the Gospel please contact Deacon Shaun. (Volunteers from all our churches are welcome)

Children's Stations of the Cross: Wednesday 15th March at 5pm

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45pm - 6.45pm

Children's Liturgy: is held on the first Sunday of every month.

Volunteers needed: for Altar Flower Rota any help will be greatly received no experience is necessary. If you can help please speak to Christina Parkin.

Polish Mass: Sunday 11th February at 12 noon

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week – St Bedes Lourdes Pilgrimage Next week - S.V.P.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound since the lockdown, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

Thank You: Maria and family would like to thank Fr Tom and all parishioners for their kindness and support after the loss of Robert, and for the many Mass/Sympathy cards received.

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ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Susan Healey, Kevin Parker, Brian Parker, Josephine Southern, Victor Chivers, Rose Grimes, Mary Andrews, Monica McArdle, Mary grant, Boniface Francisco, Daniel McCullagh, David Malpass, William Toner, Katy Bell, Douglas Walter Ringer, Pat Barrass (nee McNally), James Glancy, Anne Carr, John Doherty, Bob Marshall, Patricia Scott, Frank Bradley, Margaret Rita Atkinson, Veronica Carey, Carroll Watson, Frances Hope, Norman Keith Kennedy.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Margaret Mary Nicholson, Elizabeth Bowery, Mark Bradley, Michael Healey, Terry Bowery, Maureen McKie, William Hannah, Michael Baker, Fr. James Burke

St. Patrick's: Terry Murray, George Dixon, Mary Crozier, Margaret Malone, Lottie Martin, John Routledge, Eric William Malloy, Molly Wight, Rose Clark, Patsy Foley, Tony Gowland, Mary Teresa McCrory, Maureen Hurson, David Flynn, Teresa Smith, Eric Appleton, Patricia Higgins, John Martin, Peter Malone, Peter Hughes, Terry McCabe, Joseph Lockeron, Arran (Christopher) Field, Kevin Joyce, Rose Zina Thompson, Ellie (McNally) Snyder.

St Pius: Mrs Martin, Donald Murphy, Jack Steel.

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

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Tom Slane, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Ged Hester, Terry Curran, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Catelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Mary Guy, Joan Sewell.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reily, Judith Hindmarsh, Geraldine Donnelly, Andrew Bates, Patrick Lynch, Jean Walls, Sienna Jane McNestry, Austin McDonald,

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Keith Elliott, Derek Hicks, Paul Hunt, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr, Jade Telford, Bob Parkin, Muriel Steele.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson

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

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you, never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.'

Prayer For Ukraine

O God in this time of violence. We call you to draw near.
Draw near to the people of Ukraine.
Draw near to the terrified children.
Draw near to the terrified parents.
Draw near to those who have nowhere to go.
Draw near to the elderly, the infirm,
the disabled, the displaced, the orphans.
Draw near to the care givers and aid workers.
Draw near to the helpers.
Draw near. Draw near. Draw near.
In this time of violence-Draw near.
Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence
is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting.
May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.