

3rd Sunday of Lent - 3rd March 2024



Clearing the Clutter

Experts say that one of the most traumatic experiences a person can go through is that of moving house. Those of us who have gone through this will probably agree with that opinion. One of the benefits derived from moving house, however, is that we get rid of some of the junk we have accumulated since our last move.

Today in the gospel we find Jesus clearing all the accumulated junk out of the Temple in Jerusalem. But what is happening here is not merely the removal of unwanted items. By this symbolic act, Jesus was calling all people to now worship God in a different way. We are not to offer animal sacrifices anymore. We are to worship “in spirit and in truth.”

While Jesus respected the Temple as the house of God he was telling us that if we follow him we are now his temples, and just like the original Temple, we should be serving God through sincere worship, prayer and sacrifice.

The Temple in Jerusalem had become a noisy bazaar, focused more on money than on God. The moneychangers, the animal traders and the high priests were all making great profits out of the people. Instead of worshipping God the Father, those people were worshipping the false gods of money and power.

So, here’s a question for us in this third Sunday of Lent: as Temples of the Lord do we need a good clean out, too? Like the person who has to face moving house do we need to get rid of some of the junk in our lives?

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.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact their parish priest Fr. Tom for St Mary's and OLOR and Fr John for St Patrick's, St Pius and The Brooms.

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.

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) 7pm, doors open at 6.30pm. Bar, Bingo, Raffle, Buffet. Tickets £5 on Sale at St Mary's and St Patrick's.

Dates for your Diary: Carfin Grotto - Wednesday 15th May. Holy Island - Saturday 27th July. More details to follow.

Youth SVP Sleepover for the homeless: Youth SVP students are taking part in a 'sleepover' at St Mary's church and church hall from 7pm on Friday 8th March till after morning prayer at 8.30am on Saturday 9th March. This is to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless and to raise funds for the work of the SVP with those living on the streets. During the activity there will be an opportunity between 9.30pm and 10.30pm for Exposition in the church and parishioners are invited to join the students in prayer. We would particularly welcome sponsorship for the young people taking part and encourage parishioners to sign on the sponsor forms at the back of the church.

Around The Diocese

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 a 29 seat bus has been booked at the cost of £5 per person. A letter will be sent out from St Bedes School this week.

Lenten Day for Families: Catholic Mothers and the Carmelite Friars invite you to a Lenten Family Day at St John Vianney's, West Denton on Saturday 9th March, beginning with 10am Mass and followed by a short talk, opportunity for Confession, a soup lunch, children's activities and social time. All ages and families are welcome. For more information email catholicmothersne@gmail.com

Newman Tyneside Circle: invites you to come and hear about **Root & Branch** - an exciting new forum for reform, working for 'a safe, just and inclusive Roman Catholic Church'. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle [*nb new venue*], on Thursday, 25 January at 7.30pm. For more information about Root & Branch, see www.rootandbranchsynod.org.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Kevin Bewick, Annie O'Brien, Jean Elizabeth Robins, Betty Page, Kathleen Clarke, Sheila Clifford, James Clifford, Teresa Maureen Campbell, Norah Luck, Judith Anne Hagan, Frances Anne Kelly, Joseph Clifford, Margaret Regan, Adeline (Addie) Dick, Thomas Hewitson, Peter Walls, Teresa Lillian Nattrass, Helen Marie Tucker, David Christopher Chivers, Jackie Graham.

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: Rose Ann Carlin, Catherine Campbell, Mollie Smith, Theresa Jackson, John Paul Walls, Patricia Osbourne, Kathleen Johnson, Bill Crowther, Peter Davidson, Agnes Allardice, Patrick Gallacher, Michael McNally, Anthony Robson, John Robert McArdle, Tony Gallagher, Susan Boyle, Michael Jones, Charles Edwin Clark, Kathleen Veronica McNally, Joan Readman, Patricia Beattie, Lee John Wiles, Thomas Conroy, Alice McCourt, Catherine Clarke, Terry Reed, Alfie Lister, John McKean and Judith Kennedy.

St Pius: Kathleen Agnew, Tony Donaghy, John Dorritt, Margaret Hull, Gary Sharp, Linda Ann Thompson.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bob Hewitson, Margaret Shannon, Jim O'Neill, Julie Tonks(Cullen), Marian Richardson, Michael Lucy, Margaret Storey, Sarah E. Fountain, Norma Clark, Maria Herdman, Les Slavin, Joseph Liddell Jnr. Andrew Farley, Owen Lee, Terence O'Loughrin, John Walls, Margaret Turnbull, Angela Cox.

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 Whitfield.

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, Ethan O'Neil (12 yrs old).

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.