

MASSES & SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

| Day | Date | Time | Church | Mass Intention | |
|------|--------|---|--|---|--|
| Sat | 2 Mar | 4.45 pm 5:30 pm | St. Anthony's | Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday | Taylor & Stephenson Families <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> |
| Sun | 3 Mar | 8.30 am 9:00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm | St. Lawrence's St. Lawrence's St. Teresa's St. Lawrence's | Confessions Holy Mass Holy Mass Stations of the Cross | People of the Parishes Fr Patrick McMahon RIP <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> |
| Mon | 4 Mar | 10.00 am 5.45 pm 6.30 pm 7.00 pm | St. Anthony's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's | Requiem Mass Adoration & Confessions Holy Mass Lent Talk | John Campbell RIP Intentions of Evangeline Coward <i>Lent Feria</i> |
| Tue | 5 Mar | 9.15 am 10.00 am | St. Anthony's St. Anthony's | Stations of the Cross Holy Mass | Fr. John McElhone RIP <i>Lent Feria</i> |
| Wed | 6 Mar | | | | <i>Lent Feria</i> |
| Thur | 7 Mar | 8.45 am 9:30 am | St. Lawrence's St. Lawrence's | Stations of the Cross Holy Mass | No Intention Received <i>Ss Perpetua & Felicity</i> |
| Fri | 8 Mar | 8.45 am 9:30 am 6.30 pm | St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's | Adoration & Rosary Holy Mass Stations of the Cross | Laurence Hargon <i>Lent Feria</i> |
| Sat | 9 Mar | 4.45 pm 5:30pm | St. Anthony's St. Anthony's | Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday | Holy Souls <i>Lent Feria</i> <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> |
| Sun | 10 Mar | 8.30 am 9:00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm | St. Lawrence's St. Lawrence's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's | Confessions Holy Mass Holy Mass Stations of the Cross | Nealy & Dryden Families People of the Parishes <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> |



Please continue to remember in your prayers:

those who are sick or housebound and their carers:

John Gourley, Doreen Graham, June Stephenson, Aileen, Tommy Allan, Tony Errington, Pat Matfin & Mary McLaren

Our sick children: Josh Graham, James Taylor, Joseph Relph, Colby Taylor & Charlie Davidson

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention for March:

For the new Martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm

During Lent

We are asked to pray for these intentions: ; Candidates for the Sacraments, Women, The Needy and Hungry of the world, Penitents and Wanderers.



St. TERESA'S

Heaton Road, Heaton



St. ANTHONY'S

Welbeck Road, Walker



St. LAWRENCE'S

Byker Crescent, Byker



Parish Newsletter

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday 3rd March 2024



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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Parish Priest: | Fr Jonathon Bowes | Tel: | 0191 265 5290 |
| | | Email: | Jonathon.bowes@diocesehn.org.uk |
| Parish Secretary: | Christine Dixon | Tel: | 0191 265 5290 |
| Office Hours: | Thursday & Friday | 9.00am-3.00pm | Email: stteresa.heaton@diocesehn.org.uk |
| Safeguarding Reps: | St. Teresa's: | Jean Potts | |
| | St. Lawrence's: | George Paul Atkinson | |
| | St. Anthony's: | Christine Dixon | |
| Parish Websites: | www.stteresaeastnewcastle.org.uk | www.stanthonysstfrancis.org.uk | |

THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM FR. JONATHON

This Sunday we depart from the Gospel of Mark and enter into the Gospel of John. The story of Jesus driving out the money changers happens during Holy Week in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, but early in Jesus's ministry in John's gospel. In fact, we are in chapter two, and Jesus is already in Jerusalem. Rather than a ministry in Galilee followed by a momentous journey to Jerusalem as we have the account in the other three gospels, here in John's gospel Jesus goes back and forth to Jerusalem throughout his ministry.

At the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, the temple had become in some senses a place for the selling and buying of commodities. Oxen, sheep, and doves were sold to be sacrificed. It wasn't enough to bring one's own animals. They had to pass an inspection, and 'pre-certified' so to speak, guaranteed to be without blemish and therefore worthy of sacrifice. Of course, there might be a mark-up for this quality assurance. For a nice price you could buy a worthy sacrifice. How quickly and easily does religion seem to fall into this trap? Similar things have happened in our own church history – the selling of indulgences comes to mind. The challenge of dealing in commodities is not limited to Jesus' day, or the annals of church history. Commodification of God's grace happens today too. The unholy alliance of money and access to religion that it buys were scandalous then, and should be scandalous today. Jesus responds to this scandal - he is zealous, passionate for his Father's house, which has been turned into a bazaar. Those with a vested interest in the status quo are upset. But Jesus replies only in parable-speech: 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' Of course, he is referring to the sanctuary, the temple of his own body. But the stakeholders do not see the deeper meaning of his speech. They see only literal realities and they know that the temple took nearly half a century to build.

To them, Jesus must have seemed a wild-eyed zealot, off his rocker and half-baked. He was dangerous; a threat to business and religious interests and would have to be stopped. But for Jesus, the temple is holy, not worthy of profanation, neither the Father's house nor Jesus' own self. The example Jesus gives us today demands consideration. We must recoil from every instance of commodified religion, or a selling of God's grace. God's presence is not to be bartered; it is not a commodity, God's grace is freely given to all.

Fr. Jonathon

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES, PARTNERSHIP AND VICARIATE

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Campbell, Fr John McElhone & Fr Mark Whelehan who have died recently. John's Requiem Mass will take place on Monday at 10am at St. Anthony's. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

MONDAY LENT TALKS - 7 LAST WORDS OF JESUS

During Lent we are encouraged to give a renewed focus to prayer, fasting and almsgiving in our lives. These traditional Lenten activities help us to form new and good spiritual habits that prepare us for our celebration of Holy Week and lead us to the everlasting reward of God's transforming grace. I hope too, that you will take the opportunity to participate in our programme of Lenten activities. Immediately after Mass on a Monday evening, Fr Jonathon will be giving a series of short reflections on the 7 last words of Jesus upon the cross. These will last roughly 15minutes and will be a good way to reflect upon the words spoken to us from the Cross.

LENTEN ALMS - SAINT CUTHBERTS CARE

As usual during the season of Lent we are asked to help contribute to Saint Cuthbert's Care. A Retiring collection will take place after all Masses this weekend and next weekend. Please give as generously as possible.

SCRUTINIES FOR THE SACRAMENTS

This weekend, and for the next couple of weeks, we will celebrate the Scrutinies for those who are preparing to receive the Sacraments at Easter. This will take place after the homily. Please do keep in your prayers all those who will be receiving the Sacraments this Easter.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross takes place this afternoon at 5.00pm at St Lawrence's. Next Sunday stations will take place at St Teresa's.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

Sister Sylvia will be leading a scripture reflection group on a Tuesday evening at 7pm at St Anthony's Presbytery. The group will look at the coming weeks scripture readings and reflect upon them. Everyone is most welcome!

HOLY WEEK MASSES AND SERVICES

As we prepare for the most holiest of weeks in our Christian Calander there will be a weekly insert in the bulletin asking us to reflect upon what we are about to celebrate, and why we celebrate these various liturgies. I would encourage each one of you to make every effort possible to come along to the Triduum liturgies as we journey with Our Blessed Lord from Cross to Resurrection. As we will see over these next few weeks The Sacred Triduum is one liturgy, from the Mass of the Lord's supper to the Easter Vigil, that is why we are keeping it in one church.

If you would like to be involved, either by reading one of the readings, leading the prayers of the faithful, being an 'apostle' and getting your foot washed, or could stay with Our Lord for an hour at the Altar of repose please signup on one of the forms in the porches of our churches. These roles have been shared out equally across the parishes.

EASTER RAFFLES

Once again our churches are organising Easter Raffles. If you would like to donate any Easter Eggs or bottles please bring these along and leave in the Sacristy. At St Anthony's Raffle Tickets will be available after weekend masses over the next few weeks. At St Lawrence's they will be running the 'pick a bag' for a £1, with a prize guaranteed with every bag. This will happen on the 17th and 24th March after Mass in the Parish Hall.

YOUNG ADULT PRAYER GROUP

After Easter a 'Young Adult Prayer Group' will be formed in our parishes. The group is for those who are between 18 & 35 who would like to meet to discuss the faith, to spend time in prayer together, and to encourage each other in following the Lord's will for them. The group will meet on the Fourth Thursday of every month, meeting from 7pm at St Teresa's. The First meeting will take place on Thursday 25th April. Please do spread the word!

DAILY MASS AND EXPOSITION

Mass is celebrated within our three parishes every day (except a Wednesday). Are you retired? Are you on holiday? Are you free during the day? Do you need some support? Come to Mass during the week and experience the benefits we receive by doing so. Adoration gives us some quiet time for prayer and peacefulness and at Mass the Lord Jesus feeds us with his body and blood. What a wonderful opportunity lies before us every week! During Lent, there will be more opportunities to come before Our Blessed Lord, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Please accept his invitation to 'come to me'.

MASS INTENTIONS

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. Currently the parishes has very few Mass intentions booked in during the week. There is nothing better than having a Mass offered for someone, or for some intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps for a deceased relative or friend, or for someone who is sick, or for your own intention? For Mass to be offered it is tradition that a stipend is donated to contribute to the upkeep of your priest. Please contact the office, or fill out a Mass envelope (available in the church porches) and return to Fr Jonathon if you would like a Mass offered. If you request a specific date and that date is not available the Intention will be said on the nearest possible date.

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST?

The Vocations Team extends an invitation to men aged 18+, who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The evenings will take place at St Joseph's Church, Stanley once a month on a Tuesday Evening. For more information, please see the posters in the church porches or speak to Fr Jonathon.

LOUDfence. ST, MARY'S CATHEDRAL AND NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL

Together with the Diocese of Newcastle, our diocesan family is privileged to be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Marys' Cathedral and at Newcastle Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30 Sunday Mass on the 3rd March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral on the 6th March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be people available for pastoral accompaniment if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

LENT FAMILY DAY

The Catholic Mothers and the Carmelite Friars invite you, and your family, along to a Lenten day at St. John Vianney's, West Denton. The day will begin with the celebration of Holy Mass at 10am, followed by a short talk and the opportunity for Confessions. There will be activities for children and a Soup Lunch for all.

LENTEN RESOURCES BY THE DIOCESE

The Diocesan Website has lots of Resources to help you spiritually throughout Lent. Daily Scripture Reflections will be available on <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>. But there are many more resources for use throughout Lent, all accessible at <https://www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/len>.

| From the Parish Diaries | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Monday | 2.00 - 3.00 pm | Scripture & Natter Group | St. Teresa's |
| Tuesday | 10.30 - 11.15 am 7.00 - 8.00 pm | Refreshments & Natter Sunday Scriptures Reflection Group | St. Anthony's St. Anthony's |
| Wednesday | 6.30 - 7.30 pm | 'New Wine' Prayer Group | St. Anthony's |
| Thursday | 7.00 - 8.15 pm | 'The Chosen' & Discussion Group | St. Teresa's |