

MASSES & SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Church	Mass Intention	
Sat	16 Mar	4.45 pm 5:30 pm	St. Anthony's	Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday	In Thanksgiving (100th Birthday) 5th Sunday of Lent
Sun	17 Mar	8.30 am 9:00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	St. Lawrence's St. Lawrence's St. Teresa's St. Anthony's	Confessions Holy Mass Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	People of the Parishes John Dominic Wallace 5th Sunday of Lent
Mon	18 Mar	5.45 pm 6.30 pm 7.00 pm	St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	Adoration & Confessions Holy Mass Lent Talk	Joe McDine RIP Lent Feria
Tue	19 Mar	9.15 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's St. Teresa's	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Holy Mass	No Intention received Holy Souls Solemnity of St. Joseph
Wed	20 Mar	6.30 pm	St. Teresa's	Holy Mass	Clergy of the Diocese Solemnity of St Cuthbert
Thur	21 Mar	8.45 am 9:30 am	St. Lawrence's St. Lawrence's	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	Evelyn Ochili & Family Lent Feria
Fri	22 Mar	9:30 am 6.30 pm	St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Brian Alexander & Family Lent Feria
Sat	23 Mar	4.45 pm 5:30pm	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's	Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday	George Kelly RIP (Anniv.) Lent Feria Palm Sunday
Sun	24 Mar	8.30 am 9:00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	St. Lawrence's St. Lawrence's St. Teresa's St. Gabriels	Confessions Holy Mass Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	People of the Parishes Dec'd members of the King Family Palm Sunday



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

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 17th March



Parish Priest:	Fr Jonathon Bowes	Tel:	0191 265 5290
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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

In today's gospel two Greeks approach not Jesus but Philip (a Greek name). Up to this point in Jesus' ministry according to the Gospel of John, Jesus has never, not once, interacted with a Gentile (non-Jew). Luke, of course paints a different picture, but today we are reading from the Gospel of John.

Philip listens to the request of these two Greeks who want to see Jesus and, in turn, goes to Andrew to enlist his help with this unorthodox request. Together the disciples intercede for these two Greeks. Jesus rightly perceives this to be the conclusion of his ministry. If even the Greeks are now coming to see him, the end is near! Death is at the ready. Jesus then begins an eloquent teaching on the necessity of death for bearing fruit, and no mention is made that the Greeks ever met Jesus. Instead, they serve merely as a narrative tool to usher in the final days of Jesus' ministry.

It's true that the ancients did not have the knowledge about biology that we have today. Upon hearing the metaphor of a seed dying to produce much fruit, many a modern audience might dispute the analogy. For we know that a seed does not truly die, but the soil, moisture, and light cause an organic change. Still we do not want to lose the message in spite of the metaphor. Only by his death will Jesus' ministry truly bear fruit. That is the necessary next step. His death is necessary because this is the purpose for which he came. There is no sidestepping or dodging this inevitable end, which is ratified by a voice from heaven. The end is near.

In this Lenten Sunday preceding Palm Sunday we share a sense of impending doom. But we are reminded of the necessity of death for something to bear fruit. If the seed stays on the countertop, it will never bear fruit. But once 'dead' and planted in the ground, the seed produces. The paschal mystery is presented for us in a simple agrarian, even if scientifically outdated, image.

Do we allow ourselves to die to our own desires, wants, and agenda? From today's gospel reading, it seems Jesus was not quite ready for this moment. But the arrival of the Greeks was a clarion signal that the end was near. Even for Jesus there was no fighting this eternal purpose. This was the reason he came into the world. His example of letting go serves as a model for us. We are not the masters of our own fate. We are not in ultimate control of our own destiny. The illusion that we are somehow planning our own destiny is simply that, an illusion. What are the signs that encourage us to let go of our own desires and submit to something greater? When we die to ourselves we will see fruit that bears eternal life.

Fr. Jonathon

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES, PARTNERSHIP AND VICARIATE

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Guy Christal, Fr. Kevin Bolger, Fr John McElhone & Fr Mark Whelehan who have died recently. Guy's funeral service will take place at West Road Crematorium on Tuesday 19th at 2.00pm. Fr. John will be received into Our Lady & St Aidan's' Wallsend on Thursday 21st March at 6.00pm. Fr John's Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 22nd March at 12noon. 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.

PASSIONTIDE & THE VEILING OF CROSSES AND STATUES

This weekend we enter into passion-tide. From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday the crosses and statues of our churches are veiled in purple cloths. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of "fasting" from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Paschal feast, so too, our fasting from the cross culminates in an adoration of the holy wood on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for our sins. Likewise, a fasting from the glorious images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory culminates on the Easter night with a renewed appreciation of the glorious victory won by Christ, risen from the tomb to win for us eternal life.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday. As part of the celebration we will commemorate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. All Masses will begin outside, weather permitting.

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. 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.

ST. ANTHONY'S MISSIO 'RED' BOXES

If you have a red box at home please could you return them to St Anthony's before Easter. This will allow them to be emptied and then returned to you.

NEW WINE PRAYER GROUP

Will not be meeting this week due to visit to Sunderland Seminars but will resume on Wed 27th March.

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.

CHILDREN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

The Missionaries of Charity will be joining us at Mass with the children that attend their Catechisms classes this Sunday at St. Teresa's. The Children will then be staying for a retreat day led by Fr Jonathon.

FRIENDS OF SAINT TERESA'S SCHOOL - CEILIDH

Everyone is invited to a St Patricks themed Ceilidh, which has been organised by the friends of St Teresa's School. The Ceilidh will take place next Saturday evening in St Teresa's Church Hall from 7pm till late. Tickets are priced at £5 each and can be booked by calling Angel on 07940014302. Please do support this fun filled evening of entertainment.

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE & THE WIDER CHURCH

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.

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/lent>.

RIGHT TO LIFE

Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Take action: Let our local MP know that we stand up for the rights of all, from conception to natural death.

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