



# PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 30 March 2025



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### Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are listed below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 243 3305 or at [safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Reps:**      St. Teresa's: Jean Potts  
   St. Anthony's: Christine Dixon

**Parish Websites:**      [www.stteresaseastnewcastle.org.uk](http://www.stteresaseastnewcastle.org.uk)      [www.stanthonyssfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stanthonyssfrancis.org.uk)

## THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM FR JONATHON

As we reach Laetare Sunday, half way through Lent, our readings encourage us with great reasons to "Rejoice". The Hebrews celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land; Paul tells us that Christ has reconciled us to the Father; and the prodigal son is welcomed back home. All invite us to recognise the joy that will be ours if we are wholehearted in our turning to God.

St. Paul tells us that having been transformed by our baptism, we should be instrumental in the transformation of others - exactly what the scribes and Pharisees were not doing. They may have been transformed by their relationship with God but they were doing nothing to help transform others. Blinded by prejudice, they don't see the good that Jesus does in sharing the Gospel message without discrimination. In the eyes of the Pharisees, a sinner cannot change his ways - but the Gospel message is that with God's help anyone can change, and the power of the Gospel lies in love. The theologian Hans Urs Von Balthasar wrote: "The decisive thing is that the sinner has heard of a love that could be, and really is, there for him...". Conversion is not simply a "bad" person becoming "good", but any person experiencing the love of God.

Neither son knew their own father's heart. When the younger son decides to return home, he doesn't know that he will be welcomed back by his father, who is merciful and wants nothing else but his return. The older son is dutiful but distant, like the Pharisees who are obedient to God but without really loving him. Do we find ourselves distant from God because we do not truly know his heart? The father says to the elder son, "everything I have is yours" - our Father constantly opens his arms to us with the same beautiful message: "Everything I have is yours". During the remainder of this season of Lent let's try to get to know our Father's heart better; and may we, who have been forgiven so much, embrace and extend this same love and forgiveness to every person.

Fr. Jonathon

*Lent.*  
A SEASON OF RENEWAL



# NEWS FROM OUR PARISH, PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESE

## WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep in our prayers all those we know who are unwell as well as the many who have no one to pray for them and for those in hospital. We also remember all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## NBF - SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the 'Northern Brethren Fund', which supports the sick and retired priests of the Diocese. This is our opportunity to give back to the priests who have given so much to us throughout their ministry. Please be as generous as possible.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent we are invited to journey with Our Lord to Calvary by making the stations of the Cross. This takes place every Tuesday at 9.15am at St Anthony's and every Friday at 6.30pm at St Teresa's.

## LENTEN ALMS

During Lent we will be supporting several charities, all with a particular focus as Catholic Charities. St Cuthbert's Care is our diocesan Charity and all Lenten Alms collections go towards their work here in the diocese supporting many different things that they do. This year in particular they ask that the financial support that we offer goes towards their Young Stars Fostering Group.

## LENT SCRIPTURE COURSE - COME AND SEE

Every Monday throughout Lent we will be holding a Scripture Study Group called 'Come and See'. This will take place in the porch at St Teresa's from 2-3.30pm. Tea and Coffee will be available. Please do come along if you are able to.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

As usual during we will be looking for volunteers to help with the various roles during Holy Week. This includes readers, watchers and those who would like to have their feet washed. Sign up sheets are available in the porches of our churches if you would like to be involved. Please be generous.

## CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER - EASTER DUTIES

Sadly the penitential service that was planned for during Lent has had to be cancelled. However, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at various times throughout the week. These dates and times can be found on the back of the newsletter. On Holy Saturday Fr Jonathon will be available for anyone wishing to go to Confession between 10.00am and 12noon.

## SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Every Sunday at 6.00pm at St. Teresa's we have Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Benediction. This time of prayer is such a wonderful opportunity to bring our Sunday to a close, spending time with Jesus in prayer and praise. Please do try and come along if you are able to! It only lasts 40minutes and is such a beautiful service.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Wednesday 9th April at 7pm. If anyone has any items for discussion, to be included on the Agenda, please hand in to Fr Jonathon or email to the Parish Office before Saturday 5 April.

## BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING

If you wish to organise a baptism, please speak to Fr Jonathon. Please be aware that one parent must be a Catholic and you should be living in the parish. If you do not live within our parish you will be asked to speak to your own parish priest. The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Monday 7th April at St Teresa's at 7.15pm. Meetings usually last around 30 minutes.

## PARISH GIVING

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share that generosity with others. A generous culture is also essential for our parish to develop a sustainable ministry for the future. That generosity can be expressed in many ways, both financially and by the giving our time to help the mission of the Church. We are extremely grateful for all your contributions to our parish.

If you would like to make your regular weekly offering to the Church by standing order this is easy to set up. Our bank details for setting up a Standing Order or BACS payment are:

Account Name: DHN Newcastle Christ the King

Account Number: 52010917

Sort Code: 40-34-18

## YOUNG ADULT PRAYER GROUP

Our next meeting takes places on Thursday 24th April at 7pm. After a time of prayer in Church there will be food in the presbytery. Are you looking for a welcoming space to grow in faith and fellowship? The Prayer Group is a vibrant community of young Catholic adults (18 to around 35) who come together on the last Thursday of each month at 7pm at St Teresa's. We share in faith, friendship and great conversations, followed by a meal or a drink in the Catholic Club. Beyond our monthly gatherings, we stay connected through social events, attending conferences and our active WhatsApp group, making it a wonderful way to meet fellow Catholics. Come and be part of a community that supports and inspires each other in faith!

## CHILDREN AT MASS

When parents take their children to a special event, to a theatre or a football or rugby match, they want their children to have the best seats right at the front. At the front the children can see and hopefully learn to understand what is going on. But when parents bring their children to Mass, they sit with them at the back of church, behind tall and large adults, where there's draughts from the doors, where they can see very little about what is actually happening at Mass and therefore not too sure why they're there! And being so far away at the back, they don't know what's happening at the front because they can't see and sometimes can't hear! Please come to the front of the Church, to the seats where your children will be able to see what is going!

## WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

A few people have commented recently about how they feel they have not been welcomed 'properly' when attending our churches, or that no-one spoke to them from coming into church to going out. This is difficult because no-one wants to overpower anyone, especially visitors, not everyone wants to have someone talking to them, but at the same time, many people like to be welcomed into Church, either by those who welcome at the door, or by those sitting in the benches. It is important that we make people feel welcome amongst us. So, just a thought .... Do you know who is sitting close to you during Mass ... have you acknowledged them? Have you said 'hello' to them? Be a bit bold and find out who your neighbour is in your pew! And if they are there next week, strike up the conversation again after Mass!

## PARISH FISH & CHIPS QUIZ NIGHT

The parish are currently planning another Quiz Night which will take place on Friday 9th May at 7pm in St Teresa's Hall. Tickets will be required as we need to know numbers for the Fish & Chips. Tickets prices will be confirmed this weekend with tickets on sale after all Masses.

## THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a Christian historical television series, about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Season 5 is to launch very soon and will be available to watch at Cineworld in Newcastle (The Gate) in time for Easter, April 10th - 13th



## FIRST SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME 2025/26

Any parent who would like their child to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is invited to fill in the interest form. Sessions will begin in September 2025. More information will be made available after Easter concerning all the dates for the programme. Please scan the QR code for the online form.



Scan me!

## CONFIRMATION SESSION

The next session for those preparing for Confirmation will take place on Tuesday (1st April) at 6.45pm in St. Teresa's Hall. This session we will be focusing upon the theme of Forgiveness.

## ST THERESE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday 17th May at 11.00am we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Canonisation of St Therese. To celebrate we have been asked to host a special Mass at St Teresa's. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating the Mass and the Diocesan Choir will be singing. Please do put this in your diaries and come along!

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS - CITY CENTRE

Once again this year there will be Stations of the Cross on Northumberland Street in the city centre on Saturday 5th starting at 10.00am. Deacon Alison is looking for volunteers to help with the stations. Please do come along and support this wonderful witness to the faith.

## GETTING MARRIED IN 2025/26

If you are thinking about getting married in 2025/26 and haven't yet spoken to Fr Jonathon, to make sure that a Church wedding is possible, please see him as soon as you can. It is important that you give at least six months notice so that enough time is given to arrange all paperwork, especially if overseas contacts are necessary. A Marriage Preparation course must also be attended so that you are fully prepared for the Sacrament.

## THE JUBILEE YEAR - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Holy Father has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year with the motto and theme "Pilgrims of Hope." It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation. "In the course of the year," Pope Francis had written, "every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to their efficacy." On 28 December 2025, the Jubilee will end in the particular Churches throughout the world. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at [www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025](http://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025)

## PARISH OPEN MEETING

An open meeting for all parishioners will take place on Wednesday 7th May at 7.00pm at St Teresa's Church. This will allow us to look at how we are progressing as a parish and to continue to make plans for the future.

## HOLY ISLAND SVP CAMP

Volunteering is a Work of Heart. Holy Island Children's Camp is looking for new volunteers to help in their Holiday Centre on Holy Island. They are in need of young adults to help the children have a great week's holiday on the island in Summer 2025. Full training and support will be given and would suit someone wanting to give back to the Community by helping 9-12-year-olds have fun for a week. They are also keen to attract people who would like to help by volunteering in the Kitchen/Dining room and with caretaking. Term Time Camps need lots of volunteers if they are to survive. If you could find a few days in term time to help out with serving meals, prepping salads and washing dishes they would be truly grateful. By running term time camps, Summer Vinnies Holidays for children can be sustained. If you'd like to chat about the role please email [BarbaraT@svp.org.uk](mailto:BarbaraT@svp.org.uk).

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FAITH THE VEILING OF CROSSES & STATUES

Once again this year, when you arrive in Church next weekend, you will notice something different. All the Crosses and Statues will be veiled in purple. The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready!

The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing.

When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

## HOLY WEEK MASSES & SERVICES

### PALM SUNDAY

As we recall the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, our Masses will begin with this special blessing and procession. At the Vigil Mass at St Anthony's this will take place in the presbytery garden at 5.30pm. At the Solemn Mass at St Teresa's this will take place in the Parish Hall at 11.00am. Please do not leave any handbags or valuables in the Church. Solemn Vespers & Benediction will take place at St. Teresa's at 5.00pm.

### HOLY MONDAY - SPY WEDNESDAY

As we prepare for the Sacred Triduum we will have keep the same schedule everyday at St. Teresa's. There will be Adoration & Confessions at 5.30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 6.30pm. There will then be a Holy Week Reflection after Mass with Exposition. At 8.00pm we will conclude with Night Prayer.

### HOLY THURSDAY

We begin the Sacred Triduum with Tenebrae at St. Teresa's at 9.00am. The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7pm at St Anthony's. After Mass there will be the "Watching", a quiet time remembering the time of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Agony and the Arrest; this will end with Night Prayer at 11.45pm.

### GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday will begin with Morning Prayer at 9.00am at St. Teresa's. This will be followed by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am. The Solemn Liturgy will take place at 3.00pm at St. Anthony's.

### HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday will begin with Morning Prayer at 9.30am at St. Teresa's. This will be followed by Confessions from 10.00am until Midday. The Easter Vigil will be celebrated at St. Anthony's at 8.15pm. Mass will begin with the Blessing of the Fire and the Lighting of the Paschal Candle. This will take place in the Presbytery Garden. The Mass will be much longer than the usual Vigil Mass, but it will be a great celebration of the Resurrection. Please do come along and celebrate this momentous Mass and support those who are coming into the Church.

### EASTER SUNDAY

As we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord there will be Solemn Mass at St Teresa's at 11.00am followed by Tea & Coffee. At 5.00pm we will have Solemn Vespers & Benediction.

# MASSSES & SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Day		Time		Church	Mass Intention	
Sat	29 Mar	4.45 pm 5.30 pm	Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's	People of the Parish	4th Sunday of Lent
Sun	30 Mar	10.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Confessions Sung Holy Mass Vespers & Benediction	St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	Kathleen Gregor RIP	4th Sunday of Lent
Mon	31 Mar	5.30 pm 6.30 pm	Exposition & Confessions Holy Mass	St. Teresa's	David Greenwood (NBF)	Weekday of Lent
Tue	1 Apr	9.15 am 10.00 am 2.15 pm	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Holy Mass (In School)	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's St. Lawrence's	Fr. Raymond Murray RIP Pupils of St Lawrence's	Weekday of Lent
Wed	2 Apr					Weekday of Lent
Thur	3 Apr	5.30 pm 6.30 pm	Exposition & Confessions Holy Mass	St. Anthony's	Patrick Ifediora RIP	Weekday of Lent
Fri	4 Apr	8.30 am 9.30 am 6.30 pm	Exposition & Holy Rosary Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	St. Teresa's	Kathleen Gregor RIP	Weekday of Lent
Sat	5 Apr	8.00 am	Holy Mass	St. Teresa's		Weekday of Lent
Sat	5 Apr	4.45 pm 5.30 pm	Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's	John McAndrew (Anniv.) RIP	5th Sunday of Lent
Sun	6 Apr	10.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Confessions Sung Holy Mass Vespers & Benediction	St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	People of the Parish	5th Sunday of Lent

## Please continue to remember in your prayers:

those who are sick or housebound and their carers:



John Gourley, Doreen Graham, June Stephenson, Margaret McEvoy, Aileen, Tommy Allan, Pat Matfin, Maria Cape and Mary McLaren.

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

## THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

### Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention for April



#### For New Technologies:

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



#### During Lent

#### We are asked to pray for :

Candidates for the Sacraments, for Women, for the needy and the hungry of the world, and for all penitents and wanderers.



Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen