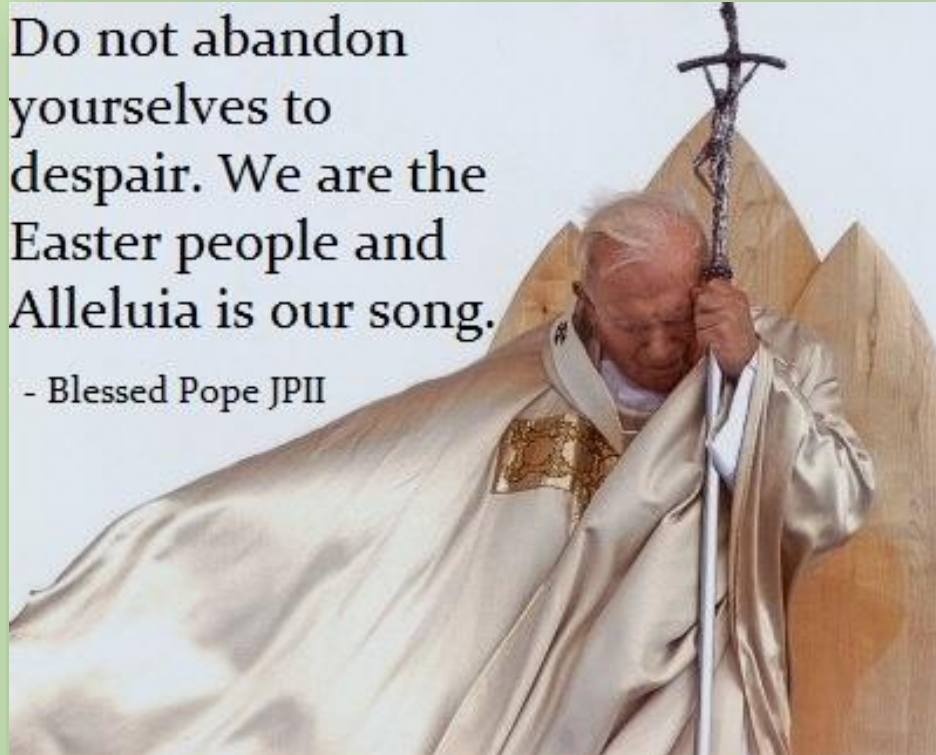


ST JOSEPH'S AND ST WILFRID'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER DURING PANDEMIC
WEEK BEGINNING 19/04/20 LOW SUNDAY

Today is known as Low Sunday




















































Also known as 'Pascha Clausum', signifying the close of the Easter Octave, or 'Quasimodo Sunday', from the Introit at Mass - "Quasi mode genti infantes, rationabile, sine dolo lac concupiscite", which words are used by the church with special reference to the newly Baptized neophytes, as well as in general allusion to man's renovation through the Resurrection. So not, as its name suggests, a time to be low or gloomy, we rejoice in the Risen Lord continuously and constantly knowing that we are saved, we are truly an Easter People.



A Reflection Upon Today's Gospel

"Because you have seen me Thomas, you believe. Happy are those who have not seen yet still believe"

St Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth "if Christ is not risen from the dead, our faith is in vain, and we are amongst the most deceived of men" The central truth of Christianity is that Jesus of Nazareth has conquered death and that all who believe in



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Him will also conquer death. No other religion teaches the resurrection of the body to immortal life.

Faith is not a blind act, it is a reasonable act based upon evidence:-an empty tomb; a corpse never found; the witness of many who testified, some with their lives, that they had seen, spoken to and touched Him.

"Doubt no longer but believe" the evidence is there for all who have an open mind and heart, "happy are those who have not seen and yet believe"

If we cease to believe and trust in someone then that person can no longer help us, if we do not trust our doctor and ignore his diagnosis or advice, then we render him powerless to help us. Jesus respects our freedom, just as we can say "no" to our doctor, we can say "no" to Him, to His deeds, "no" to His teaching, to His resurrection, but then He cannot help us.

Help us to do what exactly? He empowers us to carry all our crosses and turn them into Easters, to bring victory out of tragedy and our final cross - death, into resurrection.

Our faith in the resurrection of Jesus is not just a belief that it happened, but a belief in its POWER to TRANSFORM our lives from fear to courage, to know that whatever life throws at us we can overcome.

The disciples had the doors bolted and the windows shut for fear of the Jews, they knew they would be next for questioning and possible crucifixion, the hopes they had in Jesus were now shattered. Fear destroys confidence. But Jesus breaks through all barriers, He came and stood amongst them, "Shalom" he greeting, "peace be with you", the disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, something powerful and extraordinary had happened to change frightened men into bold messengers of the news that death had been defeated, good would prevail, evil will not have the last word.

Christianity is not about suffering, penance, and the cross full stop, but about the cross defeated, suffering conquered and life restored.

Suffering often leads to self-pity and loss of faith, the resurrection empowered the apostles to cure the sick, feed the hungry, to work for justice and peace in society.

The resurrection of the body shows us that heaven is not a matter of merely saving our souls, but Heaven is the transformation of this material world into the kingdom of God, a fit place for God's children to live. We are not angels, we are not expected to live like angels, we are human, bodily creatures for all eternity, through our bodies we relate to each other and to the whole of society. We must have faith in the power of Jesus Risen and Present.

When we say "Christ is Risen" we are also saying "Christ is Present" time and space do not limit the Risen Body, time and space are realities for this world only. The Risen Body

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is a new creation, the doors and windows were bolted shut and yet He came and stood amongst them, the Risen Jesus is really present to the whole of creation.

Today He handed on to His disciples the power to forgive sins with the words "Receive the Holy Spirit, those whose sins you forgive are forgiven" we receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, the greatest words of absolution were pronounced by Jesus Christ on the cross when He turned to the good thief and said "Today you will be with Me in paradise"

The Risen Christ will astonish us with His power if we take the leap of faith and become His disciples, not only in word but in deed, He will empower us to bear witness to His truth, it is the greatest truth in the world, it ennobles us and gives life its true meaning.

UNITING in PRAYER

It has been suggested by one of our parishioners that we join each night to pray in unity. The suggested time is 9pm, light a candle and pray:

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be X3, The Memorare and sing: 'Do Not Be Afraid'



Please remember in your prayers all the sick of the parish and all those suffering from COVID19, their families and friends

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Obviously, the Weekly Mass collections have stopped at this time, but the bills still must be paid!

Would you consider making a bank transfer from your account to your parish's account?

You could make this a one-off donation, a weekly or monthly offering until life returns to normal, or you may consider setting up a standing order to continue even after the current restrictions are lifted!

To donate via bank transfer:

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Wilfrid's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Joseph's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 31164066

Please use reference: - Weekly Income

OR

Donate using a cheque made out to either parish and send to

St Wilfrid's

Ford House

Sunderland Road


Gateshead NE8 3QR

St Joseph's

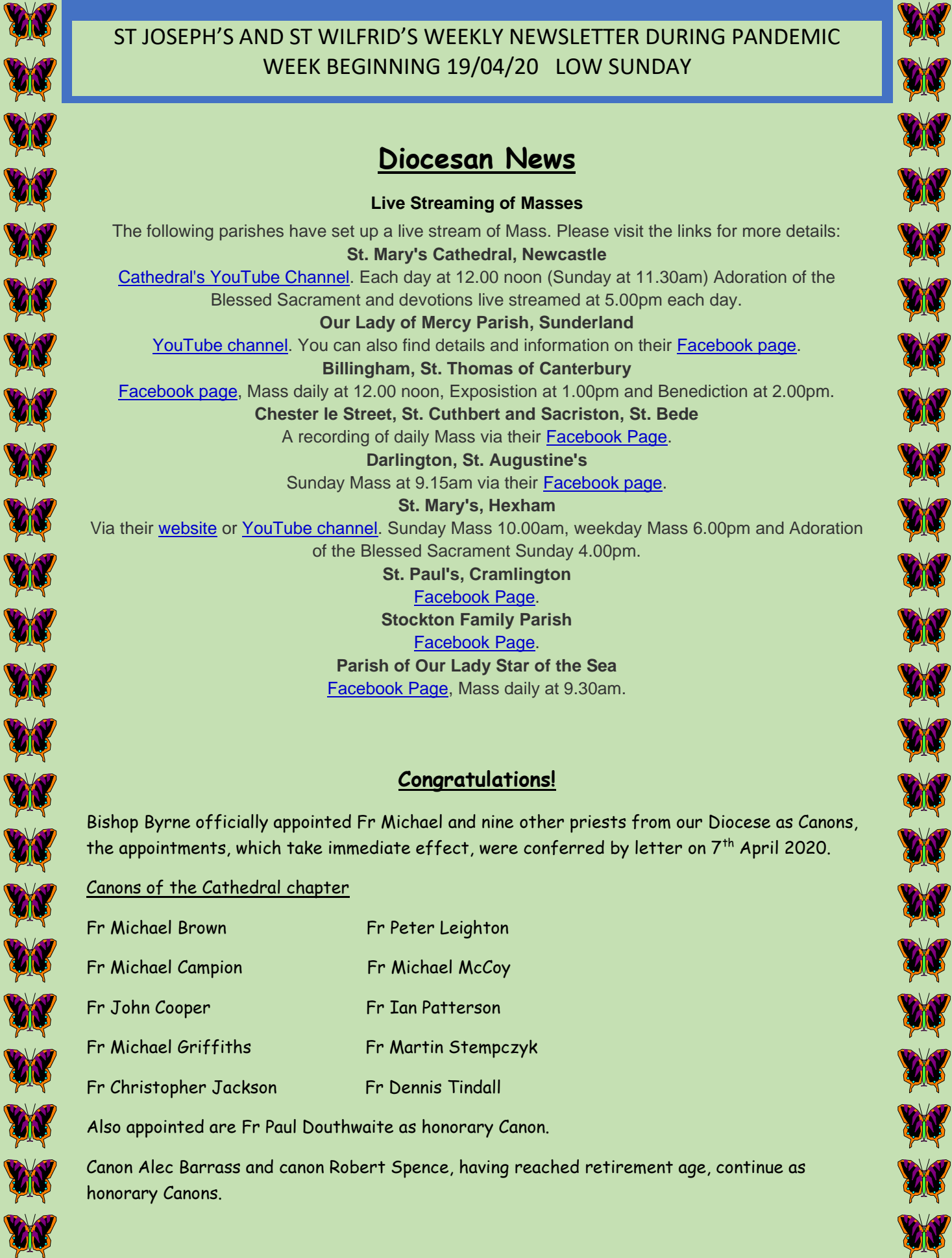
Presbytery

High West Street

Gateshead NE8 1L



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Diocesan News

Live Streaming of Masses

The following parishes have set up a live stream of Mass. Please visit the links for more details:

St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle

[Cathedral's YouTube Channel](#). Each day at 12.00 noon (Sunday at 11.30am) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotions live streamed at 5.00pm each day.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Sunderland

[YouTube channel](#). You can also find details and information on their [Facebook page](#).

Billingham, St. Thomas of Canterbury

[Facebook page](#), Mass daily at 12.00 noon, Exposition at 1.00pm and Benediction at 2.00pm.

Chester le Street, St. Cuthbert and Sacriston, St. Bede

A recording of daily Mass via their [Facebook Page](#).

Darlington, St. Augustine's

Sunday Mass at 9.15am via their [Facebook page](#).

St. Mary's, Hexham

Via their [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#). Sunday Mass 10.00am, weekday Mass 6.00pm and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Sunday 4.00pm.

St. Paul's, Cramlington

[Facebook Page](#).

Stockton Family Parish

[Facebook Page](#).

Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

[Facebook Page](#), Mass daily at 9.30am.

Congratulations!

Bishop Byrne officially appointed Fr Michael and nine other priests from our Diocese as Canons, the appointments, which take immediate effect, were conferred by letter on 7th April 2020.

Canons of the Cathedral chapter

Fr Michael Brown

Fr Peter Leighton

Fr Michael Campion

Fr Michael McCoy

Fr John Cooper

Fr Ian Patterson

Fr Michael Griffiths


Fr Martin Stempczyk




















































Fr Christopher Jackson

Fr Dennis Tindall

Also appointed are Fr Paul Douthwaite as honorary Canon.

Canon Alec Barrass and canon Robert Spence, having reached retirement age, continue as honorary Canons.





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Marriage Preparation Courses for 2020

These day courses are recommended to all engaged couples getting married in a Catholic Church. The theme is 'Relationships' and complements the advice on the sacramental, spiritual and liturgical aspects of marriage and the logistical aspect of the wedding service provided by Diocesan clergy. Full booking details are included in the [poster](#); further information required by couples or clergy can be directed to Deacon Rob Wareing, Diocesan Coordinator for Marriage and Family Life by [email](#).

Vicariate for Caritas, Diocesan Pastoral Support and Outreach:

Fr. Adrian Tuckwell, Episcopal Vicar for Caritas provides a helpful summary of Pastoral Support available around the Diocese here ([pdf](#) – [word](#)).

Destitute Asylum Seekers in dire need:

The Covid-19 Pandemic is having a profound effect on destitute asylum seekers locally who receive no financial support or accommodation from Government. Please [click here](#) to see how you can help.

Little Sisters of the Poor Home, Newcastle:

The Little Sisters of the Poor have launched a vital fundraising appeal, in response to the increasing pressures faced by St. Joseph's Care Home during the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Please [follow this link](#) to see how you can help.

Northern Cross

There are no hard copies published this month, but it can be read online for free at

northerncross.org.uk