

Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic 7th June 2020

Joint Parishes of St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Gateshead

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The Feast of The Holy Trinity

(OF) Readings for today are: -

First Reading	Exodus 34:4-6,8-9
Responsorial Psalm	Daniel 3:52,53,54,55,56
Second Reading	Corinthians 13:11-13
Alleluia	Revelation 1:8
Gospel	John 3:16

(EF) Readings for today are: -

Introit	Tobias 12:6
Epistle 1	Romans 11:33-36
Gradual	Daniel 3:55-56
Gospel	Matthew 28:18-20



"The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all", so writes St Paul in our second reading today.

Every priest dreads the thought of a homily on Trinity Sunday, how can we explain fully or even sufficiently the doctrine of three persons in one?

Before the Gospels were written, the Apostles were already Baptising in the name of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. In his Gospel, John speaks of God sending His only Son and at the last supper he spoke of Jesus existing with God His Father before the world was made or He was born to the Virgin Mary. He also spoke of the Spirit of Truth whom the Father will send to remind the apostles of all Jesus had taught us. The first generation of Christians believed that God the creator of the universe is a family, the one God is a community: God is a threesome: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

St Bernadette of Lourdes tells us that she always carried her Rosary Beads with her, and when she saw Our Lady, she instinctively began to recite the Rosary. She tells us that Our Lady did not say the Hail Mary's, she just fingered her own beads hanging from a blue sash around Her waist. "But when I came to the end of each decade the Lady joined her hands and looking up to Heaven joined me in saying with great wonder and joy "Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to The Holy ghost", she then traced the sign of the cross over herself with great reverence.

St Bede of Jarrow had two favourite prayers: "The Glory Be" and "The Sign of the Cross", he died on Ascension Thursday reciting the Glory Be.

St Patrick, teaching this mystery to the people of Ireland, picked up the shamrock with its three petals in one leaf to demonstrate how three can be both one and three at the same time. The shamrock became the national emblem of Ireland.

To look at it from the view of mathematics we can take the triangle, it has three angles each completely distinct from the other two, yet

the dimension of one angle alone contains the nature of the whole triangle, as Jesus said to His Disciples "If you know Me then you know The Father also"

Think away everything that exists, no sun, no moon, no stars, no earth, no universe, no creation: before the Big Bang, when nothing existed but God and God alone now we ask the question, "Was God lonely?", No-one to talk to, no-one to love, no-one to return His love. That is not life, it is certainly not Heaven, it is total isolation, total loneliness God was not alone; The One Supreme Being is a community: A Threesome; a Family: God is a social being.

The creation story in Genesis speaks of God creating man and woman in His own likeness, "and God saw that it was very good", because the love of family is God's image, He is family.

Now God reveals His inner life to us, not to confuse us, but because He has called us to share in it.

God the Father created us in the image of His son, he then sent His son to take on human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and so the Eternal Son of God became our brother, thereby making us the adopted sons and daughters of God. Then He sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts by which we can now pray "Abba, Father". Notice how every liturgical prayer is a prayer TO the Father, WITH the Son and IN the Holy Spirit.

The sign of the cross is not only an act of Faith in the Trinity, it is also a shield against the powers of evil. Make it reverently.

Parents bless your children at night: make the sign of the Cross over them, take your baby's hand and trace the cross with it on the child.

Let us all nourish within our children that sense of awe and wonder, and delight in the God who has created such a wonderful world, filling countless men and women with the gifts of creation: music; art; literature; sport and the discoveries of science through which we learn the wisdom of God and give Him glory, and build a peaceful, exciting world in which our growing children can enjoy life.

May everything, we do be done "In the Name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit"



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

If you have any prayer intentions please email them to shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk for inclusion in the newsletter

Please also remember the dead

Eternal Rest Grant unto Them Oh Lord

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thank You to All who have continued to make a weekly contribution in some way or another, it is gratefully received and necessary for the continued upkeep of our two churches.

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

St Wilfrid's

Ford House

Sunderland Road

Gateshead NE8 3QR

St Joseph's

Presbytery

High West Street

Gateshead NE8 1LX

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Keeping us updated with your contact information

During this time of social distancing and self-isolation, Canon Michael Brown has tried to keep in touch with as many parishioners as he can to offer support and comfort. He has been able to do this only with those parishioners for whom he holds up to date contact details, it is at times like this that we realise how important it is to hold an up to date data base of contact details.

Please get in touch to ensure your contact details are correct, you may have moved to a new house, changed telephone number, got an email address since the last database was compiled, please let us know. Use parish email addresses or telephone to update your information.

If you know of anyone from either Parish who cannot access this newsletter via the website and would like to receive it by email, please ask them to give their email address to Canon Michael Brown email michaelbrown6@btconnect.com or Shauna Devitt at shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk

Preparing for a new normality

We are all anxious for life to return to normal, for us to be able to see one another again and to attend school and church regularly, however there is still much to be done before we can begin taking tiny baby steps towards this reality.

Our Headteachers and school staff and governors are meeting to discuss the challenges and realities of opening schools, at the moment they are struggling to keep on top of all the paperwork which the government and Local Education Authorities are publishing on how to keep our children safe whilst re-introducing them to school life.

Many schools have remained open throughout lockdown and we thank all our school staff for all they do and pray for them all at this time.

Our canons and Episcopal Council have met with the Bishop to discuss the practicalities, challenges, and wisdom of opening our churches whilst maintaining the safety of all.

In the next few weeks there will be more information about how and when the first steps can be taken to allow some access to church for private prayer.

Your patience, support and understanding are very much appreciated, and we ask that you continue to pray for the best decisions to be made.

As there have been no changes in Government regulations regarding Churches and Places of Worship our Churches MUST remain closed for the present.

Below is a letter sent to all Parish priests from the Bishop: -

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

Following the meeting of the Episcopal Council, and the Chapter of Canons, I thought you might find it helpful if I provided additional information about the reopening of churches that you could share with your people.

As always, your health and safety and that of your parishioners, volunteers and staff is my utmost priority. As we await guidance from the Catholic Bishops' Conference and from the recently established Places of Worship Task Force, as to when and how our Churches will reopen, please be assured that the Diocese is developing plans which will enable the COVID-19 secure reopening of all of our buildings.

As you are aware, I have consulted with the Chapter of Canons and the Partnership Deans in deciding which Parish Priests to approach about the possibility of opening their Churches. Once we have established which Churches might reopen first, a small number will be selected in which we will pilot the reopening procedures. Our learning from these "dry runs" will be incorporated into the approach we will take across the Diocese and it can then be shared more widely.

To ensure that we all return to safe environments, there is much that needs to be done and the Curia is supporting me with these practical tasks. The reopening planning will include conversations with the Parish Priest and his key co-workers, following which the Property Department will prepare and undertake site-specific risk assessments. After the risk assessment is complete, protocols and procedures will be developed and put in place to enable the building, whether that be the church or Parish Hall for example, to reopen safely and securely. The Curia will source and have delivered to you packs of resources to enable an initial deep clean and some on-going cleaning of buildings to be undertaken. Full compliance with these Diocesan protocols and procedures will be a requirement for Clergy, employees and all volunteers so that the opening of our Churches, and indeed all buildings, is safe and shown to be safe.

I fully appreciate the importance of the reopening of our Churches and our shared desire to see this happen. You must however await further guidance from me, not least of all on which churches are to reopen first, before taking any action.

Every blessing,
+Robert

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.

Pope Video

The Pope Video is a monthly video with notes that highlights the Holy Father's monthly intentions for prayer. During this month of May the intention is for Deacons. Follow this link to watch and read. thepopevideo.org

Community Support

Gateshead Council have a dedicated page on their website offering a network of support for those who need help: -

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15181/coronavirus-COVID-19-Community-support>

Or phone 01914333000

Alcoholics Anonymous Call free on 08009177650 or email help@aamail.org

As part of the pastoral care of parishioners and others during this time several qualified counsellors and listeners have generously made themselves available to anyone who may be troubled by the negative effect of the situation. These counsellors and listeners can be contacted through St Mary's Cathedral Listening Service on 01912326953

European Union Citizens All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working, and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettdstatus. Please bring this to the attention of friends, relatives and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlementscheme. The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools, and communities.