



THE MONTH OF
MAY IS DEDICATED
TO OUR LADY
PERHAPS DURING
THIS MONTH, WE
COULD ALL SAY THE
ROSARY DAILY
ASKING OUR
MOTHER FOR
PROTECTION AND
RELIEF FROM THE
PANDEMIC?

ST JOSEPH'S AND ST WILFRID'S

Weekly Newsletter During Pandemic 2020

Week Beginning 3rd May 2020
4th Sunday of Easter (OF) 3rd Sunday After Easter (EF)

Readings for 4th Sunday of Easter (OF) Feast of The Good Shepherd

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| First Reading | ACTS 2:14 36-41 |
| Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5,6 |
| Second Reading | 1 Peter 2:20-25 |
| Alleluia | John 10:14 |
| Gospel | John 10: 1-10 |

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"

The Good Shepherd assures **His** flock of predestination to glory.

Sheep have no sense of direction, let out your cat or your dog for the night and they will find their way home. Birds return to their nests, bees to their hives, but sheep easily get lost. The prophet Isaiah wrote "All we, like sheep, have gone astray, everyone to his own way".

The parable of the Good Shepherd is a parable about good leadership in society, we all need direction and leadership, because there are many voices clamouring for our attention, today more than ever before. Yes listen to and respect the voices of the professionals offering advice on health and happiness, the Doctor, the Lawyer, the Health Visitor, The Priest, but we need to weed out false claims just as a disciple of Jesus will filter out the false shepherd and his false advice. The disciple is gifted with discernment, he knows and chooses truth.

As we live in a democracy, we all have a role to play in choosing our leader. As Christians we must always use our vote and even if we disagree with *all* the candidates, we should choose the one who will do the least harm.

So, what should we look for in our leaders? What does the parable of the Good Shepherd teach us? We are all called to imitate the Good Shepherd in our own lives to be good leaders as; parents, teachers, politicians, trade union leaders, leaders of industry, police-officers, lawyers, social workers. Therefore, we all need to ask ourselves "What makes a good leader?"

In the days of Jesus there were three ideas of leadership - The Roman, the Eastern, the Jewish.

The **Romans** chose their leaders from the army; the Emperor king of Rome: the *Caesars*. They believed that **law, order and discipline** were essential qualities for good leaders and so they chose the soldier king who would keep **order and punish**.

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The Eastern world, the people of *Persia*, believed that *wisdom* was the essence of leadership, an educated leader for an educated people, if the leader does not know the way then his/her people get lost. So, the Persians chose their leaders from amongst their *scientists*, who at the time were mostly *astronomers*, using the stars to guide and inform, the *Wise men* from the East who came to Bethlehem were scientist kings
But the *first king of Israel* was not a soldier, nor a wise scientist, but a *shepherd*, the boy *David*.

The Jews/Hebrews recognised that *key* to good leadership is *Love* and *Care*, especially for the weak, the oppressed, the lonely and the lost. The verb 'to rule' in Hebrew is also the verb 'to shepherd' and 'to care for'.

Of course, we need *discipline* in our leaders;(the soldier king), we also need *wisdom*;(the scientist king), but above all we need *one who loves* his people. One who *cares* enough *to serve* them and nourish them, to *forgive* them and bring them back when they stray.

The Shepherd King of Israel is the basic *Christian* concept of *leadership*, we are not in authority to lord it over others, the higher we go up the ladder the more we are called to serve, authority is not power and control, but service and love. We are chosen to serve.

To be Good Shepherds in our homes and workplaces we need to build communities of love, forgiveness, patience and gentleness.

God will reward us with the assurance of our predestination to glory.

"The sheep who belong to me, no one can steal from me"

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Readings for the 3rd Sunday after Easter (EF)

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Introit | Psalm 65: 1,2 |
| Epistle 1 | 1 Peter 2:11-19 |
| Greater Alleluia | Psalm 110:9 |
| Gospel | John 16 :16-22 |

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel appears to be insanely repetitive, how many times do we read: -
"A little while and now you shall not see me: and again, a little while, and you shall see me"
It is as if the Lord is trying to imprint on our hearts and our minds the idea of eternity, that at times we feel Him close by our sides and at other times we may feel His absence, but we must never fear because He is always there at our sides to carry us through. We at times feel confused by His apparent absence especially, it seems, at the times we need Him most; at times of deep sorrow or fear, illness and uncertainty, as at these times of the pandemic, but
just as
"A woman when she is in labour, hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but when she hath brought forth the child, she remembereth no more of the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world"

Jesus is letting us know that the end game, Heaven, to be eternally with Him is worth the confusion, the pain and the suffering



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Make the Month of May a Special Dedication to Our Mother, Our Lady, Mother of Our Lord,
the Risen Christ

An Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Virgin, I choose thee this day for my queen, patron, and advocate, and firmly resolve and purpose never to abandon thee, never to say or do anything against thee, nor to permit that aught be done by others to dishonour thee. Receive me, then, I conjure thee, as thy perpetual servant; assist me in all my actions, and do not abandon me at the hour of my death. Amen. — *St. John Berchmans*

The Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary



Joyful

(Monday / Saturday)

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple



Sorrowful

(Tuesday / Friday)

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion



Glorious

(Sunday / Wednesday)

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation



Luminous

(Thursday)

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

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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 during the month of May:-



The Rosary; The Memorare and sing: 'The Lord is my Shepherd'

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 especially Margaret Donnelly, relative of Shauna Devitt

Eternal Rest Grant unto Them Oh Lord

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 1LX

Thank You to all who have continued to support the church in this way during the present situation

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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Community Support

Gateshead Council

Have a dedicated page on their website offering a network of support to anyone who needs help, website:-

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

Or phone 01914333000

Alcoholics Anonymous

Do you or someone you know have a problem with alcohol? Call free on: - 08009177650 or email help@aamail.org

Under current restrictions physical meetings of AA are not possible, they are currently being hosted on a virtual platform called "Zoom", please contact the above helpline should you wish to find out more. Locally you can contact the following in confidence: -

Paul 07554665116 Ryan 07745273686

Please don't suffer alone, there is help out there!

Pastoral Care

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

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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.

Diocesan Spiritual Support

These resources have been created to support you and your loved ones in this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We offer these prayers in solidarity and we want you know know that the Church community is praying with you and you are not alone.

'[Resources for times of grieving and death](#)' includes; Prayers for loved ones we cannot visit in hospital, Prayers for someone who has recently died and Prayers for a loved one whose funeral you cannot attend.

'[Prayers for the sick and dying](#)' contains a collection of Catholic prayers to comfort you and your loved ones during difficult times of sickness and death.

Mgr. Andrew Faley, Vicariate for Faith & Mission (email: evfaithandmission@diocesehn.org.uk).

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](#).

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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

New Names for Catholic Education Trusts

In December 2019 the Diocesan Board agreed a revised academy policy in which they identified four Multi Academy Trusts in the Diocese that would grow. These were Sacred Heart Partnership of Schools, Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust, The Trinity Catholic Multi Academy Trust, and Carmel Education Trust.

On 1 April 2020 the four Trusts were re-named as follows:

Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust (formerly Sacred Heart Partnership of Schools)

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (formerly Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust)

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust (formerly The Trinity Catholic Multi Academy Trust)

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust (formerly Carmel Education Trust)

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 Fr Michael Brown or to email Shauna Devitt at

shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk

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To whom shall we go? A Seven Session Discernment Programme for Men Considering Priesthood in Hexham & Newcastle Diocese.

Could Jesus be calling you to be Catholic Priest? Our online course of reflection and discussion is an opportunity to ask that question. Gathering as an online group, we will discuss what it means to discern a vocation, learn a little about the path to priesthood and enjoy fellowship in the process!

The course will take place using ZOOM at 7:15pm on Mondays beginning **Monday 11th May.**

To express interest in joining our sessions, or to find out more, please contact Father Christopher Warren at vocations@rcdhn.org.uk

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love.

Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

This will take place *every Thursday at 7pm.*

7 May

Bishop Marcus Stock
[St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds](#)
[YouTube Channel](#)

14 May

Bishop Robert Byrne CO
[St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle](#)
[YouTube Channel](#)

A People who Hope in Christ A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis:

"In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side." (27 March 2020)

The impact of Covid - 19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed. Our health and physical interaction, our capacity to travel and gather, have all been affected. There is uncertainty in our future, especially with work and the country's economy.

As we know, very sadly, large numbers of people have died because of the coronavirus, and others have been or remain seriously ill. Keyworkers, not least in the National Health Service and care sectors, are serving selflessly to sustain the life of our nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is suffering because of Covid 19, and to all those battling to overcome its effects. May those who have died rest in peace and those who are bereaved find comfort.

When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore, Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic Community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted. None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live -streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other Sacraments.

Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully though 'seeing, touching, and tasting.' We know that every bishop and every priest recognise the pain of Catholics who, at present, cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weighs heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones at Mass each day in our churches as we pray 'in hope of health and well-being.' We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling. As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual, catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities.

None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare. We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests, our deacons and religious, our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish and school communities, for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy.

On that first Easter day the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day, we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise. We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

✠ Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

✠ Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham

✠ George Stack
Archbishop of Cardiff

✠ John Wilson
Archbishop of Southwark