

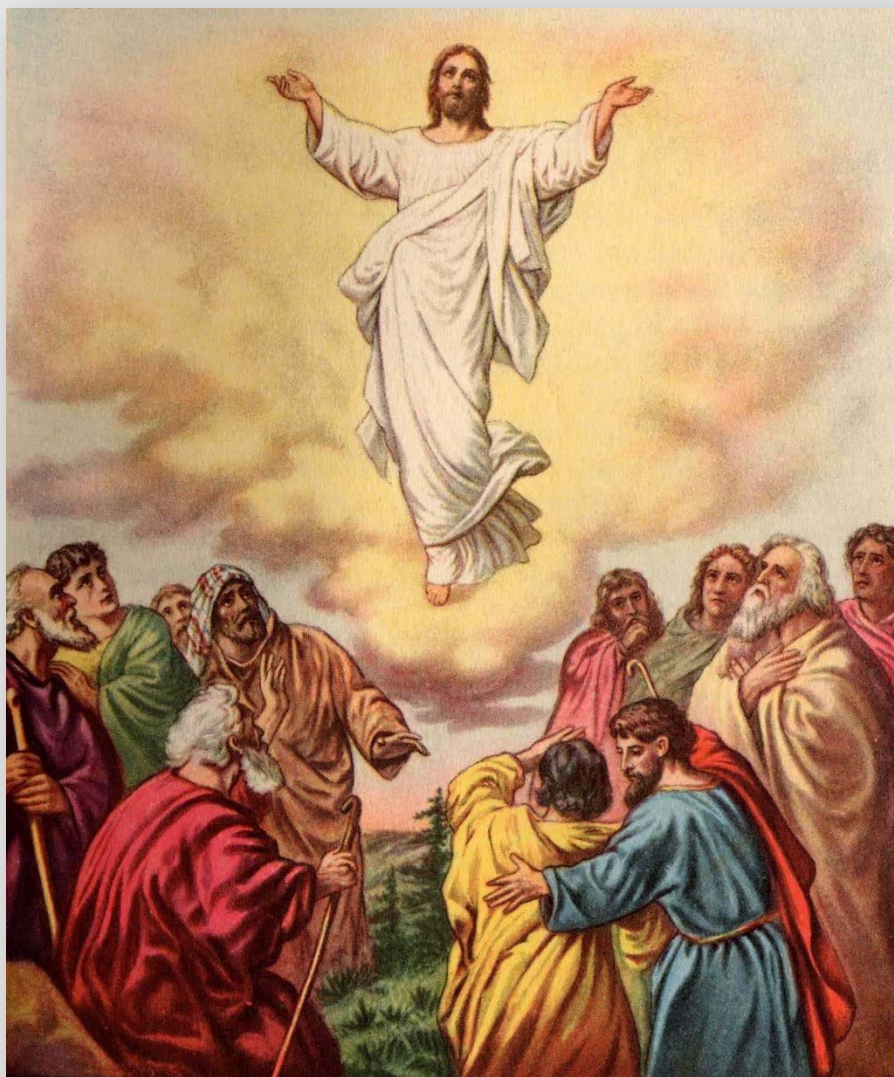
Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic
Joint Parishes of St. Joseph's and St. Wilfrid's Gateshead

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And He ascended into Heaven where He sits at God's right hand



Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time

Today is the 6th Sunday of Easter

Readings for today are: -

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Acts 8:5-8. 14-17</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalm 65</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:15-18</i>
<i>Allsuaia</i>	<i>John 14:23</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>John 14:15-21</i>

"If you love me you will keep my commandments"

We are taught that there are ten commandments, a relatively few number of rules which we are asked to keep and live by. If we look at each one very carefully, we can in fact sum all ten up into one simple active word 'LOVE'. If we love Jesus we will want to do as He has taught us and shown us throughout His life on earth, we will love others as He has loved us.

Jesus lived His life in humility, joy, peace, compassion and love, He served all those with whom He came into contact, He never judged or condemned but accepted and loved everyone as they were, warts and all, He gently, in true service and humility, led people to follow Him. When we live our lives in the same way we are keeping His commandments.

There has probably never been a time in most of our lives when we have been so anxious to follow the rules, no other time when we have followed instructions so carefully and trusted people we have never met to do the same. As a nation we are putting our faith into our political and scientific leaders. Strangely there are some similarities between the guidance Jesus gave His disciples and the rules we are now being asked to follow during this pandemic. Although the delivery of these rules is vastly different, not being given in humility or joy, their purpose is the same, that we would live safely, happily and in good health. That we co-operate with each other to ensure that all people are given the best chance to live life in the best way possible. We are asked to take care of the most

vulnerable, to offer help to those in need and to humbly accept the help of those who offer it if we ourselves are in need.

Jesus taught His followers to live in the best way possible during difficult times, His commandments are not there to restrict us but rather to set us free, these days we feel uncomfortable with the term 'command', we want to be free to choose and don't relish obeying anyone, but Jesus is not commanding us in the way a ship's captain commands his sailors, He is asking us, gently, to follow His way of life rather than follow a specific set of rules. We are being asked to listen to His words, to see the wisdom they hold and to understand the sense in following Him.

*We don't keep God's commandments **SO THAT** He will love us, but **BECAUSE** He loves us, His primary instruction to the apostles as He prepares to leave them, is that they should love one another as He has loved them, and that love is unconditional. We are to replicate His love on our journey through life, and in doing so we will find that this commandment is not a restrictive burden but a freedom, when we love we feel happy and we want to share that happiness with everyone we meet, love and happiness are contagious, through living our lives as Jesus taught us love and happiness, therefore peace, humility and joy will spread like wildfire or Covid-19!!*

*God loves us not because **WE** are good, but because **HE** is good. Our very existence is a sign of God's love, our response is to try to return that love, not directly to God, but to the image of God, our fellow human beings, this can be difficult but we are not asked to do it alone, God sent His Holy Spirit to live in us and with us forever and with Him all things are possible.*

Jesus Others yourself

Today is the 5th Sunday after Easter (E F)

Readings for today are: -

Introit	Isaias 68:20
Epistle 1	James 1:22-27
Greater Alleluia	John 16:28
Gospel	John 16:23-30

"Oh God from Whom all good things come, grant unto us, Thy suppliant people, that by Thine inspiration, we may think what is right, and under Thy guidance perform the same"

The Epistle often contains practical advice for us to live an upright and moral life, it is an aid to encourage us to be faithful to the gifts we receive at the Mass and to apply those graces to our daily lives. The first line of this week's Epistle states bluntly "Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves", this needs little explanation, we are being compelled to listen to the Word of God, the Gospel and then to put it into practise. It may seem like a tall order and we could become filled with resistance and fear, believing ourselves incapable of putting The Word into action, but far from the command being a burden it sets us free. The Gospel reinforces the idea of the joy that comes from following the way of Christ, Jesus says "Ask and you shall receive; that your joy may be full". At first glance, we could misunderstand these words to be telling us that we will never want for anything, that we will never have to suffer, just ask for what you want, and you will get it! However, if we are a hearer and doer of the Word, then we will only desire what is conformable to that Word. We will not ask for material riches or comfort in this life, but instead that we might always remain close to the Lord no matter the circumstances of our life. And if we remain close to the Lord, then we cannot help but be joyful!

Jesus Others yourself

During the Month of May which is dedicated to Our Lady, we are asked to pray the Holy Rosary and to keep in mind vocations to the Priesthood



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 ought to 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

Loyful

(Monday/Saturday)

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

Glorious

(Sunday/Wednesday)

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

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*

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*

Uniting in Prayer

Come together each evening at 9 pm to pray in unity, light a candle if you can and:-
during the month of May let us pray The Holy Rosary together, followed by The Memorare and a Hymn to Our Lady

Prayer to Our Lady Help of the Sick

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

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 shaunalexitt@tiscali.co.uk for inclusion in the newsletter

Please also remember the dead

Eternal Rest Grant unto Them Oh Lord



Ascension Thursday

Although we are unable to celebrate in Church, we still celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord on Thursday, so please try to offer a moment of prayer on that day and even allow a glass of wine or your favourite drink to celebrate this feast!! Christ promised not to leave his apostles as orphans, but that the Spirit would be with them always. Let us never forget that the same Lord Jesus makes the same promise to us, especially during this testing time of the Covid-19 pandemic.



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

Keeping us updated with your contact information

If you have moved to a new house, changed telephone number, got a new email address or are new to the Parish please let us know. Use parish email addresses 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

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.

Mass for the Sick

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 currently. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week a Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live streamed for people to join. This will take place every Thursday at 7pm. ♦ 21st May, Bishop Mark Davies, Shrewsbury Cathedral ♦ 28th May, Bishop Terence Drainey, Middlesbrough Cathedral These Masses will be live-streamed, and can be viewed by visiting the Cathedral webpage, or the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk)

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 councillors 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/eusettledstatus. 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.

Appeals

Sick and Retired Priests Collection If you wish to make a donation to the Annual Collection for the Sick and Retired Priests of the Diocese, you can send your donation to Father Ian Jackson at St Joseph's Presbytery, Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4HW, with cheques made payable to "Northern Brethren Fund".

The Little Sisters of the Poor have an emergency appeal at the moment to support them financially at this time for PPE for Staff and Sisters. If you wish to help, you can donate online at www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/

CAFOD Appeal Acknowledging the difficult times we face in our own country during this Pandemic, CAFOD are also very aware of the difficulties those in the global south are also facing at this time, and perhaps in greater need than many of us. A written Appeal from the Director is available on our website or visit CAFOD's website ... cafod.org.uk

The Newcastle based Diocesan Justice and Peace Project is appealing for financial help. Cheques can be made payable to "DHN, Destitute Asylum Fund" and sent to: John Dowling, Asylum Seekers' Manager, Our Lady of Lourdes Centre, 2 Summerhill Grove, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6EE. Many Thanks.