

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – Communications Sunday, Year B** 16th & 17th May 2015

**PASTORAL LETTER FOR ASCENSION SUNDAY, 16/17 MAY 2015**

My Dear People

If you are going away on a family holiday, a weekend break or a business trip, the hardest thing is not packing all you will need to take with you but leaving everything ready to tick over in your absence. You spend time leaving clear instructions for those looking after everything and try to second guess every problem and difficulty that may occur and somehow put things in place to prevent it. It's an impossible task so that as you are leaving you feel at times exhausted and wondering if it would be simpler to stay at home!

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord; that Jesus was taken up into heaven and there at the right hand of God He takes His place. By returning to the Father Jesus was not distancing himself from us but as our mediator assuring us that where He has gone we are to follow. Before Jesus goes he wants to put everything in place and so showing Himself to the disciples He gives them His final instruction "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation". This is the final command of Jesus to his disciples and to us the disciples of Jesus today.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis, in a sermon earlier this year, made the all important point that "there are two ways of thinking and having faith: we can fear to lose the saved and we can want to save the lost". "God" he tells us "is about mercy and reinstatement, turning evil to good, condemnation into salvation and exclusion into proclamation". We are about going out and proclaiming the Good News and not preservation at any cost.

This is at the heart of our diocesan journey of renewal 'forward together in hope' and next week, Pentecost Sunday, we move into the next phase of this journey. Every Parish community will receive a questionnaire enabling us to look carefully at ourselves and see how we are fulfilling the Command of the Lord to "Go out into the world and proclaim the good news" both as individuals and as a community.

Alongside this, and very much part of it, is an ecumenical initiative 'The Joy of the Gospel' which has been prepared by the Diocesan Evangelisation team in partnership with Durham Cathedral and Diocese. Two years ago we saw the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation 'The Joy of the Gospel' that challenges us to "Go out to the whole world!" Also that year many people visited the Lindisfarne Gospels when they were in Durham and we had a wonderful celebration in Durham Cathedral as part of the Year of Faith. I asked you in Durham Cathedral to be the living pages of the Gospel by your witness of life. I am therefore asking you to prepare for a celebration of 'The Joy of the Gospel' and a commissioning in Durham Cathedral on the feast of the translation of St Cuthbert, Sunday 6th September. To prepare for this there is a booklet with a series of reflections on different people in the Scriptures who took up the challenge to witness to Jesus by their lives and to reach out to others. I would encourage you to use these reflections and to invite our brothers and sisters from other churches to join you so that together we can take up the challenge to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News.

With best wishes

**Right Reverend Séamus Cunningham**  
**Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle**

## **MESSAGE FROM MGR ANDREW**

I continue to make steady progress, with some pain as the healing takes place. Renewed thanks for your many cards and gifts, prayers and best wishes, all of which are greatly appreciated.

## **PARISH NOTICES**

### **FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY SECOND COLLECTION**

Ascension Sunday has been designated by the Catholic Church as Communications Sunday when we are asked to pray for the work of the media and the Catholic Communications Network. Prayer cards are available at the back of all churches. A second collection will be taken after Mass to fund the work of the CCN.

*O God, whose word is truth and in whose light we see light, guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image.*

*Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity.*

*Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours, and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world, awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence and of longing for your peace, Through Christ Our Lord,*

***Amen.***

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Last weekend, 57 of our young people received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time during Mass in our three churches. This was a memorable stage in the journey of their faith, which began with their baptism. In baptism, the parents of these young people accepted the duty to be the first teachers of the faith to their children, and this responsibility was affirmed again in last weekend's celebrations. I offer my congratulations and promise of prayers to all the parents who so enthusiastically supported their children in their formation for First Holy Communion. Thanks, also, to Father Stempczyk, Father McElhone and Father John Patrick for presiding at the Masses in my regrettable absence.



You will remember that the decision was taken to postpone last year's First Holy Communion and to move it both from Year 3 to Year 4 and from the school into the Parish. This decision was not taken lightly, and required the Parish to take a new approach, as encouraged by the Diocese. Since last September, a group of 8 catechists has guided the preparation of the young people and their parents through a well-prepared programme of teaching, reflection and celebration. They freely offered to do this with great generosity and commitment, and were from the start not put off by the work that was involved. We offer our congratulations and thanks to them. Thanks also to other members of the Parish who, over the months of preparation and celebration, gave of themselves in support.

This year's First Holy Communion was a new stage in the life of the Parish, with a much closer involvement of parents, especially encouraged by the catechists. Star of the Sea School provided its own invaluable support throughout, and we also offer the Headteacher and staff our thanks.

Behind all of this we acknowledge that it is God who deepens our faith in his Son, Jesus, and calls us to live his life to the full. We have firm foundations on which to build for the future, which are settled in our love and respect for each other. That is what the Eucharist means and we pass on to our young people; that is what Jesus calls on us to give to the world. Mgr Andrew.

### **PARISH BULLETIN**

Our Cluster website [www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk](http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk) is now live and this includes a copy of our weekly bulletin. We would like to cut down on the amount of paper copies we produce each week and so if you are happy to read the bulletin online or would prefer to have an electronic copy emailed to you direct, please let Janet Murphy our Parish Secretary know.

### **REQUESTS FOR REFERENCES**

I frequently receive requests to provide references for those applying for teaching and other posts, and I'm happy to oblige, if I can. However, I cannot provide a reference if the applicant has not asked my permission, and preferably has discussed their application with me. As the Catholic Education Service application process says: "It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that all named referees, including Parish Priests, where applicable, have consented to providing a reference." Mgr Andrew

### **OUR LADY AND ST EDMUND MISSION MONEY**

Grateful thanks for the sum of £363.65 collected from the red boxes and donations for this spring quarter.

### **FAIR TRADE**

There will be a Fair Trade sale at St Edwards after Mass this Sunday 17th May.

### **PARISH WALKING GROUP**

The next walk will be on Thursday 21st May when David Armstrong will lead a 7 mile walk from West Woodburn, in Redesdale, through woods and fields. Please meet at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at 9.30am. If you require more information please telephone David on 2511545.

### **MONDAY CLUB AT ST EDWARD'S**

On 18th May Bob Mitchelson will tell us about "The History of Earsdon" - everyone is very welcome. There will be no meeting on 25th May as it's a Bank Holiday, we'll return on 1st June with TV Reviews.

### **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP**

The J&P Group would like to thank all who baked and all who brought cakes last weekend for our Isaac's House appeal. A magnificent £275 was raised. Our next project is a 10 mile sponsored walk to take place in June. More about that soon!

### **GARDEN SALE**

There will be a garden sale (plants, fruit and vegetables) on Sunday 31st May at St Edward's after Mass in aid of 'The Street Children in Kenya'. Money is being raised to provide a hostel for girls and your support would be welcomed. Mary Storey.

## **OTHER NOTICES**

### **NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

The next talk "Street Pastors on the Coast" A talk by Chris Lincoln Street Pastor Coordinator. At St Mary's Church Hall Farringdon Road Cullercoats NE30 3EY, on Wednesday 27th May at 7.30. All welcome.

### **BRAVE OF HEART: A WEEKEND JOURNEY FOR MEN**

19th - 21st June 2015 Cor et Lumen Christi, St Cuthbert's The Old Convent, Wigton CA7 9HU. Come and find all that God has prepared for your masculine heart: life changing talks, extended times of praise and worship, fellowship and sharing with other Christian men, time in the Lake District, Holy Mass, opportunity for Confession, Prayer ministry. DONATION ONLY after £10 registration fee. Includes meals. [www.coretlumenchristi.org](http://www.coretlumenchristi.org) [stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org](mailto:stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org) 016973 45623

### **PIE AND PEA SUPPER FUNDRAISING NIGHT**

Fr Peter Stott is celebrating his Silver Jubilee of Ordination in June. There will be a Pie and Pea Supper, Bingo and Raffle, starting at 7pm on Saturday 30th May in the Parish Hall at St Cuthberts Church, North Shields to raise funds for his Silver Jubilee Presentation Fund. Tickets cost £3.50. Bring your own drink. If you would like tickets to come along and join in the fun, contact Nora Pearson, Chair of Social Committee (0191 258 5726) or Ian Pearson, Chair of Parish Council [ian\\_p83@yahoo.com](mailto:ian_p83@yahoo.com).

### **NORTH EAST CHURCHES ACTING TOGETHER (NECAT)**

This year's AGM will take place at 2pm on Thursday 4th June at The Sanctuary Artspace in Gateshead. NECAT became the intermediary body for Churches Together groups in September 2014 and at the AGM will be looking at what has happened over the last few months and what is planned for the future. It would be great to see you at the AGM, all are welcome.

MASS INTENTIONS			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S
Saturday 16th May	NO SERVICE/CONFESSIONS	6.00pm Pat Clark (MB)	NO SERVICE
Sunday 17th May <b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	11.00am Tess Summers (PR)	5.00pm People of the Parish	9.30am Steven Hill (MW)
Monday 18th May	9.30am Word and Communion	10.00am Word and Communion	NO SERVICE
Tuesday 19th May <b>ST DUNSTAN</b>	7.00pm Word and Communion	10.00am Noel Woodfine (H&JC)	NO SERVICE
Wednesday 20th May <b>ST BERNADINE OF SIENA</b>	9.30am Word and Communion 8.00pm Prayer Group	10.00am Private Intention (JT)	NO SERVICE
Thursday 21st May <b>ST GODRIC OF FINCHALE</b>	9.30am Darren Nugent (MN) 7.00pm Compline	10.00am May & Albert Arkley (AR)	NO SERVICE
Friday 22nd May	9.30am Word and Communion	10.00am Tom Freel	NO SERVICE
Saturday 23rd May	NO SERVICE/CONFESSIONS	6.00pm Lawrence Anastasi	NO SERVICE
Sunday 24th May <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	11.00am Monica & George Thrift (MT)	5.00pm Katherine Quinn	9.30am People of the Parish

**Please remember in your prayers** those who are ill and unable to attend Mass, particularly Ann Lafferty, Mary Dalby, Sarah Larkin, Maureen Bell, Norma Smith, John Jameson, Steve Heywood, Bob Howe, Charlie McCuigan and Veronica Clarke. Please also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently especially Juanna Brown of Earsdon Grange Care Home, Fr Lawrence Jones, Noel Woodfine and Fr Hugh McCann.

BAPTISM	ST EDWARD'S	OUR LADY & ST EDMUND
Sunday 17th May, 12.30pm	Summer Eve Wedderburn	
Sunday 24th May, 12.30pm		Ellie Smith

**Hospital Chaplaincies**

**North Tyneside General Hospital**, Rake Lane: Fr David Nixon MSC 03448 118111 Ext 4268 or 0191 2934268.

**RVI, Freeman & Walkergate**: Fr Michael Corbett at St Andrew's, Worswick St, 0191 2321892

**Newcastle General Hospital**: Sister Teresa, 0191 2336161 ext 28465

**Priests' telephone numbers**

Mgr Andrew Faley 0191 2528021, Fr Martin Stempczyk 0191 2513770, Fr Peter Stott 0191 2575801

**Parish e-mail addresses for bulletins:**

<b>Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Office</b>	<b>parishofficeolss@btconnect.com (0191) 252 7066</b>
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St Mary/St Oswin	cullercoats.stmary@rcdhn.org.uk
St Joseph	northshields.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk
St Cuthbert	northshields.stcuthbert@rcdhn.org.uk

**Parish Office opening hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am—12.00noon.**

**For bulletin entries please contact the Parish Secretary - telephone 0191 2527066 or email to parishofficeolss@btconnect.com**

**Items for the bulletin should be received by 12 noon on Thursdays.**