

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm {Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*}

Psalm 22

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| <p>1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.</p> | <p>2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.</p> |
| <p>3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.</p> | <p>4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.</p> |

SECOND READING {*Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.*}

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.


Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL {*The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.*}

John 9: 1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.' So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields		
Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church <i>Albion Road West North Shields</i>		Saint Joseph Catholic Church <i>Wallsend Road North Shields</i>
Father Christopher Hughes, St Joseph's Church, Wallsend Road, Chirton, North Shields, NE29 7AA ☎ (Tel) 0191 257 5801 / ☎ (Fax) 0191 259 2589 ✉ (Email) northshields.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk / northshields.stcuthbert@rcdhn.org.uk		
Cluster Telephone Numbers Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021 Father Martin Stempczyk ☎ 0191 251 3770 St Cuthbert's Church ☎ 0191 257 3408	Other Deanery Numbers Father Anthony Donaghue ☎ 0191 262 3882 Father John McElhone ☎ 0191 2623820 Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr Stephen Watson ☎ 07768 3873931	

Sunday, 26 th March 2017 – 4 th Sunday of Lent - Year A			
Masses, Devotions and Services			
		St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
Saturday	25 th March	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Ellen Hazelgrave	9:30am Mass:
Sunday	26 th March	11:00am Mass: David McManus & Family	9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Teresa Hanlon 4:00pm Stations of the Cross
Monday	27 th March	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass:	
Tuesday	28 th March		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass:
Wednesday	29 th March	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Ellen Hazelgrave	
Thursday	30 th March		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass:
Friday	31 st March	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: John Loughborough RIP	7:00pm Mass:
Saturday	1 st April	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5.30pm Mass:	No Morning Mass
Sunday	2 nd April	11:00am Mass: Dec'd M Burns Family 4:00pm Stations of the Cross	9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Gloria Gascon

Forward Together In Hope

Glory be to the Father – in whom we live and move and have our being.
 Glory be to the Son – whose name we bear and who calls each of us to be his disciples; to build his Kingdom and to go out into the world and bear its fruit.
 Glory be to the Holy Spirit – pouring out grace and guidance, forming us and renewing us. Inspire us all in the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle to live the Gospel, to be open to change and to move forward together in hope.

Parish Mission Statement

"You send forth your spirit they are created, and you renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 104)
 We are a community who meet Jesus in His words and in His Sacraments.
 Filled then, with the Holy Spirit, we seek to build a community of faith, hope, love and hospitality.
 As the Gospel is proclaimed, celebrated and lived out in our daily lives, we are sent out to renew the face of the earth

Lent 2017 Lenten Course

This week we will be continuing our Lenten Course, called 'Sharing our Gifts'. We will be exploring the variety of ministries that are needed for a community to be a flourishing parish. I am delighted that all the input will be led by parishioners which shows the depth and range of gifts we have. The talks will be taking place at St Cuthbert's and will start at 7.00pm

March 29th Formation and Teaching - Tim O'Grady
April 5th Administration - David Leane & Sheila Hall
April 12th Seeking Justice and Social Outreach - Peter Quinn and Fr Chris.

This week we will start with a reflection on the importance of teaching and formation in living out our discipleship. This will be led by our parishioner Tim O'Grady. Drawing on a lifetime in teaching Tim will lead the group in a number of approaches designed to help reflection about our experience of Faith

Fr Chris hopes the variety of issues will show the diversity of parish ministry but all aspects are needed and we are all called to reflect on how we can contribute to this variety of ministries

Worship in Lent

Every Sunday will have Stations of the Cross at 4.00pm. This week Stations will be at St Joseph's. There will be an evening Mass on Friday evenings at 7.00pm, until April 7th at St Joseph's

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday - 8th/9th April with blessing and distribution of palms
Vigil Mass: 5.30 pm St Cuthbert's
Sunday Mass: 9.30am St Joseph's
11.00am St Cuthbert's

Monday 10th April 9.30am Mass at St Cuthbert's
Tuesday 11th April 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's
Wednesday 12th April 9.30am Mass at St Cuthbert's

Maundy Thursday - Thursday 13th April –
7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper and Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, at St Joseph's

Good Friday - Friday 14th April –
10.00am Churches Together Joint Witness and Procession at Northumberland Square
3.00pm Celebration of the Passion at St Cuthbert's

Holy Saturday - Saturday 15th April
8.00pm Easter Vigil at St Joseph's with Reception into the Catholic Church Jo-Anna Barton-Gates and Lucas Richter

Easter Sunday - Sunday 16th April
Mass 9.30am St Joseph's
Mass 11.00am St Cuthbert's

Collections

19th March 2017 - £856.83
Cafod - £94.00

Please pray for ... A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews: Those who Suffer Persecution; Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe, Human Life and Seafarers. Those who are sick: please pray for all who are sick, for all who are in hospital, hospice or nursing homes, including Jackie Kelly, Joseph Ackerley, Patricia Conlon, Betty Hill, Mel Mitchell, Audrey Lewis, Father Michael Marr, Father Bill Bellamy, Father Leo Coughlin, Ros McGann, Father Richard Harriott, Gary James, Catherine West, Dorothy Rutherford, Nancy Healy, Gerry Thirsk, Tom Wright, Florence Redpath, Mary Wood, Chandra, Debbie Megan, Kay Butler, Sarah Harrison, Fred Stimpson, Lena Armbuster, baby Eliana Carter and David McManus. We pray for all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries are at this time.

CAFOD Emergency Appeal for East Africa

CAFOD as part of Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) is appealing for funds for the humanitarian crisis in East Africa. We will have an emergency special collection next week-end. Please give any CAFOD envelopes in as soon as possible.

Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers in the parish. We remember all our mother 'on earth as in heaven'.

Day of Recollection

The mini-bus for the day of recollection will leave St Cuthbert's at 9.00am on April 1st. We will return for 5.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. 23 people have signed up for the day. We have two spare places left. Please let Fr Chris know asap if you want to take up one of these places. The cost is £15.00.

Flame Event

The Flame event in London was appreciated by all who took part. The chaplain at St Thomas More's and the Parish would like to thank the parishioner who kindly donated to ensure that a student from the school could take part.

Malayalam Language Community Day of Recollection

Sunil Thomas has asked Fr Chris to remind the Malayalam Language Community that they are also having a Day of Recollection on April 1st at St Cuthbert's.

Voices of Peace

In the light of the successful 'Voices of Mercy' events jointly organised by the Diocesan departments of Interfaith, Spirituality and Justice and Peace, they have decided to run a series of 'Voices of Peace' during these uncertain times. Fr Chris is delighted that the parish is hosting the first event this coming Tuesday 28th at St Cuthbert's at 7.00pm. The guest speaker is Pat Gaffney. Pat is the General Secretary of Pax Christi UK. Pax Christi is an international Catholic organisation that seeks peace and justice through non-violence means. Pat is one of the most respected Catholic lay women in this country due to her commitment to peace and we are fortunate to have her speaking in our parish so Fr Chris would encourage parishioners to take this opportunity to hear her speak

Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish council will this Monday March 27th at St Cuthbert's.

Lourdes Trip

Fr Peter Stott, has been in touch, with information for this year's Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes which will be from July 28th to August 4th. Please see poster at the back of the Church for more information.

Liturgy and Formation.

The next meeting of the Liturgy and Formation group is Tuesday April 4th at 7.30 at St Cuthbert's

Young People and Moving Forward Together in Hope

As we move into new partnership, an important emerging priority is our relationship with young people. The report of the young people's survey 'The Way We See It' and Pope Francis' call for a Synod on Youth invite us to reflect on this relationship. All adult parishioners and young people of sixth form age are invited to a diocesan conference at the Newcastle Assembly Rooms on **Saturday 13th May**, called 'The Way We See It: A Response'. Further details are in the booking form available from the parish priest or from the Youth Ministry Team on 01207 592244 or admin@ymt.org. Details also on the YMT website www.ymt.org

Job Vacancy in Hospital Chaplaincy

A part time Catholic Chaplaincy post for Durham & Darlington NHS Trust is advertised on NHS Jobs: www.jobs.nhs.uk
Enter the job reference: 439-AEC-13393-1.

Tyneside Circle Newman Association

Next talk: "Never Judge a Book by its Cover: Looking deeper into The Lindisfarne Gospels" by Maria Charlton at St Mary's RC Church Hall, Farringdon Road, Cullercoats NE30 3EY at 7:30 Wednesday 29th March. All welcome. A.G.M at 7:00.

CAFOD'S Gap Year

There is still time to apply to CAFOD's gap year programme, including a new placement at Leeds Trinity University. For anyone aged 18 – 30: an opportunity to volunteer in the UK, gain experience, develop leadership skills and visit CAFOD partners overseas. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year or call Catherine / Lucy on 0207 095 5308. The speaker we had from CAFOD last week, Brigid Duffy, is one of those taking part in this Gap programme. Fr Chris thinks this is a great opportunity for a young adult to broaden her or his horizons, learn more about the developed world and to grow in faith and maturity.

The Diocesan Refugee Project

In his role as Chair of the Diocesan Justice and Project, Fr Chris went to visit the Diocesan Refugee Service which is based at the Diocesan Centre of the Deaf, in Summer Hill Grove, Newcastle. The project is helping over three hundred refugees, many of whom are officially destitute. The refugee service provides a bag of basic foodstuffs, a small financial donation and the opportunity to obtain clothes. It was inspiring to see how the generosity of many people in the diocese is contributing to help some of the most vulnerable people in our society. If you have free time on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning from 10.00am – 1.00pm, volunteers would be gratefully accepted.

Action Hosting Open Evening

Action Hosting is part of a Newcastle based organisation, Action Foundation, that six months ago started their hosting scheme for destitute asylum seekers. They are looking for new volunteer hosts and are holding open evenings to talk about our scheme. If you have a spare room and would like to help someone who is homeless, then hosting may suit you. Hosts will provide a safe place to sleep, for people who have nowhere else to go, for an agreed and defined amount of time. We will provide full induction training to all hosts who are eligible to become part of the scheme. Would you like to find out more? Come to our meeting and we can tell you how the scheme works and what support we will give you. There is more information about the scheme here: www.actionfoundation.org.uk/projects_hosting.html
If you would like to come to our meeting, please RSVP at hosting@actionfoundation.org.uk and let us know which date you would like to attend.

The dates for the evenings are: Wednesday 29th March 18:00-19:00, Wednesday, May 10th 18:00-19:00, Wednesday June 21st 18:00-19:00. The open evening will take place at The Castle Gate, Melbourne Street, Newcastle NE1 2JQ

Volunteers for North Tyneside General Mass

On Saturday mornings, Mass is celebrated at North Tyneside General Hospital, with special ministers taking communion to patients on the wards. More special ministers are needed. If any of the special ministers would like to be on the rota please let Fr Chris know.

The Cedarwood Centre

As many of you know, the Cedarwood Centre in the Meadow Well Estate, moved premises in December across the road to a former local authority building just across the road in Avon Avenue. One of the projects is to build a 'street gym', which is raising costs by crowd funding. Can you please have a look to see whether this is something that you'd like to support and/or pass the link to your contacts please? The link is <https://www.spacehive.com/cedarwood-streetgym>.

Coming up at Minsteracres:

Quiet days of reflection during Lent
Wednesday 29th March – Kathryn Turner
Wednesday 5th April – Sr. Sheila McNamara RSCJ

Mercy Associates

There will be a Mercy Associates Coffee Morning plus Hot Cross Bun at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, 4th April at 10:15 am. Tickets £1.00.

Social Calendar

Future events are as follows:
23rd April - Afternoon Tea at St Josephs
27th May - Polish Night (food etc more info later)
10th June - Summer Fayre at St Cuthberts

Future Events

Sr Lucy Kurien is the Director of Maher who will be speaking at St. Cuthbert's May 16th at St Cuthberts.