

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

FIRST READING

He was lifted up while they looked on.

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. ‘It is’ he had said ‘what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’ Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’ As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 46

Response: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

1.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.
2.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

He made him sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

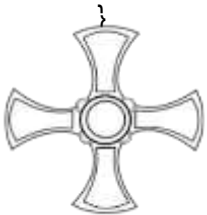
Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church
Albion Road West
North Shields



Saint Joseph Catholic Church
Wallsend Road
North Shields

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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, 28th May 2017 – The Ascension of the Lord - Year A

Masses, Devotions and Services			
		St Cuthbert’s Church	St Joseph’s Church
Saturday 27 th May	4:45pm-5:25pm Confessions	5:30pm Mass: Ernest & Grace Lumsden	9:30 am Mass: No intention
St Augustine of Canterbury			
Sunday 28 th May	11:00am Mass: No intention		9:25am The Angelus
The Ascension of the Lord			9:30am Mass: Teresa Hobson
Monday 29 th May	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament	9:30am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 30 th May		9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament	9:30am Word & Communion
Wednesday 31 st May	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament	9:30am Word & Communion	
Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary			
Thursday 1 st June		9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament	9:30am Word & Communion
St Justin, Martyr			
Friday 2 nd June	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament	9:30am Mass: Kathleen & John Whitley	
Saturday 3 rd June	4:45pm-5:25pm Confessions	5:30pm Mass: Bernard & Anna Teresa Hearn	9:30 am No Mass
Uganda Martyrs			
Sunday 4 th June	11:00am Mass: No intention		9:25am The Angelus
Pentecost Sunday			
			9:30am Mass: Anthony & Doris Doherty

Bidding Prayers and our Partnership

The clergy in the partnership have agreed that at the end of the bidding prayers we will have a short litany of saints to include all the Churches in our partnership. Those writing bidding prayers please note: That in seeking the way ahead or our partnership, we will be open to your Holy Spirit. We seek the intercession of our parish saints and pray:

Holy Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us.
St Joseph, Pray for us.
St Columba, Pray for us.
St Aidan, Pray for us.
St Oswin, Pray for us.
St Cuthbert, Pray for us.
St Edmund, Pray for us.
St Edward, Pray for us.
St Bernadette. Pray for us.
Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer. Or Lord Hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

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, 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, Scott Oakley and David Shieber. We pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Collections

14th May - £771.06

Little Sisters of the Poor - £107.61

21st May 2017 - £819.73

Easter 2017

There will be an acts of Worship service on Pentecost Sunday, 4th June at St Cuthbert's at 4.p.m.

Ascension Feast Day

We now move into the final part of the Easter Season beginning with the celebration of the Ascension. It is on one level a celebration of the Church with its gifts and mission to carry on the work of Christ. We acknowledge our call and mission and bring to mind the gifts God has given us to carry out his call. The feast day is also a celebration of Hope. Where Christ has gone we are all called to follow. We have a vision of our final destination, which has yet to be fulfilled but sustains us on our pilgrim journey. This feast day also begins the time of preparation for the Feast of Pentecost, where we pray in vigil for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit afresh on in the Church. This year Pentecost will have special significance for the Diocese since this will mark the official establishment of the new Partnerships. Please see below for more details.

Welcome to Fr Bernard McCumiskey

The 11.00am Mass at St Cuthbert's warmly welcome Fr Bernard, who is supplying for Fr Chris, while he leads a session at St Joseph's for the parents of children making their First Holy Communion next month. Our thanks to Fr Bernard for helping the parish today.

Launch of Partnerships

As stated above, next week with the Feast of Pentecost is the official launch of the Partnership. The diocese has provided plenty of material to mark this significant event in the life of the Diocese. Each partnership has been given a Dean and a name. For our partnership the Dean will be Mgr Andrew Faley and the name of the partnership will be 'Tynemouth Priory'. Please keep our partnership in your prayers as our parishes seek ways of working together.

Summer Fayre – Saturday, 10th June 2017 – 12 noon

Good and donations are needed for the summer fayre on June 10th.

World Communication Sunday

On the feast of the Ascension the Church in England and Wales celebrate 'World Communication Sunday'. As the apostles are called by Christ to go out and proclaim the Gospel to the whole world, we acknowledge the call to imitate the apostles through all the means of modern and social communication. There will be a second collection for the Church's work in this important area. At a time of violence, uncertainty and change there is a thirst for the Gospel. We are called to ensure that as many people as possible is aware of this Good news - God's offer of Salvation to all through Christ Jesus.

Catholic Social Teaching: Subsidiarity

Of all the themes in Catholic Social Teaching (CST), the principle of subsidiarity, is one that may be unknown by most and the most difficult to explain, but the notion is of crucial importance and it could be argued that some of the most divisive political issues of today are actually on how this principle is applied. This theme came to prominence in CST by Pope Pius XI in 1931. It was during the time of Mussolini and the establishment of other autocratic regimes across Europe including Soviet Russia. Pope Pius was concerned that power, which is a good thing in itself, must operate as locally as possible. If this does not happen, then it is more likely to be destructive as sadly came to light with Mass killings in Russia, Nazi Germany and other dictatorial regimes across Europe. This is sadly the case in many regimes across the world today.

The use of power at a local level as possible is a sound principle but in practice it may not be easy to gauge. Some of the big issues of our time such as Brexit and the possibility of some of the nations of the United Kingdom may become independent are ultimately about what level power should operate and the notion of subsidiarity. The theme also raises the question of the relationship of central to local government and how democracy should be more participative and allow people use their power as part of civic society to seek change for the Common Good, in their own localities, which is one of the key aims of Tyne and Wear Citizens.

Baptism

At St Cuthbert's today we celebrate the baptism of Noah Alcock. We remember and pray for Noah and his parents as he is united in Christ and welcomed into our community.

Confirmations 2017

Any of our young parishioners who are in year 9 or above are eligible to be confirmed. This year the confirmations will be on July 20, at St Cuthbert's Church. The starting date for the programme is June 15th at 6.30pm at ST Thomas More's Academy. Please let Fr Chris know asap if you or your child like to be confirmed on July 20th

Job Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies: Youth Ministry Co-ordinator – Holy Family, Hartlepool, full-time, permanent. Administrator – Immaculate Heart, Lobley Hill, 16 hours per week. Organist – St Mary, Barnard Castle, 2 hours per week. Business Administration Apprentice - Diocesan Offices, Newcastle, full-time. For further information and an application pack please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us (0191 243 3301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

General Election

The Bishop's conference of England and Wales have asked people to reflect on the following issues

○ **Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

The UK's committed to resettling at least 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees by 2020. It is important that the next government keeps this commitment and explores options to expand the programme.

○ **Leaving the European Union**

This election will help to determine how the UK leaves the EU. Important factors include the rights of more than 3m EU citizens in the UK, the rights of UK citizens in other EU countries, and the way new trade deals cover issues like human rights and the environment.

○ **Protecting Life**

In 2015 Parliament voted overwhelmingly to protect society's most vulnerable people, by preventing the legalisation of assisted dying. It is important that the new parliament upholds this decision and supports improvements to end of life care.

○ **Religious Freedom**

Across the world millions of people are being persecuted, imprisoned or killed because of their beliefs. It's important that the next government prioritises freedom of religion or belief in UK foreign policy.

○ **Prison Reform**

In a civilised society prisons should be places of redemption and rehabilitation. The next government faces a significant crisis in the prison system, with unprecedented levels of violence and suicide.

Full copies of the Letter by the Bishop's Conference are at the back of Church

New guidelines for infant baptism

Following the diocesan wide consultation on baptism, the new Guidelines for Infant Baptism have been completed. These will be launched on Wednesday 7 June, 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Gateshead. All are welcome. The guidelines include theological, spiritual, pastoral and liturgical reflections, examples of good practice, recommended resources and specific recommendations for the preparation and celebration of infant baptism. In order to support the ongoing formation of baptism catechists, there will be five events planned around the diocese in June:

Saturday 10 June	Anne's, Darlington	9.00am-12noon
Thursday 15 June	St Robert's, Morpeth	6.00pm-8.30pm
Saturday 17 June	St Aloysius, Hebburn	9.00am-12noon
Monday 19 June	St Michael's, Houghton	6.00pm-8.30pm
Wednesday 28 June	St Cuthbert's House, Newcastle	6.00pm-8.30pm

Attendance at all events can be booked online at <http://adultformationhn.eventbrite.com> or contact us at adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk | 0191 243 3313

Appeal from the SVP

Thank you for items received so far however the family recently arrived in the parish are still in need of towels, T-towels, cutlery, kitchen utensils, double and single bedding and a lawnmower. If you would like any items collected please contact Peter on 2584526 or Kath on 2577041. As always, your help is greatly appreciated. "

CAFOD Fundraiser

Who?: 2econd Wind, a local band playing music from the 60s to the present day.

Why?: To have a good time, raise the profile of Connect2 and also some funds in the process!

When?: Saturday 10th June from 7 p.m. till 11 p.m.

Where?: St. Joseph's Parish Centre in Birtley

How much? Tickets cost £3 and your invited to bring some food to share, though there is a licensed bar.

To purchase tickets contact:: hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk.

Tyneside Circle Newman Association

The next talk is Medjugorje by Fr. Martin Morris, at St Mary's RC Church Hall, Farringdon Road, Cullercoats NE30 3EY at 7.30 Wednesday 31st May. All welcome.

Spirit Spray

On the week-end of Pentecost, 2-4 June, Churches Together in North Shields are holding a teaching day to help Christian throughout North Shields to deepen their Christian faith. There will be outside speakers together with local clergy including Fr Chris giving some input.

Saturday 3rd June 10am-3pm Teaching and Worship

Saturday 3rd June 7.30pm Concert with Worship Leader and Singer-songwriter John Alexander Wilson

Sunday 4th June 6.00pm Churches Together North Shields Pentecost Praise with Rev Jona Sewell preaching. All the events will be taking place at North Shields Baptist Church in Howard Street, North Shields. Please sign form at back of Church if you wish to attend

Pilgrimage to Ladywell, near Preston, Lancs.

on Saturday 24 June 2017, (Nativity of John the Baptist) Cost £20 approx. Rosary and packed lunch required. For details please contact Jose Blay on 0191 2678693

Diocesan Festival 2017

This year will be 24-25th of June at the Emmaus Youth Village, Consett. The theme will be 'Changing Hearts: The Challenge of Discipleship with David Wells, Sr Judith Russi and Clare Dixon. Please see poster at back of Church for more details

Training Course for Special Minister of the Eucharist

The Diocese has asked the parish to host the training course for Special Minister of the Eucharist on June 6th and June 13th from 7-9pm and then on 17 June from 10-4pm with the Commissioning Mass at 3pm.

Sunday 4th June – Social & Faith Group

The social and faith group will meet at St. Cuthbert's upstairs room, 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

All young people of secondary school age are welcome for a relaxed social time and a short 'food for thought' time. It's a great place for young people to come and chill with friends and enjoy each others company.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Appeal for Nurses

Due to increased requests from people needing nursing care and assistance on our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes we need to make an appeal for more nurses.

Are you a nurse? Are you able to join us, do you know a nurse in your family, or a friends, or a nurse in your parish that you might think could help us in Lourdes? Could your parish support funding for a nurse to come to Lourdes?

Are a registered Nurse or experienced Adult Carer ,who can give some time over to helping sick people travel to Lourdes. If you can help please get in touch with Fr Peter J Stott on 01670 513410 www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk or contact lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk