

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, Year B, 10th & 11th March 2018

Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments

SUNDAY READINGS REFLECTION

The theme of today's readings is the mercy of God, which can be considered in three aspects: God is rich in mercy; God's mercy lifts us up and this allows His blessings to flow to us. God's use of Cyrus, a pagan King, and conqueror of Israel as an instrument of deliverance of the Israelites from exile shows the extent of his mercy. It is often the situation for an individual we least expect to be chosen to unfold God's mercy to us. Israel failed, several times, in the Lord's ways and His repeated message to them is that salvation is by grace alone. Paul makes it very clear in his letter to the Ephesians how rich God is in mercy. We cannot save ourselves, we receive salvation as a pure Gift from God. This theme continues in the gospel where Jesus explains to Nicodemus that "God so loved the world that he gave His only Son". When we sin we do this in darkness but God lives in the light. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life in the light as He meant us to live it from the beginning.

Deacon Terry

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2018 - JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A Lent Reflection Group will be available on Friday 16th and 23rd March at 10.45am in the Upper Meeting Room at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Poems and other readings will give a focus to shared reflection and prayer. Christians from the other local churches will be invited to join.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available throughout Lent on Saturdays at St Edward's Church, 10.00 - 10.30am, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 5.30 - 6.00pm, and by appointment. The Sacrament is also available at regular times posted in the churches of our Partnership Parishes.

Children's Stations of the Cross will be held on Good Friday at 10.00am at Our Lady's and St Edmund's Church.

	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S & ST EDMUND'S
Mondays in Lent	Word & Communion	Word & Communion	
Tuesdays in Lent	6.45pm: Stations of the Cross & Mass		
Wednesdays in Lent	8.00pm - 9.00pm Prayer Group in the Parish Rooms		
Thursdays in Lent		7.00pm, Stations of the Cross	
Fridays in Lent		10.45am, Lent Reflection Group in the Upper Room	Good Friday, 10.00am Children's Stations of the Cross
Saturdays in Lent	10.00am, Confessions	5.30pm, Confessions in the Ground Floor Meeting Room	

PARISH NOTICES

POSTPONED - POPE FRANCIS' 'SHARE THE JOURNEY' (CAFOD) OUR LENTEN PROJECT

As the weather for next weekend is for rain and sleet, the decision has been taken to postpone the walk for next Sunday. We will announce the new date just as soon as it has been rearranged. Thank you for your patience.

PARISH MONDAY CLUB - ST EDWARD'S CHURCH

The Parish Monday Club will meet on 12th March in St Edward's Parish Rooms after the Service, when Hugo Minney will tell us about the role of Care Navigators in GP Practices, and everyone is very welcome.

NORTH TYNESIDE GENERAL HOSPITAL (RAKE LANE)

Saturday Mass in the hospital Chaplaincy (10.30am) will resume as from 17th March. New Chaplaincy volunteers are welcome; please contact Fr Stephen Watson or Fr Lee Barrett on 0191 2934268 (Chaplaincy office). Patients requiring a chaplaincy visit should ask the ward staff to contact the RC Chaplain, or relatives can ring the Chaplaincy office.

FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY a priest is on call 24/7.

OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S CHURCH ROTAS

The new rotas from April onwards are now available at the back of church.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the children who made their first confessions and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, 7th March at St Edward's Church. Thank you also to the Catechists and parents.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

On 15th March, starting at 7.00pm, the Journey in Faith will be held in the meeting rooms at St Edwards Church, when Monsignor Andrew will talk to us about the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation and Liturgy. All are welcome to attend. **Deacon Terry**

LENT REFLECTIONS (IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, FRIDAYS AT 10.45AM)

For the session on Friday, 16th March we'll be looking at the following poems from Janet Morley's 'The heart's time': Friends' Meeting House, Frenchay, Bristol, *U A Fanthorpe* (p 60); The Moment, *Margaret Atwood* (p 66); The trees, *Philip Larkin* (p 72).

FAIR TRADE

The next sale is on Sunday 18th March at St Edward's. This will be the last one before Easter.

DE PAUL TRUST - 'FORTY NIGHTS OF NIGHTSTOP'

Thank you to everyone who took a box. There are still boxes available. These will be collected in Church after Easter.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Council will next meet on Wednesday, 19th March at 7.00pm and the Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday, 20th March. If there is anything you would like to be raised at either meeting please approach one of your Church Council members (list displayed in the Narthex).

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PARISH SECRETARY HOLIDAY

Our Parish Secretary will be on holiday for the week beginning Monday, 19th March. Therefore, if you have any work you need doing please bear this in mind and give as much forward planning as possible.

PARISH WALKING GROUP

The next walk on Wednesday, 21st March will be the five mile Three Bridges Walk through the Tyne Riverside Park between Wylam and Low Prudhoe, crossing Wylam Bridge, Hagg Bank Bridge and Ovingham Bridge. The walk is along paths and tracks with no steep ascents, taking in views of the River Tyne and the Spetchells (white chalk heaps). The route is steeped in the history of the early railways for the historians among us. Meet at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for a 9.30am departure. Further information, if required, from Gerry Latimer on 0191 2516989.

PARTNERSHIP LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE – 22ND MARCH 2018

There will be a Lent Penitential Service for the six Parishes of our Partnership at 7.00pm on Thursday, 22nd March at St Thomas More Academy. All are welcome.

EASTER EGG TOMBOLA OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

We would be pleased to receive donations of chocolate eggs for our annual Easter Sunday fundraiser and coffee morning to be held after Mass on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your usual generosity.

NORTHERN MEN'S PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 2018

The pilgrimage to our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham will take place this year on Friday and Saturday 29th & 30th June and Sunday 1st July. The cost, which includes coach travel, bed, breakfast and evening meals plus a traditional Sunday lunch is £150. A £50 deposit is required to secure a place. For details contact John Ross 0191 4404391 or John Robertson 0191 4877790.

OTHER NOTICES

VACANCIES

Walking With in North Tyneside has a full-time vacancy for a Project Manager to work with refugees and asylum seekers. Initial 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date for applications: 15th March.

The parish of the Durham Martyrs are looking to appoint a Youth Ministry Co-ordinator. Full-time, 3 year fixed term contract. Closing date for applications: 23rd March. For further information visit the website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us 0191 2433301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

USHAW

Ushaw opens again to the public on 21st March from 11.00am – 4.00pm, Wednesday – Saturday. The Shop, Café and Gardens will be open Mondays and Tuesdays from 11.00am – 2.00pm. Our new in-house Café team offer delicious soup, quiche, scones, cake and sandwiches and Ushaw Afternoon tea (booked in advance). After 3 years of free entry, Ushaw is this year introducing an annual admission charge. It will be £5.00 per person and will be in the form of a pass entitling you to free entry after that for 12 months. Children over 5 and under 16yrs will get their own annual pass for £2.00. This is the 450th anniversary of the foundation of the college by Cardinal William Allen in Douai France in 1568. Visit our website www.ushaw.org for more information.

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR PARISHES AND PARTNERSHIPS

A conference will take place on Saturday 12th May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn to help parishes and partnerships engage with young people in their communities. The keynote speaker is Fr Dominic Howarth, responsible for Youth Services in Brentwood Diocese, and the programme includes 12 workshops. The conference is for everyone who is concerned about our young people and will offer inspiring examples of good practice. The conference fee is £10 and includes lunch. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from www.ymt.org or contact admin@ymt.org

ANNUAL TRAINING FOR CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS or those interested in becoming catechists, will take place this year within the Youth Ministry Conference on Saturday 12th May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn. Details on the booking form.

MASS INTENTIONS			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S
Saturday 10th March	9.30am Dennis Welsh (SC) 10.00am CONFESSIONS	5.30pm CONFESSIONS 6.00pm Sarah & Francis Murphy (TM)	
Sunday 11th March 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT	11.00am Aleksander Ktymov (PS)		9.30am People of the Parish
Monday 12th March	9.30am Word & Communion	10.00am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 13th March	6.45pm Stations of the Cross and Mass Peter Cooper (SC)	10.00am Kevin Mallon	
Wednesday 14th March	9.30am Dipak Mukherjee (J&MR) 8.00pm Prayer Group	10.00am Marian DiMascio (Pat & Luisa)	
Thursday 15th March	9.30am Maureen Cairns (AW) 7.00pm Compline	10.00am Paddy Buckley 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	
Friday 16th March	9.30am Louise Coulthard (M&KC)	10.00am In Thanksgiving (JT)	
Saturday 17th March ST PATRICK	9.30am Holy Souls 10.00am CONFESSIONS	5.30pm CONFESSIONS 6.00pm Helen Norman (SF)	
Sunday 18th March 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	11.00am Monica & George Thrift (MT)		9.30am People of the Parish

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill: John Little, Norma Smith, Tatyana Zinovyeva, Judy Ashton, Jayne Storey and Joan Skelton. Please also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently especially Kay Robson, Margaret Mary Bell and Doreen Smith.

Hospital Chaplaincies

North Tyneside General Hospital, Rake Lane, North Shields & Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, Northumbria Way, Cramlington: Contact Fr Stephen Watson or Fr Lee Barrett on 07768 387393.

RVI, Freeman and Walkergate Hospitals: Contact Fr Arockia Mariadass Pagyasamy OCD, at St Teresa's, Heaton Road, Newcastle on 0191 265 5290.

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

Contact email addresses, numbers and website:

Monsignor Andrew Faley (St. Edward) stedwardsne26@btconnect.com (0191) 2528021
Star of the Sea Primary School starofthesea.primary@northtyneside.gov.uk (0191) 6432080
Cluster Website www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk

Priests' telephone numbers

Father Martin Stempczyk 0191 2513770, Father Chris Hughes 0191 2575801, Fr John McElhone 0191 2623820, Fr David Smith 0191 2623882.

Deacon Terry McGann contact via Parish Office 0191 2527066.

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

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

Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 12.00 noon on Thursdays.

READINGS AT MASS

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, 11TH MARCH 2018

The Order of Mass is in the Laudate Hymn book from page 200.

First reading

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. They burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "the Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 136:1-6

Response: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

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| 1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. | 3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! |
| 2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' | 4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! |

Second reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you. Lord Jesus Christ.**

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.