


<p>TYNEMOUTH PRIORY PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>Parish of</p> <p>OUR LADY & ST OSWIN'S TYNEMOUTH</p> <p>&</p> <p>ST MARY'S CULLERCOATS</p>	<p>Fr Martin Stempczyk St Mary's Presbytery Farringdon Road Cullercoats NE30 3EY</p> <p>Tel: (0191) 2513770</p>		<p><i>Local Partnership Contacts</i> St Cuthbert's (Tel: 2573408) Fr Christopher Hughes (Tel: 2575801) Mgr Andrew Faley (Tel: 2528021) Hosp Chaplain: Fr Stephen Watson (Tel: 07768 387393)</p>
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CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

A letter from the President and Vice President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time **we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.**

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for **as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed.** This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

A Full Version of this Letter can be found on the Diocesan Website www.rcdhn.org.uk

We remember those who have asked for our prayers in March: Barnaby Essenhigh, Jack Shields, Betty Briggs, Joe O'Kane, Lyn Johnson, Fred Stimpson, Tim Madden, Sandy Madden, Gordon Dixon, June Barnsley, Kathleen Dunston, Mary Heslop, Graeme Ward, Arthur McGlade, Glynis Reay.

Anniversaries: Mike Lockwood, Ann Trumble, Anna Bradley, Dorothy Robson, Maureen Harvey, Winifred Wells.

Please pray for the repose **Pauline Thompson** and for **Susan Beattie**. **Funeral Service** for Pauline Thompson will be held at 12 noon on Weds 25 March at Whitley Bay Crematorium and Funeral Service for Susan Beattie held at 12.45pm on Fri 27 March at Whitley Bay Crematorium. *May they rest in peace.*

Thank You to the family of the late Joyce Henderson who have donated **£70.00** to church funds in her memory.

Walking With would like to thank our Parishioners for their loyal and constant support in 2019 with donations of food, clothing, household items and money.

Please note the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be open daily 7.30am-7.30pm for personal prayer. Copies of the Parish newsletter and other information will also be available in the chapel.

Fr Martin will be saying Mass, on his own, during this time. The Intentions will be for People of the Parish.

Live streaming of Mass from various cathedrals, basilicas and churches is available via the Internet at www.churchservices.tv and EWTN on Sky TV. Mass will also be available via the Internet from St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle and from other parishes - please see the diocesan website for the links.

Prayer for the 'God who Speaks' Year of the Word:
*Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.*

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13

God chose David, the least of Jesse's sons, to be king of Israel. While people look at appearances, God looks at the heart.

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 Lords anointed one 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

Psalm 22

Response: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul tells the Ephesians that now that Christ has enlightened them, they must adopt a lifestyle in keeping with their faith.

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 people are 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 Reading

John 9:1-41

Jesus, the light of the world, not only gives sight to the physically blind, but the light of faith to the spiritually blind.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth, 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.' 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. 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.

Question of the week

(for Further Personal Reflection on these Readings)

What are you doing in your life right now to move toward light rather than darkness?