

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Hencotes Hexham Northumberland NE46 2EB

(Part of the Heavenfield Partnership of Parishes)



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Assistant Priest: Father Peter Stoddart

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday 13th January 2019

Sunday Cycle: C

Weekdays: Year I

REFLECTION

When we are about to make an important or life-altering decision we certainly pause to give it some thought. Before accepting a new position, a big move, or making a commitment to someone or something, we likely ask God's guidance and wisdom. Some state simply that this is a prayer. And it seems Jesus did the same: he prayed before he embarked on his Ministry.

If Luke is certain to show us that Jesus prayed, we are sure to see this as an example for our own lives. We are to pray. Significantly, Luke does not tell us what Jesus prayed, only *that* he prayed. And this has ramifications for us too. We are to be a people of prayer who consult and communicate with the Almighty, seeking direction, guidance, wisdom and insight before embarking on our way.

When we pray we imitate Jesus and the relationship he lived with the Father. We also imitate the early Christians. We recognise that prayer is not limited to the Liturgy or to formal recitation of memorised texts. Instead, it is a reflection of the relationship we have with God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 28 (29): 1-4, 9-10

RESPONSE: **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

1. O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R)**
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **(R)**
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R)**

SECOND READING: Acts 10: 34-38

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.

He will Baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

PARISH EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today - after our 10:00am Mass, the fourth session of this year's **First Holy Communion Preparation** will take place in the Parish Centre.

Tuesday - the the 2018-19 **Heavenfield Partnership Journey in Faith** programme continues in the Parish Centre immediately after 6:30pm Mass. This session is entitled "**Sacrament of Initiation: living our Baptismal calling**" and will be led by Temple Willcox. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday – the **Youth Alpha Course** will take place from 7:00pm in the Parish Centre

Thursday – the **Justice and Peace Group** will hold their monthly **meeting** in the Parish Centre from 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS WITHIN THE PARISH:

Wednesday 24th January –Fr. Robert Baron's **Eucharist Course** will be held in the Parish Centre on 23rd and 30th January, 6th and 13th February, to enable us all to have the opportunity to inspire and deepen our faith. Each session will begin at 7:30pm with the course and an opportunity for discussions, and will be facilitated by Clare Ronan and Deborah Winthrop. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday 26th January – the **Galilee Talks** resume in the Parish Centre. This talk, entitled "Peace" will be given by Sr. Margaret Atkins, a member of the Community of Augustinian Canonesses of the Mercy of Jesus at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria, where she runs residential courses and retreats. She taught theology for ten years at Trinity and All Saints, Leeds and has a special interest in Saint Augustine and in environmental questions. Refreshments will be served from 10:30am, with the talk itself starting at 11:00am. Do please try to come along to what promises to be a very inspirational and informative event.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday 16th February – there will be a **Mass and informal reception to celebrate the Priestly Ministry of Fr. Leo Pyle**. Mass will take place at 12:00 noon in Saint Mary's Church, followed by a reception in Saint Mary's Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend, to say thank you and best wishes to Fr Pyle as he retires after 62 years in the Priesthood. For more information, please contact Saint Mary's Parish Office (01434 603119 or admin@stmaryshexham.org.uk).

Watch this space! Saint Oswald's History Group are planning a full programme of talks for 2019, one of which will cover the history of Minsteracres.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Michael Clark, who died on 23rd December. Michael's Funeral Service will be held at Saint Mary's on Wednesday 16th January. **May he Rest in Peace.**

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION:

In November 2017 Pope Francis remarked, "*And when we go to Mass, maybe we come five minutes before and we start to chit-chat with those beside us. However, it is not time to talk, it is the moment of silence to prepare ourselves for dialogue. It is time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus. Silence is so important! Remember what I said ... the Mass is not a show, but a place where we go to meet with the Lord and silence prepares us and accompanies us. Stay silent together with Jesus. And from the mysterious silence of God comes his Word that resounds in our heart. Jesus himself teaches us how it is really possible to "stay" with the Father and demonstrate it with his prayer.*" There have been some comments that our Church is far too noisy before Mass. We could do well to follow the recommendation of the Holy Father and have some very quiet time before Mass to speak to God, and then to speak to everyone else afterwards.

CHURCH RESTORATION FUND UPDATE ...

As you are aware, we are trying to raise £50,000 to pay for some restoration work which was carried out on Saint Mary's Church at the end of 2017. As of 10th January, we have so far managed to raise the absolutely fantastic sum of **£46,072.15**. This is wonderful progress and means that we are over 92% of the way to our goal. A very big thank you to everyone who has so far made a donation, however small, or who has organised or attended a fundraising event. All we need now is to work together to have one final big push to raise the remaining £4000. How can you help?

- Please contact the Parish Office with ideas for fundraising events, or for help in organising these events.
- Please review your regular donations to St. Mary's, and, where possible Gift Aid them.
- Please use the special yellow envelopes to make "one-off" donations to the Restoration Fund.
- Please support our fundraising activities!

GENERAL ITEMS:

Lost property – there are various items of lost property (gloves, hats, umbrellas, spectacles) on the table in the Narthex. If any of these items belong to you, please collect them as soon as possible. Any items not collected by January 28th will be disposed of.

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED – our Children's Liturgy group is currently desperate for more adult helpers to run the sessions. If you think that you may be able to run a session every eight weeks, or if you would like more information, please contact a member of the Children's Liturgy Group or the Parish Office. Without your help, the Children's Liturgy sessions may not be able to run every week, so do please support this appeal.

Car Parking Permits – application forms for the next calendar year are now available at the back of church. These permits are available to parishioners and parents of children at Saint Mary's First School. Cost = £30 per year. Please return completed form and remuneration, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT:

Are you aged 16 or over and thinking about the priesthood? Why not come along to one of the regular Diocesan Vocations Discernment evenings which are held at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. These evenings of prayer and reflection provide an opportunity to listen to speakers talk about their own discernment, faith journeys and vocations, and are followed by a meal. Forthcoming dates are as follows:

Wednesday 30th January 2019

Wednesday 27th February 2019

Wednesday 27th March 2019

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Wednesday 26th June 2019

For more information, please contact Fr Christopher Warren, Diocesan Vocations Director.

CHURCHES TOGETHER EVENTS:

Mondays from 14th January – Trinity Methodist Church are running a weekly **Alpha Course** (7:30pm-9:30pm) to explore life, faith and meaning. For more information, or to book a place, please contact John (01434 601055 or alpha@hexhamtrinity.org.uk)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Services this year are as follows: -

Sunday 20th January 11:00am - Ecumenical Service at Trinity Methodist Church; Creche and Sunday Club facilities will be provided.

Monday 21st - Friday 25th January 1:00pm - Prayer Meeting at St Aidan's Church.

Please support these if you are able.

CELEBRATIONS AND SERVICES AT SAINT MARY'S

Sunday 13 th January	6:00pm(Vigil)	Mass: Gyula & Maria Ratki (Hexham)	<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>
	9:15am	Mass: <i>no Intention</i> (Haydon Bridge)	
	10:00am	Mass: Mary Webster (Hexham)	
	11:00am	Mass: <i>no Intention</i> (Bellingham)	
	5:00pm	Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	6:00pm	Mass: People of our Parishes (Hexham)	
Monday	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls (Carntyne)	<i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>
Tuesday	9:30am	Mass: <i>no Intention</i> (Swinburne)	<i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>
	6:30pm	Mass: Kath Meason & Marjorie Shearer (Hexham)	
Wednesday	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls (Hexham)	<i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>
	10:00am	Prayer Group: <i>Youth Ministry and young people</i> (Hexham)	
	11:00am	Funeral Service: Michael Clarke (Hexham)	
Thursday	9:00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Hexham)	<i>St Anthony, Abbot</i>
	9:30am	Mass: Malcolm Race's Intentions (Hexham)	
	9:30am	Mass: <i>no Intention</i> (Haltwhistle)	
Friday	9:30am	Mass: Holy Souls (Hexham)	<i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>
Saturday	5:15pm	Confessions (Hexham)	<i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>
Sunday 20 th January	6:00pm(Vigil)	Mass: Mags Whiteford (Hexham)	<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
	9:15am	Mass: People of our Parishes (Haydon Bridge)	
	10:00am	Mass: Elizabeth Glancey (Hexham)	
	11:00am	Mass: <i>no Intention</i> (Bellingham)	
	5:00pm	Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Hexham)	
	6:00pm	Mass: Mary Webster (Hexham)	

Rosary	Before Mass Tuesday – Saturday
Morning Prayer (Lauds)	8:30am Monday – Saturday in Saint Mary's Chapel

Readers		Today	Next Sunday
Hexham (Vigil)	6:00pm	Katie Stewart	Bill Cunningham
Hexham	10:00am	Vincent Thornley	Temple Willcox
Hexham	6:00pm	Bernard Morley	Pamela Stephens
Other ministry rotas		Today	Next Sunday
Offertory (Hexham)	10:00am	The Speirs Family	The Kilsby Family
Eucharistic Ministers		Team 2	Team 3
Children's Liturgy	10:00am	Eileen Robinson	VACANCY (No Liturgy)
Sacristans (Hexham)	5:30pm	Team 2	Team 3
Counters	5:45pm	Team 2	Team 3
HGH Eucharistic		Philip Clark	Mary Richardson
Hospital visitors		Team 2	Team 3
Church cleaners		Team 8	Team 9
Papers next Sunday		-----	David Richardson

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERINGS: £

NEWSLETTER – ITEMS BY TUESDAY 12:00 NOON TO THE PARISH OFFICE