

ST WILLIAM & FRANCIS de SALES,

BARTON STREET, DARLINGTON DL1 2LN

Fr Greg Price; 257681. Fr Kevin Dixon; 463636.
Fr Gordon Ryan; 266602. Deacon Jurgen Muller; 07982624693
Fr Ian Grieves ; 730191. If you need a Priest in Darlington
Hospital please contact Chaplaincy Office on 743029 and if it is
an emergency ask for the Catholic Priest on 24 hour duty.



Visit- www.stwilliamschurch.co.uk
You can also follow us on
St William's Facebook page.

Bulletin items;
anne_robinson16@hotmail.com
07779 358 580

2020 has been made The Year of The Word in the Catholic
Church in England and Wales.

**Today Sunday 10th May and 5th Sunday of Easter
Mass Sheets will be on our Website**

Please see attached sheet this week with a wonderful
reflection on this Sundays readings from Deacon
Jurgen Muller.

Mass Intentions will be honoured by Fr Greg and Bro Robert
Between St William's, St Anne's & St Teresa's

May 9 Bernard Ellis - St Anne's
10 Jim Monahan RIP - St William's R
A.I.D - St Teresa's
11 Kath and Eric Thompson (St W)
12 Kilkenny Family
13 Dobson Family and Friends (Our Lady of Fatima)
14 Anne and See Lynch (St Matthias Apostle)
15 Samuel and Winifred Nicklin
16 John Morigan - St Anne's R
17 Our Families - St William's and St Teresa's
18 Jill Carrigan RIP (ST W)
19 A.I.D 20 A.I.D
21 Thanksgiving for Blessings (The Ascension)
22 A.I.D. 23 A.I.D 24 Kath Ryder.

This weekend our children should have been making
their 1st Holy Communion . It will take place as
soon as it is safe to do so.

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE FROM OUR COMMUNITY WHO MAY
NEED HELP AND ASSISTANCE PLEASE
CONTACT US ON OUR EMAIL ADDRESS or FACE BOOK
Or if you want someone different to talk to, have a virtual coffee with
give a ring on 07779 358580 (Anne)**

If you, or you know anyone who is having trouble getting
shopping You can contact Darlington Community Support
Hub on 01325 405000. They are doing great work and most
helpful.

PLEASE NOTE

Jen with Mams have set up a "PenPal" Scheme so that the
children can write letters, cards or drawings and send
them to people in St William's Community who would like
to receive them, and hopefully receive an answer by post
or email. The children have started sending letters etc
and the response has been amazing - keep it up .
Thanks to the Adults who have responded so well.
**WATCH THIS SPACE for something else the children
can get involved in.**

Please keep checking our facebook page and Website for
information - especially pictures of our young people
posting and people receiving their letters.

Thank you to Paul for keeping the sites up to date for us.

Philip and Betty Magurn celebrated their
90th and 91st birthdays this week .
As a surprise , the Rochester Family
went round and sang Happy Birthday
from the other side of the gate on our
behalf . Thank you .
You can see the video on St William's
Facebook.

CHILDREN it would be nice to have
poems to share with others on our
bulletin - or maybe a
recipe you have tried
out. Please email it to
me above. Thank you
Anne X



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**LET US REMEMBER 75 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY OF
VE DAY**

Remembering those who were lost but also
those who came home and their families.



St Teresa, St Thomas Aquinas, St Mary, Holy Family,

Hogarth Partnership

St Augustine, SS. William & Francis De Sales, St Anne, St Osmund

Please remember in your prayers, all our priests and religious of our
Diocese and parishioners who are struggling with health problems ,
especially Marnie Smith (15) Betty Magurn, Tommy Holland, Maria
Miles, Florence Gibson. We *remember those who look after them* in
hospital , care homes and at home , and we pray that those who are
recovering from ill health continue to improve.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES: Rhoda Ryder, May Hart, Elizabeth Robinson,
Martha Mallett, Pat Dennis, Connie Lye, Tommy Beldon, Billy Dodds,
Mary Coleman, George Baxter, Mary Naylor, Charles Clarke, Arthur
Hodgson, Thomas Daley, Arthur Gaddass, Bob Stephenson.
**RIP Jenny Blakeburn (wife of the late Dougie) and Mum of Philip, Diane
& Stephen who died t last week. Please keep her family and friends in
your prayers.**

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

Mass for the Sick and their families, NHS Front-Line workers and those
working in social care.

In order to show spiritual solidarity with people suffering from hardship,
isolation and other reasons, a Mass will be live-streamed from a
Cathedral each week during May on a Thursday at 7pm.

14th May Newcastle Cathedral

**To whom shall we go? A Seven Session Discernment
Programme for Men Considering Priesthood in Hexham & New-
castle Diocese.**

Could Jesus be calling you to be Catholic Priest? Our online course of
reflection and discussion is an opportunity to ask that question. Gather-
ing as an online group, we will discuss what it means to discern a voca-
tion, learn a little about the path to priesthood and enjoy fellowship in
the process!

The course will take place using ZOOM at **7:15pm** on Mondays begin-
ning **Monday 11th May**. To express interest in joining our sessions,
or to find out more, please contact

Father Christopher Warren at vocations@rcdhn.org.uk

QUESTION— has been asked - Can you (parishioners) still
put your donation in your weekly envelope and bring them to
Church when we return.

ANSWER— Yes of course , we are grateful for any donations
received. **THANK YOU** for your continued support.

EVERYDAY RECIPE;

2 oz of Patience

4 oz of Goodwill

1 cup of Kindness

1 pint of Hope

1 bunch of Good Faith

To the above, add both hands full of sprays of sympathy and a
handful of humility.

Mix in a brim-full jar of good humour.

Season the mixture with common sense and simmer down a
panful of contentment.

This mixture can be made at home, at work and at church; in
fact anywhere by anyone and everyone.

**STAY
SAFE**

Reflection of the Gospel Reading of the 5th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Some ten years ago I went on a diocesan pilgrimage for young people to the Holy Land. I am sure there are some among you who will say: “What is HE doing on a pilgrimage for YOUNG people?” Well, the advantage of being a Roman Catholic cleric is that, even in your 50s, you are still considered young(ish), so I was allowed to go.

It was an unforgettable experience and really brought the Bible to life. One of my favourite places I visited was the desert. The desert plays a very important part in salvation history.



Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden to the desert (wilderness), Abraham, the Israelites, John the Baptist and Jesus himself, all spent an important time in the desert, and the woman in the Book of the Apocalypse seeks shelter there from the dragon. The Judean desert is known for its rugged landscape; it is inhospitable and forbidding but also in a strange way majestic. There is little to distract a person, which is why it was so popular with the early monks during the Byzantine period (from 4th Century onwards). The desert provided solitude and shelter. However, most people would not choose to live in the desert, but prefer a more familiar and comfortable environment, places where we are less exposed, where there is a familiar rhythm to life, which is controlled by us. And yet, at one time or another, all of us are thrown into some kind of wilderness, within or without. This does not happen of our own choosing, but is a result of something that impacts negatively on our lives. The way we exist is abruptly changed and we are confronted with huge losses: it can be a failed marriage, the loss of a loved one, financial disaster etc etc., The current coronavirus pandemic is also

one of those occasions that throws us into the wilderness. Many people feel utterly alone, unsupported and afraid. Like in a physical desert, things that usually comfort and / or distract us are cut away. We are afraid of what is to come: when / how will this end? Will there be a vaccine? Will there be jobs? What will a post-pandemic life look like? Lots of unknowns. And then comes the realisation that we are actually not in control (and probably never were). Things are happening to us, and there is nothing we can do. That can be very scary, too.

In times like this, many may also feel abandoned by God. Why is this happening to me? To others? What did I do to deserve this? Doesn't God love me anymore? It can be a real crisis of Faith. In the Gospel reading today Jesus has just washed His disciples' feet, and he is preparing them for the desert that lies ahead for all of them: His Passion and death. He knows His followers are going to be completely devastated; their lives, hopes and dreams shattered. The apostles are going to go into lockdown in the upper room for fear of the Jews, and some disciples will flee Jerusalem and go to Emmaus. It will be the end of life as they know it.

And to help them, Jesus gives them some advice, and he gives the same advice to all of us: *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.'* It is easy to say we have a strong faith when things go well. In the Book of Job Satan says to God: *"Job is not God-fearing for nothing, is he? Have you not put a wall round him and his house and all his domain? You have blessed all he undertakes, and his flocks throng the countryside. But stretch out your hand and lay a finger on his possessions: then, I warrant you, he will curse you to your face."* But we know that Job never does. He keeps on trusting in God, even though he does not understand why things are happening, and that is exactly what Jesus is telling his disciples: *'Don't give up trusting God or me, no matter what the circumstances, no matter whether you understand what is going on or whether you can see where this is going'.* Easier said than done, but not impossible, because Jesus promises never to abandon us. He is with us always, in good times and bad times. Trust is the greatest thing we can give to anyone. Somehow we must believe that there is a purpose to all this, and that some good can come out of the mess we are in. Then the unbearable becomes bearable, and we can catch a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel. And there are so many positive things that have already emerged from the pandemic: carers and NHS workers are valued, people are getting to know their neighbours and there is a much greater sense of solidarity and communion. Random acts of kindness abound. I have also noticed when talking to lots of people, that what they all miss most is not the shopping or going out for meals or drinks etc, but the close contact with family and friends: the kisses, hugs and cuddles. People suddenly realise what is really important in their lives, and what is peripheral.

So let us put our trust in Jesus in this difficult time, and if we struggle, let us tell Jesus our worries, like the disciples on the way to Emmaus. It was only after he had listened to the carefully, that he turned to scripture to shed a different light on the events: what seemed meaningless and cruel became love and salvation; where God seemed to be absent, he turned out to be closer than ever. And so it will be for us as well if we allow this crisis to teach us some valuable lessons. Therefore let us follow Jesus' advice as best we can: *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.'*

May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.