

ST JOSEPH'S AND ST WILFRID'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER DURING PANDEMIC
WEEK BEGINNING 26/04/20 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER(OF) 2ND AFTER EASTER (EF)

Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Easter (OF)

1st Reading	ACTS 2:14, 22-33
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
2nd Reading	1 Peter 1:17-21
Alleluia	Luke 24:32
Gospel	Luke :13-35

REFLECTION

"They recognised him in the Breaking of Bread ".

This description, in St Luke's Gospel chapter 24, is the earliest description we have of the Lord's Supper, Holy Mass.

The story has four stages: -

1. Talking with Jesus on the road.
2. The invitation to stay now that evening was closing in.
3. The recognition of Jesus at the Breaking of Bread.
4. The need of the two disciples to tell others that they had seen the

Risen Lord.

They met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, but did not recognise him, and thought he must be a visitor who has not heard of the cruel death of their friend..

They reach Emmaus and invite Jesus to stay at the inn, since it was now evening.. Jesus breaks bread using the same gestures as he did at their Last Supper. They recognise him, but he vanishes from them.

They then return to tell others that they had seen the Risen Lord.

We too are on a Journey, Life's journey to the Promised Land, Jesus came to accompany us in our journey. Through the Gospels He shows us the way to live, through prayer we grow closer to Him and He supports us in our weaknesses, through the Holy Eucharist He strengthens us, He cares for us as he cared for his disciples.

Today we pray for a deeper love of Christ speaking to us in the Scriptures, and for a great love of Holy Mass.

Like the two in the Gospel, we must be eager to spread the truths of Faith.

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Readings for the 2nd Sunday after Easter (EF)

Introit	Psalm 32: 5-6
Epistle 1	Peter 2: 21-25
Greater Alleluia	Luke 24: 35
Gospel	John 10: 11-16

REFLECTION

O God, Who, by the humility of Thy Son didst lift up a fallen world, grant unending happiness to Thy faithful: that those whom Thou hast snatched from the perils of endless death, Thou mayest cause to rejoice in everlasting joys.

This Sunday is the Second Sunday after Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. (Note: on the new Calendar, Good Shepherd Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, and occurs next week.) On this day we are presented with the image of a shepherd caring for his flock, but a shepherd unlike any other.

The primary duty of the shepherd is two-fold: to protect the flock and to guide it to good pastures. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the imagery of a shepherd to show how he protects and guides his flock. Christ is the "Good Shepherd," and as such, when he sees the wolf coming, he is not like the hireling who flees, but remains to protect the flock.

Yet why does Jesus call himself not just a shepherd, but a "good shepherd?" He tells us: "The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep." Whereas a shepherd who is just doing his duty might protect his flock from wolves and other predators, a good shepherd will risk his own life for his sheep. He is willing to die for his sheep. We've heard this so often that we might not realize how ludicrous it really is. After all, isn't the life of a human person more valuable than a sheep, or even a flock of sheep? Why would sacrificing one's life for some dumb animals be "good?"

This is the paradoxical "illogic" of the Gospel: the One who is our Creator, the Omnipotent God, voluntarily gives up his life in order to protect us from the ravaging wolves—Satan and his fallen angels—who are constantly on the prowl to attack us (cf. 1 Peter 5:8). As Basil of Seleucia preached, "For the sake of his flock the shepherd was sacrificed as though he were a sheep. He did not refuse death. He did not destroy his executioners as he had the power to do, for his passion was not forced on him. He laid down his life for his sheep of his own free will" (Homily 26.2). *The shepherd was sacrificed as though he were a sheep; as St. Paul says, "though he was in the form of God, [Jesus] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied*

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himself" (Phil 2:6-7). In order to save the sheep, the shepherd becomes like a sheep and gives himself up to the wolves on our behalf.

Christ's sacrifice for the sake of his sheep doesn't just save us from the wolves, it gives us an example to follow, as St. Peter writes in Sunday's Epistle. "Christ suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps." We are called to imitate Our Lord's sacrificial example and also be willing to lay down our lives for the salvation of souls. This is impossible for us to do under our own power, and yet gloriously, Christ's very sacrifice gives us the means by which we too can lay down our lives for him. As St. Gregory the Great preached, "The good Shepherd has laid down his life for his sheep in order to change his body and blood into a sacrament for us and to satisfy the sheep he has redeemed with his own body as food" (Forty Gospel Homilies 15).

Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd. He lays down his life for his sheep, becoming like one of us to save us. And he calls us to follow his example, laying down our own lives, but he gives us the food to sustain us for this wonderful work. What a Good Shepherd we have!



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Saint Louis Mary Grignion de Montfort

Saint of the Day April 28th

Louis's life is inseparable from his efforts to promote genuine devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. *Totus tuus* ("completely yours") was Louis's personal motto; [Pope John Paul II](#) chose it as his episcopal motto.

Born in the Breton village of Montfort, close to Rennes, France, as an adult Louis identified himself by the place of his Baptism instead of his family name, Grignion. After being educated by the Jesuits and the Sulpicians, he was ordained a diocesan priest in 1700.

Soon he began preaching parish missions throughout western France. His years of ministering to the poor prompted him to travel and live very simply, sometimes getting him into trouble with Church authorities. In his preaching, which attracted thousands of people back to the faith, Father Louis recommended frequent, even daily, Holy Communion—not the custom then!—and imitation of the Virgin Mary's ongoing acceptance of God's will for her life.

Louis founded the Missionaries of the Company of Mary, for priests and brothers, and the Daughters of Wisdom, who cared especially for the sick. His book *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin* has become a classic explanation of Marian devotion.

Louis died in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, where a basilica has been erected in his honour. He was canonized in 1947. His Liturgical Feast Day is April 28.

Reflection

Like Mary, Louis experienced challenges in his efforts to follow Jesus. Opposed at times in his preaching and in his other ministries, Louis knew with Saint Paul, "Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7). Any attempt to succeed by worldly standards runs the risk of betraying the Good News of Jesus. Mary is "the first and most perfect disciple," as the late Sulpician Father Raymond Brown described her.

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UNITING in PRAYER

It has been suggested by one of our parishioners that we join each night to pray in unity. The suggested time is 9pm, light a candle and pray:

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be X3, The Memorare and sing: 'Do Not Be Afraid'



Please remember in your prayers all the sick of the parish and all those suffering from COVID19, their families and friends

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Obviously, the Weekly Mass collections have stopped at this time, but the bills still must be paid!

Would you consider making a bank transfer from your account to your parish's account?

You could make this a one-off donation, a weekly or monthly offering until life returns to normal, or you may consider setting up a standing order to continue even after the current restrictions are lifted!

To donate via bank transfer:

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Wilfrid's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Joseph's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 31164066

Please use reference: - Weekly Income

OR

Donate using a cheque made out to either parish and send to

St Wilfrid's

Ford House

Sunderland Road

Gateshead NE8 3QR

St Joseph's

Presbytery

High West Street

Gateshead NE8 1LX

Thank You to all who have continued to support the church in this way during the present situation

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

If you know of anyone from either Parish who cannot access this newsletter via the website and would like to receive it by email, please ask them to give their email address to Fr Michael Brown

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Diocesan News

Live Streaming of Masses

The following parishes have set up a live stream of Mass. Please visit the links for more details:

St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle

[Cathedral's YouTube Channel](#). Each day at 12.00 noon (Sunday at 11.30am) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotions live streamed at 5.00pm each day.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Sunderland

[YouTube channel](#). You can also find details and information on their [Facebook page](#).

Billingham, St. Thomas of Canterbury

[Facebook page](#), Mass daily at 12.00 noon, Exposition at 1.00pm and Benediction at 2.00pm.

Chester le Street, St. Cuthbert and Sacriston, St. Bede

A recording of daily Mass via their [Facebook Page](#).

Darlington, St. Augustine's

Sunday Mass at 9.15am via their [Facebook page](#).

St. Mary's, Hexham

Via their [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#). Sunday Mass 10.00am, weekday Mass 6.00pm and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Sunday 4.00pm.

St. Paul's, Cramlington

[Facebook Page](#).

Stockton Family Parish

[Facebook Page](#).

Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

[Facebook Page](#), Mass daily at 9.30am.

Diocesan Spiritual Support

These resources have been created to support you and your loved ones in this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We offer these prayers in solidarity and we want you know know that the Church community is praying with you and you are not alone.

'[Resources for times of grieving and death](#)' includes; Prayers for loved ones we cannot visit in hospital, Prayers for someone who has recently died and Prayers for a loved one whose funeral you cannot attend.

'[Prayers for the sick and dying](#)' contains a collection of Catholic prayers to comfort you and your loved ones during difficult times of sickness and death.

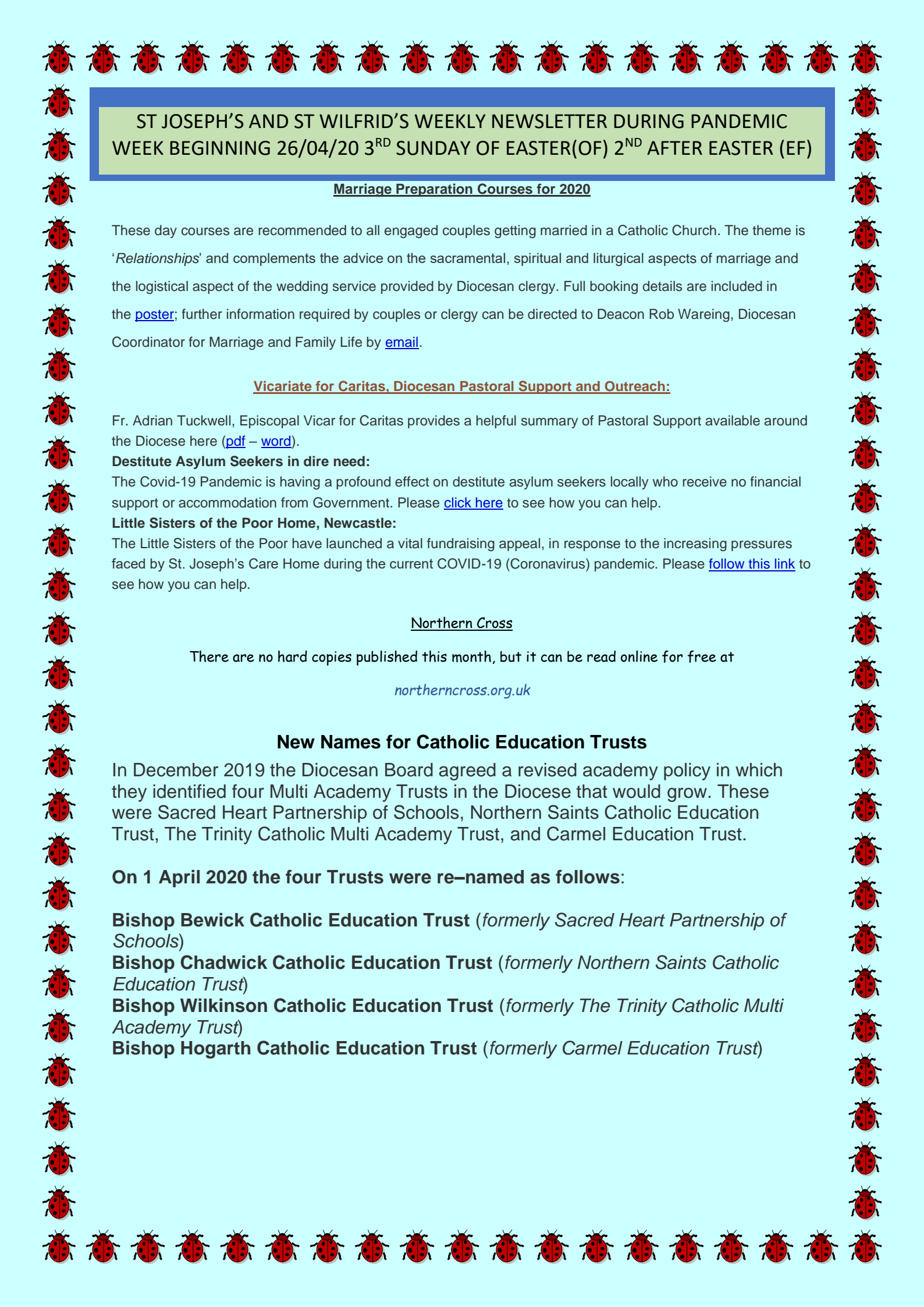
Mgr. Andrew Faley, Vicariate for Faith & Mission (email: evfaithandmission@diocesehn.org.uk).

Congratulations!

Bishop Byrne officially appointed Fr Michael and nine other priests from our Diocese as Canons, the appointments, which take immediate effect, were conferred by letter on 7th April 2020.

Canons of the Cathedral chapter

Fr Michael Brown, Fr Peter Leighton, Fr John Cooper, Fr Ian Patterson, Fr Michael Griffiths, Fr Martin Stempczyk, Fr Michael Campion, Fr Michael McCoy, Fr Christopher Jackson, Fr Dennis Tindall. Also appointed are Fr Paul Douthwaite as honorary Canon. Canon Alec Barrass and canon Robert Spence, having reached retirement age, continue as honorary Canons.



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Marriage Preparation Courses for 2020

These day courses are recommended to all engaged couples getting married in a Catholic Church. The theme is 'Relationships' and complements the advice on the sacramental, spiritual and liturgical aspects of marriage and the logistical aspect of the wedding service provided by Diocesan clergy. Full booking details are included in the [poster](#); further information required by couples or clergy can be directed to Deacon Rob Wareing, Diocesan Coordinator for Marriage and Family Life by [email](#).

Vicariate for Caritas, Diocesan Pastoral Support and Outreach:

Fr. Adrian Tuckwell, Episcopal Vicar for Caritas provides a helpful summary of Pastoral Support available around the Diocese here ([pdf](#) – [word](#)).

Destitute Asylum Seekers in dire need:

The Covid-19 Pandemic is having a profound effect on destitute asylum seekers locally who receive no financial support or accommodation from Government. Please [click here](#) to see how you can help.

Little Sisters of the Poor Home, Newcastle:

The Little Sisters of the Poor have launched a vital fundraising appeal, in response to the increasing pressures faced by St. Joseph's Care Home during the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Please [follow this link](#) to see how you can help.

Northern Cross

There are no hard copies published this month, but it can be read online for free at

northerncross.org.uk

New Names for Catholic Education Trusts

In December 2019 the Diocesan Board agreed a revised academy policy in which they identified four Multi Academy Trusts in the Diocese that would grow. These were Sacred Heart Partnership of Schools, Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust, The Trinity Catholic Multi Academy Trust, and Carmel Education Trust.

On 1 April 2020 the four Trusts were re-named as follows:

Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust (*formerly Sacred Heart Partnership of Schools*)

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (*formerly Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust*)

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust (*formerly The Trinity Catholic Multi Academy Trust*)

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust (*formerly Carmel Education Trust*)