

St Joseph and St Wilfrid Weekly Newsletter

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1143450

PARISH PRIEST: VERY REV DR MICHAEL BROWN RESIDENT IN THE PRESBYTERY AT ST JOSEPH'S

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Week commencing 2nd February 2020 The Presentation of Our Lord/ Purification of Mary (EF)

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

In the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is referred to as the "Purification of Mary" and is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity crèche until this feast.

The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

"In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2 falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence. There are two ways of celebrating the ceremony, either the *Procession*, which begins at a 'gathering place' outside the church, or the *Solemn Entrance*, celebrated within the church."

Until 1969, the ancient feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, which is of Oriental origin, was known in the West as the feast of the Purification of Our Lady, and closed the Christmas Cycle, forty days after the Lord's birth. This feast has for long been associated with many popular devotional exercises. The faithful participate in the processions commemorating the Lord's entry into the Temple in Jerusalem and His encounter with God, whose house He had come to for the first time, and then with Simeon and Anna. Such processions, which in the West had taken the place of licentious pagan events, always had a penitential character, and were later identified with the blessing of candles which were carried in procession in honour of Christ, 'the light to enlighten the Gentiles' (Lk 2, 32). We are sensitive to the actions of the Blessed Virgin in presenting her Son in the Temple, and to her submission to the Law of Moses (Lk 12, 1-8) in the rite of purification; popular piety sees in the rite of purification the humility of Our Lady and hence, 2 February has long been regarded as a feast for those in humble service.

Popular piety is sensitive to the providential and mysterious event that is the conception and birth of new life. Christian mothers can easily identify with the maternity of Our Lady, the most pure Mother of the Head of the mystical Body – notwithstanding the notable differences in the Virgin's unique conception and birth.

These too are mothers in God's plan and are about to give birth to future members of the Church. It is a highly desirable thing for mothers and married couples to ask for blessings which should be given in accord with the Church's prayer: in a communion of faith and charity in prayer so that pregnancy can be brought to term without difficulty (blessing before birth), and to give thanks to God for the gift of a child (blessing after birth).

The feast of 2 February still retains a popular character. It is necessary; however, that such should reflect the true Christian significance of the feast. It would not be proper for popular piety in its celebration of this feast to overlook its Christological significance and concentrate exclusively on its Marian aspects. The fact that this feast should be 'considered [...] a joint memorial of Son and Mother' would not support such an inversion. The candles kept by the faithful in their homes should be seen as a sign of Christ 'the light of the world' and an expression of faith.

REMEMBER

CMUK
15th February

Opus Dei talk 15th
February

Young Catholic Lunch
16th February

SPUC Conference 7th
March

Sung Vespers 19th
March

MAY 2020 ROME
4th-8th May
Please complete
forms and return to
Fr Michael by 7th
February

NEW to the Parish?

If you have just moved into the area and St Joseph's or St Wilfrid's have become your new Parish please make yourself known to Fr Michael.

GIFT AID

Please consider gift aiding all your charitable donations to the church. If you are a taxpayer we can claim back tax on every donation you make as long as you have registered for Gift Aid. Please speak to Mr Alan Young at St Joseph's or Mr Steven Hogarth at St Wilfrid's for more information.

Volunteers URGENTLY Needed

PLEASE consider giving a little of your spare time to your Parish, the more volunteers we have the less work for each person

Church Cleaners

Church cleaning, traditionally associated with women, is NOT exclusive, anyone, male/female, young/old, can help in this vital position. Cleaning usually takes place on a Friday morning. Please speak to Fr Michael or at St Joseph's to Verina Telford and at St Wilfrid's to Rachel Arthurs.

Money Counters

Counters work in pairs, the day on which this task is completed is up for negotiation. It is a straight forward task and guidance will be given to new starters.

Piety Stall

Stella Ward is stepping down from this role and therefore St Joseph's will not have a Piety stall unless we have several volunteers.

Altar Servers

We desperately need more dedicated Altar servers, children and adults (any free to serve at week day Masses would be a bonus) please consider fulfilling this amazing role of service to the church, your parish and your God.

Ordinary Form of Mass 10am there is **NO** age or **gender** restriction, anyone who has made his/her First Holy Communion and who attends Mass regularly can volunteer.

Extraordinary Form Mid-Day - Altar servers **MUST be MALE**, reached the 'age of reason' (7yrs), made their First Holy Communion, be regular Mass and confession attendees. Please speak to Fr Michael if you are interested in this important role.

Current volunteers please check the lists at the back of church to see if your name is recorded.

If you would like to volunteer for any role within the parishes you will need to complete volunteer application forms **prior** to taking up the role. Forms can be found at the back of each church and should be returned when completed to Fr Michael (or, if for St Joseph's to Shauna Devitt). Depending upon the role applied for a letter of appointment will be issued OR further enquiries will be needed and a DBS obtained before any commencement of duties. Thank you



Community Choir

Join us on our nautical musical adventure in the John Ingram Room at 10.00am every Wednesday morning.
ALL are welcome

Church Choir



For 10.00am Mass speak to Bernadette Hirst
For Latin Mass speak to Teresa or Paul Dewhurst

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Welcome back to the Atrium
Friday at 5pm

All children aged 3-6 are welcome
For more information speak to Fr Michael or Peter Armstrong

BECOMING a CATHOLIC

Fridays 5pm

BOOK CLUB

New members always welcome. We continue to Read Cardinal Sarah's book 'The Day is Now Far Spent' and will meet to discuss it on Monday 10th February

Young Catholics Lunch

Aged 18 - 35? Next lunch after midday Mass on Sunday 16th February at the Station Hotel Newcastle

CMUK meets every third Saturday Next Meeting 15th February

Curry Night

Following on from the great success of the last curry night we are planning to hold another on the last Saturday before Lent begins. Tickets will be on sale shortly £8 per adult and £5 per child. The ticket includes a raffle.

Confirmation preparation

Bishop Robert will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to young people in the Gateshead parishes on **September 29th**. We are inviting young people in Year 9 and above to participate in our preparation programme which will begin in February.

PILGRIMAGE to ROME 2020

Please return completed forms and return, along with a deposit of £200 per person, to Fr Michael in the by the 7th February

ST JOSEPH'S

Confessions: Wednesday after Mass & Saturday 12-12.30pm

Exposition: Thursday 11.30am

PLEASE NOTE if you require use of a toilet during Mass the toilets in the church hall are available at both 10 and 12 o'clock Mass on a Sunday. **PLEASE DO NOT USE** toilet in the SACRISTY. Thank you

Parish Meeting

Thank You to all who attended this meeting last Wednesday. A copy of the Agenda and the minutes can be seen on the notice board.

ST WILFRID'S

Confessions: Before Mass on Saturdays

Exposition: Saturday 4.30 - 4.55

Piety Stall

Open every Saturday before and after Mass

PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESAN NEWS/EVENTS

Position: Part-time Assistant at Pauline Books and Media, St Mary's Cathedral

Start date: as soon as possible

Closing date for applications: Friday 7th February 2020

The successful candidate should have an open and friendly personality, be confident and enjoy working with the general public and within a well-established and competent team committed to the ministry of Pauline Books & Media.

Competent computer skills, flexibility, initiative, good communication skills as well as the ability to relate well with people are essential qualities for this position.

An involvement and interest in Christian faith and in particular the vision and ministry of the Catholic Church would make this position interesting and fulfilling.

As this job is in a Christian book centre you will need to demonstrate a level of understanding of Christian faiths and their practices so that you can assist customers and promote Christian values. Please indicate in your application how you will be able to do this. A driving licence and use of a car would be necessary to allow attendance at Diocesan events.

Days and hours of working: 2 days per week: One fixed day (Tuesday – Friday 10:00am – 4:30pm) Plus one other day per week (Tuesday – Sunday) by arrangement. For an application form and further information please email: newcastle@pauline-uk.org or write to: Mrs Helen Newton, Pauline Books & Media, Clayton St West, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 5HH

ASSOCIATION of the EUCHARIST

Blessed Sacrament with Benediction at **St. Andrew's**, Newcastle on the **first Sunday** of the month from 3pm to 4pm followed by refreshment and raffle to give members and their families the opportunity to meet socially. (**Please note change of venue and time**) Father Michael Brown has stepped down as our Spiritual Director and has been replaced by Father Martin Morris.

Opus Dei in the North East

Please Come Along to St Joseph's Church on the 15th February at 7pm to find out more.

There will be a talk to by Peter Brown outlining what this is, why laymen need it, what the work is and what sort of formation it provides.

The hope is that after this we will be able to get together six or more laymen to start a monthly circle. We have four who have been to activities run by the Work before already so hopefully this is feasible.

Speaking Truth to Power

23rd February @ St Peter's Gateshead, an event organised by Church Action Poverty

Come and hear those in need or homeless giving witness to their plight

For more information please see posters in church porch

Building a Culture of Life

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is holding a one day conference and training event on Saturday 7th March 2020 9.30am - 4.00pm, at the Tyneside Irish Centre, 43 Gallowgate Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 4SG. The cost of the conference is £30 per person, including lunch and refreshments.

Please come to this event if you would like to learn more about the threat of abortion decriminalisation and assisted suicide, how to take effective pro-life action locally and how to lobby to make a difference.

You can book a place using the booking form in the conference leaflet at the back of church, or you can call SPUC on 02070917091

HOLY FAMILY GUILD

**PLEASE SEE POSTERS IN CHURCH PORCH
ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH PRE and SCHOOL
AGED CHILDREN
REGINA CAELI**

Information Afternoon about a hybrid Academy in the Catholic Tradition in the North of England 29th February

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	DATE	St Wilfrid's	TIME	St Joseph's	TIME
Saturday	1 st February	People of the Parish	5.00pm		
Sunday	2 nd	Polish Mass	11.00am	Priest`s Intention Maria Scott	10.00am Mid-Day (EF)
Monday	3 rd	Moira Wrath	10.00		
Tuesday	4 th			Pat Wallace	12.05
Wednesday	5 th			Special Intention: John Traynor	12.05
Thursday	6 th			Pauline Faro	12.05
Friday	7 th		10.00	Valerie, Catherine and John Wall	12.05
Saturday	8 th	People of the Parish	5.00pm	Intentions of Nancy O` Sullivan	11.00 (EF)
Sunday	9 th	Polish Mass	11.00am	Michael Douglas Priest`s Intention	10.00 am Mid-Day (EF)

"EF" = EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS IN LATIN ACCORDING TO 1962 ROMAN MISSAL

Priest`s sick communions: On Friday morning Fr Brown will take Holy Communion to housebound parishioners in Sunderland road area.

Remember in your prayers those who are sick; especially Pat Palmer, Bernadette Hand, Albert Hanley, Eva Barnwell, Mona Richardson and Sheila Gibertson.

COLLECTIONS: - ST JOSEPH'S £399.77

ST WILFRID'S £159.55

MANY THANKS.

Solemn Sung Vespers and Benediction for St Joseph`s Day Thursday 19th March
at 7pm.

PLEASE NOTE ALL NOTICES FOR BULLETIN MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MIDDAY ON THURSDAY