

<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> <b>7th April</b> Sat. 6.00 pm Vigil	St. Cecilia's	In Thanksgiving for 50 yrs Marriage (VJ)
8.00 am	Convent	Michael Rochford (R.I.P.)
10.30 am	St. Mary's	Ints of Joe & Veronica Jacob
5.00 pm	St. Mary's	People of the Parish
Monday 8th April 9.30 am	<b>Convent</b>	<b>NO MASS/LITURGY</b>
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Colin Thompson (R.I.P.)
Tuesday 9th April 9.30 am	Convent	Mother Bernadette (R.I.P.)
12.05 pm	St Mary's	Hannah O'Neil (R.I.P.)
7.00pm	St Cecilia's	Catherine McConville (R.I.P.)
<b>Wednesday 10th April 9.30</b>	Convent	Convent Liturgy
<b>12.05pm</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Funeral of David Smith</b>
Thursday 11th April 9.30 am	Convent	Pat Beattie (R.I.P.)
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Joseph, Mary & Pat Ivory (R.I.P.)
<b>Friday 12th April 12.00 pm</b>	<b>St. Cecilia's</b>	<b>Funeral of Janice Paul</b>
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Ints of Norah Flanagan
5.30 pm	Convent	Colin Thompson (R.I.P.)
Saturday 13th April 9.30 am	Convent	Ray Thubron (R.I.P.)
11.00 am	St. Mary's	Ints of Bishop Robert
<b>Palm Sunday 14th April</b> 6.00 pm ( <i>Saturday Evening</i> )	St. Cecilia's	John Christopher (R.I.P.)
8.00 am	Convent	Dick Christon (R.I.P.)
10.30 am	St Mary's	Staff & Pupils of St. Anthony's Academy
5.00 pm	St. Mary's	Harry Burnikell (R.I.P.)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays in the Mercy Chapel**  
**(Confessions): 10.15 – 10.45 am and 11.30 – 12.15 pm**

St. Cecilia's confessions: Before Mass, or by appointment.

Thank you for being part of this community.



**Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Parish, Sunderland.**  
Made up of:

*St. Mary's Church, 27 Bridge Street, Sunderland, SR1 1TQ*  
*St. Cecilia's and St. Patrick's Church, Ryhope Road, Sunderland, SR2 7TG*  
*St. Anthony's Convent, Tunstall Road, Sunderland, SR2 7JR*  
*Sunderland University Catholic Chaplaincy (Located at St. Mary's)*

**Telephone: (0191) – 567 5354**

Parish Email: [stmaryscatholicparish@hotmail.com](mailto:stmaryscatholicparish@hotmail.com)

Parish Twitter: @St\_MarysRC

Parish Website: [www.sunderlandcatholic.com](http://www.sunderlandcatholic.com)

**Parish Priest: Father Marc Lyden-Smith**  
Assistant Priest: Canon A.H. Barrass (*Retired*)  
Parish Deacon: Rev. Eddy Barker  
Parish Sister: Sr. Raphael

**7th April 2019 – 5th SUNDAY OF LENT**



*Part of the Catholic Partnership of Monkwearmouth, Sunderland. In the*  
*Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.*

**From both St. Mary's and St. Cecilia's churches: Please remember especially in your prayers....**

Pat Lawrence, John Turnbull, Doreen Duffy, Pat Henty, Valerie, Janet Buckland, Jackie Turner, Rebecca Amundsen, Avril Hogg, Simon Nyoike, Margaret Graham, Maureen Walton, Catherine Marshall, Molly South, Nicholas Wilson, Stephen Hall, Eddie Ashburner, Jean Liddle, Ann-Marie Rain, Christopher Browne, Norah Morris, Luca, Peter, Clara, Patrick Barraclough Cecilia Harper; Molly Donkin, Patricia Rutter, Ann Felton, Kathleen Conlon, Dorothy Thompson, Jean Ashurst, Hilda, Ronnie Mitchinson, and Dave the Rave who are all sick at this time. And Lately dead David Smith & Janice Paul. May they rest in Peace.

**Parish Lottery**

**THE WINNERS:**

First Prize – Vivian Ezeugaenyi, Second Prize – Ann Wharton, Third Prize – Tony Downie. Congratulations to you all. ☺ If you would like to join the Parish Lotto for £1 a week, you are very welcome to do so – see Fr. Marc and you could be a winner.

*The Parish Office is usually open Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 11.45 am. Sister Raphael will endeavour to assist with all relevant enquiries, including Baptism and Marriage enquiries, Mass Intentions, Planned Giving & Gift Aid donations and any forthcoming events in St Mary's and our Parish centre.*

**Altar Servers Practice times:**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm in St. Mary's, for Maunday Thursday.  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am in St. Mary's for Good Friday.  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am in St. Cecilia's for the Easter Vigil.

**Mayoral Assembly for the North of Tyne Combined Authority:**

Tyne and Wear Citizens, of which the Diocese is a strategic partner, is preparing for an accountable Assembly of the candidates of the election of the 'North of Tyne Mayor' on Thursday 2 May, which will cover Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. This event is taking place on Tuesday 30 April at 6.30pm at the Tyne Opera House on the Westgate Road, Newcastle. There have been commitments from the Labour and Liberal Democrat Candidates to be present. Once the Conservative Party have announced their candidate, it will be asked if their candidate is willing to take part. The 'asks' will include issues from the three campaigns the alliance is running on mental health, food poverty and safer cities. For more information contact Fr. Chris Hughes on 0191 257 5801.

**Confessions in Polish**

A Polish priest will be available to hear confessions in Polish on Thursday evening in St. Mary's Church from 5pm – 6pm. Could any Polish parishioners please spread the word that this is available.

**FINDING ELIM**

By Dave Nelson



I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS,  
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I  
GAVE IT UP FOR LENT.

**Parish Text Service**

If you would like to be included in our Parish Text Service for ABSOLUTELY FREE, then you can be. Simply Text the word CATH to 82228 from your mobile. When you text CATH (as in Catholic), you will receive any parish news or events, or inspirational quotes from the saints or Catholic resources. Please don't worry, you will not be inundated, probably two or three a week, and you will receive them free of charge. You can also stop them any time by texting CATHSTOP to 82228. Why not try this free service from your parish this Lent. So Text CATH to 82228 today.

**Thank you for being here with us at Mass. We are lucky to have you here with us. You are part of our community.**

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham**

The North East Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine of Walsingham is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August. For further details please contact John Ross on: 0191-4404391 or Theresa Ivory on 0191-5523747

**Matt Maher Music Workshop**

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May from 7-9pm, the diocese are hosting an evening of Praise, Worship and Adoration led by 8 time Grammy nominee, Matt Maher. This will be a powerful and moving evening and entry is by ticket only. Places are limited so book early. Tickets are £10 and can only be bought online: [buytickets.at/cathedraltour](http://buytickets.at/cathedraltour)

**Weight Watchers**

Could you do with losing a few pounds? (Then put it in the collection!) But if you would like to lose a little weight this summer, weight watchers runs every Saturday and Sunday morning from 9am in St. Mary's Parish Centre.

**Walk for Autism**

The North East 'Walk for Autism' will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00am in Herrington Park, Sunderland. To take part costs £5.00, but 15 year olds and under go free. The walk is one mile and is wheelchair and pushchair friendly. The route will include an Easter egg rolling activity, certificates from Pawsum Panda, music, face painting and games. All welcome. If you would like more information call: 0191-4109974

### Prayer Group

All are welcome in St. Mary's for a Holy Hour on Thursday Evening 7pm-8pm. This is in the Mercy Chapel and the Holy Hour will be led by our young people. Please do come and support them

### Over 60's

Can I remind you all that we have a wonderful over 60's group operating from St. Mary's Parish centre every Tuesday after the 12.05pm Mass. It is always open to new people coming along, so why not give it a try? You could be enjoying the fun, games, bingo or just a nice chat. All welcome.

### More Important Gift Aid News

The new GIFT AID BOXES/ ENVELOPES for 2019-20 are now at the back of church.

Please collect them ready for April.

Thank you to everyone who has signed their updated Gift Aid Declaration form. If you are still to sign up please leave your name and contact number at the parish office. Thank you.

### The Upper Room

The Upper Room, upstairs in the Parish Centre, is open during the week for Students of Sunderland University. With free Wi-Fi and tea/coffee, study space, and a chill out zone, students are welcome to use this space free of charge. Home of the Catholic Society, all students welcome.

God loves YOU!



### Parish Bank Details

If you would like to set up a STANDING ORDER with your bank and your parish; here are the details: Our HSBC Account, (Newcastle branch), is this:

**Sort Code: 40-34-18**

**Account Number: 84456955**

### Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Sunderland Scouts is operating from St. Mary's Parish Centre every Thursday evening. They are looking for new members from our parish too. This is a great way to learn life skills, make new friends and have fun

Beavers is for 6-8 year olds and that will run from 5pm -6pm. Cubs is for 8-11 year olds and will run from 6pm – 7.15pm. Scouts is for 11-14 year olds and will also run from 6pm-7.15pm. Parents should just drop off and pick up. This is for boys and girls, and all are welcome. Please do come along

### How Padre Pio Changed my Life...

#### By a Catholic Priest

My first encounter with St Pio was round a meal table in 1990, where one of the guests had regularly served Mass for the saint. He regaled us with stories of his many encounters with this extraordinary Capuchin Franciscan friar. At the end of the evening, the guest slipped into my hand a small plastic pouch containing a third-class relic, which I placed into my cassock pocket. At that time, I was an Anglican minister who had been struggling with the "call to Rome" for a while. Hearing those tales and putting that small piece of cloth into my pocket took my life along the right path. In those days, unlike now, I had the gift of sleep. When I went to bed I fell straight to sleep and woke the next morning. Some months after receiving the relic, I began waking in the early hours. The first time it happened I realised there was "someone" in the room. I wasn't anxious about it. In fact, I felt completely at peace. But this continued night after night, at the same time, and eventually I realised that it was Padre Pio. In his presence, and in the forefront of my mind, in this atmosphere of peace, was only one thought: "I must convert to the Catholic faith." Once I made that decision, my normal pattern of sleep returned and the visits ceased. And so, in due course, I left the Church of England, and in 1997 was ordained to the sacred priesthood by Cardinal Basil Hume. While I was parish priest in Bayswater, and still carrying that tattered relic in my cassock pocket, it was announced that Padre Pio would be canonised on June 16, 2002. I knew I just had to go to Rome and thank Padre Pio for giving me the courage and push I needed that led me into the priesthood.

The canonisation was a most wonderful experience, with around a million pilgrims gathered in a roasting hot St Peter's Square, the overflow of people filling the Via della Conciliazione as far as one could see. When Pope John Paul II made the proclamation of sainthood, a huge roar broke out from the pilgrims, as the relics of the saint were brought forth.

The next day, after the Mass of thanksgiving, I returned to my hotel and was told that someone had tried to contact me, and had the number for me to call back. When I did, I spoke to a Sister in the papal household.

She said: "Can you please be here at 7am tomorrow, bring your celebret [permission to celebrate Mass], and don't forget to kiss the Holy Father's ring." I had been invited to celebrate Mass with the Holy Father in his private chapel the next morning. I'm sure you can imagine what a wonderful experience it was, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with someone who is now a saint of the Church. In spite of his advancing Parkinson's, his gaze filled me with great joy and love for him and the Church. Through all this, I could feel Padre Pio's encouragement to strive to be a better priest.

Padre Pio gave me the final push I needed to leave the Church of England and become a Catholic. He drew me towards Catholic priesthood. And he brought me fully home, through the Mass with the Holy Father. There is only one thing left for me to do now; and that is to visit him in Pietrelcina, so that I can kneel before his earthly relics and thank him for all he has brought about in my priestly life.

**Father Alan Robinson (Westminster Priest)**