

3rd Sunday of Easter 12 th May Sat. 6.00 pm Vigil	St. Cecilia's	Cecilia Finn (R.I.P)
8.00 am	Convent	Donald Short (R.I.P)
10.30 am	St. Mary's	Michael Warren (R.I.P)
5.00 pm	St. Mary's	Bill Devine (R.I.P)
Monday 13 th May	Convent	Ints of Sr. M Aquin
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	John Whitfield (R.I.P)
Tuesday 14 th May	Convent	Pat Cunningham (R.I.P)
12.05 pm	St Mary's	Michael Gray (R.I.P)
7.00 pm	St Cecilia's	Wallace Hepburn (R.I.P)
Wednesday 15 th May 9.30 am	Convent	Convent Liturgy
12.05pm	St Mary's	Funeral Mass of Giuseppe Ricci
Thursday 16 th May 9.30 am	Convent	Ints of Sr. M Cyril
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	Tom Richardson (R.I.P)
Friday 17 th May 10.30 am	St. Cecilia's	Funeral Mass of Vincent Murphy
12.05 pm	St. Mary's	John Jones (R.I.P)
5.30 pm	Convent	Ints of Sr. M Scholastica
Saturday 18 th May 9.30 am	Convent	Ints of Sr. M Adrienne
10.00 am	St. Mary's	FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS
Sunday 19 th May 6.00 pm (Saturday Evening)	St. Cecilia's	Mary & Bobby Dixon
8.00 am	Convent	Ints of Fr. Philip Caldwell
10.30 am	St Mary's	Derek Winlow (R.I.P)
5.00 pm	St. Mary's	People of the Parish

NO Sacrament of Reconciliation: (CONFESSIONS)
FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 10.00 am.

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

Parish Twitter: @St_MarysRC

Parish Website: 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

12th May 2019 – 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

Registered Charity: 1143450

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, Dave the Rave and Brian Latahan who are all sick at this time. And lately dead, Giuseppe Ricci and Vincent Murphy. May they rest in Peace.

Parish Lottery

THE WINNERS:

First Prize – Tony Downie, Second Prize – Canon Barrass, Third Prize – Andrew Marshall. 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.

Just Change Campaign

Wednesday 7 May saw the launch of the *Just Change Campaign*, led by Tyne and Wear Citizens and Citizens UK to tackle school hunger and inequality. The launch sees publication of a report, a pupil-led investigation into the £65 million missing from the pockets of children on Free School Meals, followed by a national campaign to raise awareness of this issue and includes a special report by BBC News. The Diocese is supporting this campaign fully and three of our Catholic Secondary Schools, all part of the Carmel Academy Trust, are among the first schools in the country to adopt the policy being advocated.

Bishop Robert Byrne CO says,

"The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is delighted that some of its schools are taking such a significant lead on the Just Change campaign. This campaign is simply asking that all funds for Free School Meals; money designated to combat child hunger, be used for that sole purpose.

The Diocese encourages others to give their backing to this one step in the battle to fight against the scandal and injustice of child hunger in our country. The promotion of the Common Good is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching and this campaign is seeking just that."

For more information, or to get involved with this campaign, please visit the website of the diocese: rcdhn.org.uk

Discernment and Vocation

A weekend for young women, reflecting on the vocation to religious life will be hosted by the FCJ Community in Liverpool. This will take place 24th-26th May in Liverpool. To reserve a place please email Sister Lynne on: lynnefcj@hotmail.com

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

Following a very enjoyable trip recently, Mr. Kevin Foster from 2Explore4all" will lead another trip in October this year. For more information about doing the Camino then, and a chance to meet fellow pilgrims, there will be an information meeting about the trip in St. Joseph's Church here in Sunderland at 7.30pm on Friday 17th May for anyone interested.

Celebration of Marriage

On Saturday 18 May from 11.00am at St. Mary's Cathedral, there will be a very special Mass to celebrate the sacrament of marriage. The principal Celebrant is Bishop Robert.

All married couples, are those preparing for marriage, are invited to go along and be part of this wonderful celebration.

Good Luck

Good luck to the parishioners that are talking part in the Sunderland run this Sunday. And welcome to anyone visiting Sunderland to take part. Hope you enjoy your stay here.

First Holy Communions

Please note that our First Holy Communions Masses this year will be on Saturday 11th and Saturday 18th May at 10.00am

As a result, there will be no confessions in St. Mary's on these Saturdays. Please keep our First Holy Communion children and families in your prayers.

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.

Matt Maher Music Workshop

On Wednesday 29th 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

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.

Pope Francis and child protection:

Pope Francis has decreed that all Catholic priests and nuns must report sexual abuse and its cover-up to church authorities, including wrongs committed by bishops and cardinals. His groundbreaking edict promises protection for whistle-blowers and requires all dioceses to have a system in place to receive claims confidentially. It is the latest move by the pontiff in his struggle to get on top of the issue of sexual abuse which has rocked the Catholic church over recent decades. Wave after wave of scandals have discredited the church, and critics have accused Francis of failing to act decisively to root out abuse and abusers. The pope has previously highlighted a culture of “clericalism” in the church, in which priests, bishops and other church officials are regarded with excessive deference. As a result, survivors of abuse have often found their accounts dismissed and denials by clergy have been accepted without investigation. The edict, unveiled by the Vatican on Thursday, makes it mandatory for more than 1m priests and nuns across the globe to inform church authorities when they learn or have “well-founded motives to believe” that sexual abuse of a minor or sexual misconduct with an adult has taken place. They are also required to report possession of child pornography, or if a superior has covered up any offences.

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.

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



May is the month of Mary

Learn about the Saints: This week - St. Francis of Paola

The saint founded a religious order at a young age and sought to revive the practices of the earliest monks during a period of corruption in the Church. Francis was born in the Southern Italian region of Calabria during 1416. His parents, who maintained a strong devotion to St. Francis of Assisi, named their son after him. The boy's father and mother had little in the way of wealth, but they passed on a rich spiritual heritage to their son, with the hope that he would imitate his namesake.

The young Francis showed signs of a remarkable spiritual life, following his parents' lead in accepting poverty as a path to holiness. When his father placed him in the care of a group of Franciscan friars to be educated at the age of 13, Francis made a personal decision to live strictly according to the rule of their religious order.

After a year with the friars, Francis re-joined his parents as they made a pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome. When the family returned to their hometown of Paola, Francis – at the age of only 15 – asked his parents' permission to live as a hermit, in the manner of the earliest desert fathers such as St. Anthony of Egypt.

The young monk slept in a cave, and ate what he could gather in the wild, along with occasional offerings of food from his friends in the town. Within four years, two companions had joined him, and the townspeople assisted in building three individual cells for the hermits, as well as a chapel where a priest would offer Mass. With approval from the local archbishop, this small group continued to grow into a larger religious order, without compromising the young founder's

insistence on penitential and primitive living conditions. They were first known as the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi, but later renamed the “Minimi” (or “Minims”), meaning “the least,” and signifying their commitment to humility.

Francis and his monks were notable not only for their austere lifestyle, but also for their strict diet, which not only eliminated meat and fish, but also excluded eggs, dairy products, and other foods derived from animals. Abstinence from meat and other animal products became a “fourth vow” of his religious order, along with the traditional vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Francis instituted the continual, year-round observance of this diet in an effort to revive the tradition of fasting during Lent, which many Roman Catholics had ceased to practice by the 15th century.

Ironically, Francis' pursuit of solitary communion with God attracted attention from a range of important figures, including several European kings and other nobility along with Popes and bishops. Some of these men regarded Francis as a spiritual leader in a corrupt age, while others may have been more interested in his gifts of prophecy and miraculous healing. He even raised up animals from the dead. He had a great love for animals, especially dogs.

Francis sensed that his death was approaching at the age of 91, and returned to living in complete solitude for three months to prepare himself. When he emerged, he gathered a group of the Minim brothers and gave them final instructions for the future of the order. He received Holy Communion for the last time and died on April 2, Good Friday of 1507.