



# HOLY FAMILY PARISH HARTLEPOOL

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Sunday 12th April 2020

Easter Sunday

**May the Easter message of God's abiding love that conquers even death  
fill your hearts with Peace and joy.**

I have celebrated Holy Week and Easter in some different places and in different ways with different people but this year is truly extraordinary. In these challenging times we are being taught important lessons about what really matters. We have perhaps taken the sacraments for granted particularly the Eucharist. The relaxing of the Eucharist fast and the availability of mass has perhaps led us to take it for granted until it is not there. When it does return and we will be able to congregate for mass will we appreciate it as if for the first time.

Will we appreciate the opportunity to greet each other in the street; to stop for a chat; to call on each other at home; to be free to go out for a walk and be happy to bump into each other; to give a bunch of flowers or a present by hand and with a kiss; to sit closely with one another and to enjoy the warmth of their presence. To be free to go anywhere. To go out for meals with each other. To the match or to play bowls, to browse in the shops and sit and watch the world do by. All these small but significant things point to the greater and so not to take for granted those of family and friends who are with us day in and out but to appreciate their company and love. To be able to join with each other in church where two or three or more are gathered in his name and there to come close to the Lord who comes to us in word and sacrament. Understandably we feel hungry for all this, let us pray that when restored we will appreciate, value and give thanks for these things which we appreciate a new because of their absence and that we have learnt in these challenging times what really matters.

## New Ways of Celebrating our Faith

Thank you to Bernadette for setting up the link to Facebook so that we can share in the celebration mass and devotions. Thank you to everybody for taking up this opportunity to join in mass whether from Hartlepool with Fr Nick and the dog, from the Cathedral, from Walsingham and even the Vatican. Thank you to all who decorated your doors for Palm Sunday and renewed them for Easter, for keeping the Good Friday witness, ringing a bell on Easter Sunday and generally keeping in faith and touch through this medium, as well as receiving this newsletter over the internet and sharing it with others.



# HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY NEWS

**LIVE MASS WILL BE STREAMED FROM ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL EACH DAY AT 12 NOON AND ON SUNDAY'S. THIS CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE.**

**THE WALSINGHAM WEBSITE ALSO HAS MASS DURING THE WEEK AS WELL AS SERVICES AND PRAYERS.**

**IN HARTLEPOOL YOU CAN LOG ON TO [fb.com/stmaryshartlepool](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryshartlepool) FOR THE FOLLOWING: FOR MASS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM AND SUNDAYS AT 10AM**

**+ EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 6.30PM.  
+ EASTER SUNDAY 9.55AM WITNESS TO THE RESSURECTION 10AM EASTER MASS.**

**On Easter Sunday at 9.55am you can come to your open doors or windows and sing the Easter Alleluia, Easter Hymn or ring a bell, clap your hands or even bang something making a noise to celebrate our risen Lord.**

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*Please remember in your prayers all those in our communities who are sick or housebound, especially MICHAEL GRAY (St Joseph's) SHEILA BROWN (St Joseph's & St Cuthbert's) and Breda Cockburn (St Patrick's) and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Remember also in your prayers those in our communities who have died recently: MAUREEN BALLAM & IRENE ALTON (St Mary's) JAMES LYNCH (ST JOSEPH'S), JEAN LIDDLE (ST PATRICK'S), CECILIA DAGG (St Thomas More's) Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let your perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.*

*REQUIESCANT IN PACE – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Owen Grant, Mill Hill Missionaries who died recently. Fr Owen worked with Fr Nick when he was in Kenya. Please keep Fr Owen and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.*

## AROUND AND ABOUT

**ST PATRICK'S:** MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: Easter Sunday – Bowes and Gofton Families, Monday – In remembrance of Kitty Hadfield, Tuesday – Bob and Phyllis Cook, Thursday – Monica Jiggins Sunday – James John Pattison. Care Homes – News from Greatham and Brierton – Residents and Staff in good spirits – please keep us in your prayers. PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Jean Liddle who died recently, Eternal Rest Grant unto her O lord.

**ST MARY'S:** PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Mary Ballam (nee Cook) who has lost her three and a half year battle with cancer and Irene Alton Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord. ANNIVERSARIES Frank Rowson, Maria Lynne Burdiss, Maureen Anne Slimmings, Margaret Walsh, Robert James Webster

**ST JOSEPH'S:** MASS INTENTIONS from Saturday to Friday Sean Whelan, Deceased members of the Boyd & Turnbull families, Tony Hemming. Sheila Allison (Thursday), Betty Mullins (Saturday). Easter Sunday People of the Parish, Easter week Cath Butler (birthday anniversary) and Catherine & Joseph Monaghan. Anniversaries week beginning Easter Sunday Matty Purcell, Canon John Bell, Catherine Monaghan, Pauline Mahoney. Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> April George Brown Tony Gorman, Mike Grzelak, Anthony Kearns, Robert Weighill, Margaret Carter. All the sick both at home and in hospital are prayed for at each mass as well as the health and safety of all parishioners in these challenging times. Please also pray for Sheila Brown who lives in Stitchell House but is currently in North Tees Hospital recovering from a serious chest infection. Although she lived in St Joseph's Parish she has attended St Cuthbert's since childhood and was also School Secretary at Sacred Heart for around 20 years. PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS James Lynch who died recently Eternal Rest Grant unto him O Lord.

**ST THOMAS MORE:** MASS INTENTIONS: Derek Snowdon (12<sup>th</sup> April), Robert & Matlida Jackson, Marie & Alan Ferguson, George Hoey. PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Cecilia Dagg who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord.

**ST JOHN VIANNEY:** MASS INTENTIONS FOR APRIL Ernie Watson, Tom & Kay Reece, Pat Thubron, Winifred & Bernard Decosemo.

**ST CUTHBERT'S:** MASS INTENTIONS Terry Spaldin and Deceased members of the Hey & McLoughlin families. Please pray for Sheila Brown who lives in Stitchell House but is currently in North Tees Hospital recovering from a serious chest infection and also needs an operation. She has attended St Cuthbert's since childhood and was also School Secretary at Sacred Heart for around 20 years.

## OTHER NEWS

COLLECTIONS/GIFT AID As we do not come together in church, and this will continue for some time, as a result we do not have our weekend collections. We are very grateful to all those who pay by standing order as you are our only source of income at present . I will be returning my monthly allowance beginning this month to the parish. I encourage gift aid members and those using planned giving envelopes to still use them each week and keep them to one side to return when we reassemble as congregations . Perhaps this is a good time to think about setting up a standing order and to remember that since we became Holy Family parish we have one central bank account 'DHN The Holy Family' *Account No. 11173928 , Sort Code: 40-34-45 - Branch Identity Code H GB4168K* for all cheques and donations. Once again thank you for your responsible and generous giving. *Fr Michael .*

NORTHERN CROSS With the help of many contributors, we have produced a vibrant digital edition for April, which is free to read (or download to your tablet etc.) from our website: [www.northerncross.org.uk](http://www.northerncross.org.uk) . Everyone at Northern Cross hopes you enjoy reading the news from around the diocese and beyond. Please also continue to send your news items and letters to [editor.norcross@btconnect.com](mailto:editor.norcross@btconnect.com) in the weeks to come. Like many businesses and charities, Northern Cross is fighting hard to survive during the Covid-19 crisis. We need *your* help to win this battle. Due to our churches being closed and to safeguard our gallant delivery volunteers, the reluctant decision was made to suspend the printed edition, the only time since our foundation in 1956. Whilst this crisis continues, future editions will only be available online by subscription. Your support for this, along with many others, will be essential for the survival of Northern Cross. Can you please forward this email to your friends who you think would also be interested in having access to future editions? To show our appreciation, we offer 15 months for the price of 12, provided that you apply by 25th April. Registration is easy. Simply reply to this email with your name, address & postcode along with the code letter for your choice of payment indicated in the following table. I will then ensure that you receive your access codes for future editions. This also gives access to our online archive. Subscription payment options: By Cheque for £14.40 payable to Northern Cross and posted to 43 Welbeck Avenue, Darlington, DL1 2DR: By bank transfer to account number 81602292, sort code 40-43-11 using your surname & postcode as a reference; Arranging an online annual standing order with the aforementioned details; By sending a standing order form to your bank. Postal subscription is not currently available, details will be provided when the printed edition recommences. With best wishes from all the team at Northern Cross. We hope you keep safe and well in these difficult circumstances.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HARTLEPOOL - If you know of anyone who might be struggling whether it be a carer or a person who has dementia and needs support during these difficult times, The Hospital of God have provided us with the following contact details if you need to speak to anyone: Day Service "Hubs" – Gretton Court 07826273340 [hartlepooldaycentre@hospitalofgod.org.uk](mailto:hartlepooldaycentre@hospitalofgod.org.uk), Bridge Dementia Advisory Service 01429 868587/07471564372. Community Pastimes Service 07850207649 [mick.mcdermott@hospitalofgod.org.uk](mailto:mick.mcdermott@hospitalofgod.org.uk). Telephone enquiries can be made between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri. Please note that Stitchell House and Gretton Court continue to be locked down with only essential visits allowed and residents are not allowed to leave the homes. If you need to contact the homes you can contact Stitchell House on 01429 872083 [reception@hospitalofgod.org.uk](mailto:reception@hospitalofgod.org.uk) or Gretton Court on 01429 862255 [Jackie.Eggleston@hospitalofgod.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.Eggleston@hospitalofgod.org.uk)

MESSAGE FROM LIFE from recent collection: Thank you so much for your generous donation of £487.21, this is kind of you and very much appreciated by us all at Life. Please could you convey our deepest appreciation to your parishioners. Please rest assured that your donation will go a long way in helping us support those who are in so desperate need of our services in these times.

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**PLEASE NOTE: FR JIM IS UNDER STRICT DOCTORS ORDERS THAT HE MUST SELF-ISOLATE FOR AT LEAST 3 MONTHS. THIS MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE NO ACCESS FOR ANYONE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TO ST PATRICK'S PRESBYTERY OR CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE SEND GOOD WISHES TO FR JIM AND KEEP HIM IN OUR PRAYERS.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY ENQUIRIES, WOULD LIKE ANY PRAYER INTENTIONS SAID OR JUST NEED A CHAT YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO GIVE FR MICHAEL A RING ON 272985.**

Acts 10: 34.37-43 Psalm 117 Colossians 3: 1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5: 6-8

John 20: 1-9 or Matthew 28: 1-10

Easter will be different this year; we will not only be celebrating the greatest feast in Christianity but we will also be celebrating perhaps the greatest self-sacrifice of an uncountable number of God's children as they isolate themselves from society in a united effort to defeat this virus that is threatening so many lives.

There are many thoughts running through my head as I write this reflection; many images that remind me of this Holy Week., many familiar passages of scripture enriching our liturgies and reminding us that although each year is new, God's time remains eternal. Many years ago, when I was a teenager, I recall a Good Friday, it was warm and sunny, my football team were at home and the kick off was at 3pm. It was a choice between Football and Church and I was going to the match. On the way I met a friend who was going to church, we stood and talked then he turned his way and I to mine. As I went along I began arguing with myself, then, with a sigh, I turned and followed him to church, I chose Jesus that day and I have never regretted it.

Whilst watching Stations of the Cross on Facebook I was struck by the image of Simon of Cyrene as he knelt to take up Christ's burden on that fateful day. Simon was a stranger, caught up in the turmoil of a crucifixion and given no choice but to help a man on his final journey. Cyrene is on the coast of Morocco. many thousands of miles from Jerusalem, how he came to be there is a mystery, but this man was the only one to show compassion to the one who was literally dying for my sins. He reminded me of the many doctors and nurses in the NHS, often coming from foreign lands, who are giving their compassion and skills to help today's sufferers and so I prayed for them during the service.

One Easter I was working in Saudi Arabia and, as it was a strict Moslem country, there was no access to Church services. It was at the end of Ramadan and the people were celebrating the feast of Eid Al-Fitr, a time of joy after a period of fasting. I was feeling sorry for myself because I could not celebrate my faith while around me people were celebrating and giving thanks to God. It struck me then, and again now, that although we give great store by celebrating our faith together we are also celebrating alone; that Jesus sacrificed himself for each one of his creation and even though we may be self-isolating alone or with our closest family we are joined together by an invisible and unbreakable bond as the family of God. This thought should bring us great comfort today; the love of God, freely given, knows no barriers.

Happy Easter!

David Frank

