



PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Sunday 23 March 2025

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Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are listed below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 243 3305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps: St. Teresa's: Jean Potts
St. Anthony's: Christine Dixon

Parish Websites: www.stteresaeastnewcastle.org.uk www.stanthonysstfrancis.org.uk

THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM FR JONATHON

Conversion is not one single event, but a continual summons to align our lives with an ever-deepening knowledge of God. The Corinthians were good Christians, but there were also negative aspects: dissent, immorality, envy. St. Paul warns them against presuming that celebration of Baptism and Eucharist automatically guarantees salvation. The Old Testament ancestors in the desert had been "saved", yet nonetheless they fell away.

No matter how much we are nurtured and cared for by the Eucharist, God's Word and the Holy Spirit, there is no guarantee that we will naturally bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This is why Jesus is so direct in his words: "if you do not repent, you will all perish". Maybe this seems harsh, as we know Christ to be merciful and compassionate. However, in speaking this way, his compassion and mercy is not diminished - he does so because he truly loves us and sees what we cannot.

Today's Gospel recalls two incidents involving large-scale loss of life: a massacre, and the fall of a tower. From these, Jesus make a prophetic point with the parable of the fig tree: these examples of sudden, unforeseen death are a warning that our time left for conversion may be short. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. How many Lenten journeys have we made - and with what profit to show? How many Lents will we see in the future? If you think of yourself as a fig tree - do you bear fruit? If you don't, should you be cut down and destroyed, since you are useless in terms of your purpose in life? And yet... God is merciful. Just as God is love, so God is also patient. With the intercession of Jesus our gardener, the Father delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he asks from us, even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Time and time again, God offers us the opportunity to change, repent and start again.

Fr. Jonathon

Lent.
A SEASON OF RENEWAL



NEWS FROM OUR PARISH, PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESE

WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep in our prayers all those we know who are unwell as well as the many who have no one to pray for them and for those in hospital. We also remember all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

THIS WEEKEND

We welcome to St Teresa's the Missionaries of Charity, along with the children who attend their catechism classes. Fr Jonathon will be leading the children in a Lenten day of reflection with Adoration and Confessions.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

On Tuesday this week the Church celebrates the Annunciation of the Lord. Mass on Monday 24th at 6.30pm at St Teresa's will be a Vigil Mass for the Solemnity. There will also be Mass at St Anthony' at 10am and St Teresa's at 6.30pm on the Solemnity.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent we are invited to journey with Our Lord to Calvary by making the stations of the Cross. This takes place every Tuesday at 9.15am at St Anthony's and every Friday at 6.30pm at St Teresa's.

LENTEN ALMS

During Lent we will be supporting several charities, all with a particular focus as Catholic Charities. St Cuthbert's Care is our diocesan Charity and all Lenten Alms collections go towards their work here in the diocese supporting many different things that they do. This year in particular they ask that the financial support that we offer goes towards their Young Stars Fostering Group.

LENT SCRIPTURE COURSE - COME AND SEE

Every Monday throughout Lent we will be holding a Scripture Study Group called 'Come and See'. This will take place in the porch at St Teresa's from 2-3.30pm. Tea and Coffee will be available. Please do come along if you are able to.

SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Every Sunday at 6.00pm at St. Teresa's we have Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Benediction. This time of prayer is such a wonderful opportunity to bring our Sunday to a close, spending time with Jesus in prayer and praise. Please do try and come along if you are able to! It only lasts 40minutes and is such a beautiful service.

PARISH SCHOOL TAKEOVER MASS

The next parish school takeover Mass will take place on the weekend of 29th/30th March. Please do come along and support the children from our schools. The children will be doing the readings, the bidding prayers, bringing up the gifts and choosing the hymns that we sing.

YOUNG ADULT PRAYER GROUP

Our next meeting takes places on Thursday 27th March at 7pm. This month we welcome Bishop Stephen who will be coming along to answer any questions and to speak about the Jubilee Year. This will be followed by food in the presbytery. Are you looking for a welcoming space to grow in faith and fellowship? The Prayer Group is a vibrant community of young Catholic adults (18 to around 35) who come together on the last Thursday of each month at 7pm at St Teresa's. We share in faith, friendship and great conversations, followed by a meal or a drink in the Catholic Club. Beyond our monthly gatherings, we stay connected through social events, attending conferences and our active WhatsApp group, making it a wonderful way to meet fellow Catholics. Come and be part of a community that supports and inspires each other in faith!

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

A penitential service will take place on Thursday 10th April at 6.30pm at St. Teresa's. Please do come along.

PARISH GIVING

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share that generosity with others. A generous culture is also essential for our parish to develop a sustainable ministry for the future. That generosity can be expressed in many ways, both financially and by the giving our time to help the mission of the Church. We are extremely grateful for all your contributions to our parish.

If you would like to make your regular weekly offering to the Church by standing order this is easy to set up. Our bank details for setting up a Standing Order or BACS payment are:

Account Name: DHN Newcastle Christ the King

Account Number: 52010917

Sort Code: 40-34-18

If you are not currently part of the GiftAid Scheme, or you normally make an offering through the offertory plate, I would like you to consider 'buying' the parish a coffee or a pint every Sunday. We would like to recommend, if you are able, to donate £4.50 each Sunday. The average price of a coffee at Costa is £4.20 and the average price of a pint in a pub is £4.98. Your contribution to your parish is much appreciated.

MASS INTENTIONS

At the Altar the priest offers Mass for the good of the whole Church and for a particular intention. There is nothing better than having a Mass offered for someone, or for a specific intention. Do you want a Mass offered for a particular intention? Perhaps for a deceased relative or friend, or for someone who is sick, or for your own intention? To have a Mass said please fill out a Mass envelope (available in the church porches) and return to Fr Jonathon or place in the offertory collection during Mass.

CHILDREN AT MASS

When parents take their children to a special event, to a theatre or a football or rugby match, they want their children to have the best seats right at the front. At the front the children can see and hopefully learn to understand what is going on. But when parents bring their children to Mass, they sit with them at the back of church, behind tall and large adults, where there's draughts from the doors, where they can see very little about what is actually happening at Mass and therefore not too sure why they're there! And being so far away at the back, they don't know what's happening at the front because they can't see and sometimes can't hear! Please come to the front of the Church, to the seats where your children will be able to see what is going!

WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

A few people have commented recently about how they feel they have not been welcomed 'properly' when attending our churches, or that no-one spoke to them from coming into church to going out. This is difficult because no-one wants to overpower anyone, especially visitors, not everyone wants to have someone talking to them, but at the same time, many people like to be welcomed into Church, either by those who welcome at the door, or by those sitting in the benches. It is important that we make people feel welcome amongst us. So, just a thought Do you know who is sitting close to you during Mass ... have you acknowledged them? Have you said 'hello' to them? Be a bit bold and find out who your neighbour is in your pew! And if they are there next week, strike up the conversation again after Mass!

FIRST SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME 2025/26

Any parent who would like their child to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is invited to fill in the interest form. Sessions will begin in September 2025. More information will be made available after Easter concerning all the dates for the programme. Please scan the QR code for the online form.



Scan me!

GETTING MARRIED IN 2025/26

If you are thinking about getting married in 2025/26 and haven't yet spoken to Fr Jonathon, to make sure that a Church wedding is possible, please see him as soon as you can. It is important that you give at least six months notice so that enough time is given to arrange all paperwork, especially if overseas contacts are necessary. A Marriage Preparation course must also be attended so that you are fully prepared for the Sacrament.

VOLUNTEERS FOR HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

As usual during we will be looking for volunteers to help with the various roles during Holy Week. This includes readers, watchers and those who would like to have their feet washed. Sign up sheets are available in the porches of our churches if you would like to be involved. Please be generous.

THE JUBILEE YEAR - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Holy Father has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year with the motto and theme "Pilgrims of Hope." It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation. "In the course of the year," Pope Francis had written, "every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to their efficacy." On 28 December 2025, the Jubilee will end in the particular Churches throughout the world. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025

PARISH OPEN MEETING

An open meeting for all parishioners will take place on Wednesday 7th May at 7.00pm at St Teresa's Church. This will allow us to look at how we are progressing as a parish and to continue to make plans for the future.

**LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FAITH
THE PROCESSIONS OF HOLY WEEK**

As Holy Week approaches, and we prepare for the holiest days of the liturgical year, our celebrations become more distinctive. Historians tell us that because this time is so sacred, many of its traditions come to us from very early in Christian history.

The movement of the processions of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday, help us to enter into the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. All of Holy Week makes present the greatest events in history so that we, the people of today, might encounter Jesus as the people present in Jerusalem two thousand years ago were able to do. Through this encounter we come to believe in him, to recognise our vocation to bring his love to all people, and to hope that where he has gone we shall follow.

At the beginning of Mass on Palm Sunday, we gather for the blessing of palms and we sing Hosanna, praising Jesus, the one who saves, as he comes into Jerusalem. We are part of the crowd praising him as the Saviour. At the end of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, we process with the Blessed Sacrament and are invited to remain in prayer with Jesus as his friends did after the Last Supper. On Holy Saturday, we begin at the new fire, where the Paschal candle is blessed and we process behind it into the dark church. As the people of Israel followed the pillar of fire to salvation from slavery, we follow the light of Christ, which leads us to salvation. As the light comes to each person, one by one, we see the light of Christ spread throughout the Church as we hope it will spread through the whole world, until God will be all in all and his Kingdom will have no end.

As the Paschal Mystery is made present to us today, we encounter the person of Jesus Christ, through whom comes our salvation.

*The Annunciation
March 25*



WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR GOD TO COME TO EARTH AS A MAN, HE CHOSE MARY TO BE HIS MOTHER. BUT HE DIDN'T JUST TELL HER THAT SHE WOULD BECOME HIS MOTHER; HE GAVE HER A CHOICE. BECAUSE MARY CHOSE TO SAY "YES" TO GOD, JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD AND DIED TO LET US INTO HEAVEN!

The Burning Bush Word-Find

A F R A I D O F F R E E
B D E L I V E R O M F S
R G O D J E T H R O R U
A L O R D E A O W S E F
H A V E F S K L A E J F
A N I L I H E Y R S A E
M D S G R O U N D A C R
F L A M E E G Y P T O I
A O A B U S H O R E B N
C O C N D B L A Z I N G
E K M I S E R A B L E S

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in this story.



The left over letters tell what the Israelites in Egypt wanted:

A _____

MOSES was looking after the sheep of his father-in-law, JETHRO, on Mount HOREB. Suddenly he noticed a BUSH that was BLAZING like FIRE, but it wasn't burning up! He came FORWARD to look closer, but GOD spoke from the FLAME, saying "Come no nearer. TAKE your SHOES OFF, for this is HOLY GROUND. I am the God of your fathers-of ABRAHAM, ISAAC and JACOB." Moses was AFRAID to LOOK at God, and covered his FACE. The LORD said, "I HAVE seen the MISERABLE state of my people in EGYPT and heard their cry to be FREE. I will DELIVER them from their SUFFERING and bring them to a new LAND."

MASSES & SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Day		Time		Church	Mass Intention	
Sat	22 Mar	4.45 pm 5.30 pm	Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's	George Kelly RIP	3rd Sunday of Lent
Sun	23 Mar	10.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Confessions Holy Mass Vespers & Benediction	St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	People of the Parish	3rd Sunday of Lent
Mon	24 Mar	5.30 pm 6.30 pm	Exposition & Confessions Vigil Mass	St. Teresa's	Kathleen Gregor RIP	Feria
Tue	25 Mar	9.15 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Solemn Mass	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's St. Teresa's	People of the Parish People of the North East	Annunciation of the Lord
Wed	26 Mar					Feria
Thur	27 Mar	7.00 pm	Young Adult Prayer Group	St. Teresa's		Feria
Fri	28 Mar	8.30 am 9.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Exposition & Holy Rosary Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross	St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	Alice Wynn RIP Stations with School	Feria
Sat	29 Mar	8.00 am	Holy Mass (Latin)	St. Teresa's	The Ifediora Family	Feria
Sat	29 Mar	4.45 pm 5.30 pm	Confessions Vigil Mass of Sunday	St. Anthony's St. Anthony's	People of the Parish	4th Sunday of Lent
Sun	30 Mar	10.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Confessions Sung Holy Mass Vespers & Benediction	St. Teresa's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	Kathleen Gregor RIP	4th Sunday of Lent

Please continue to remember in your prayers:

those who are sick or housebound and their carers:



John Gourley, Doreen Graham, June Stephenson, Margaret McEvoy, Aileen, Tommy Allan, Pat Matfin, Maria Cape and Mary McLaren.

Our sick children: Ezra Stephen Johnson, Josh Graham, James Taylor, Joseph Relph, Colby Taylor & Charlie Davidson

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention for March



For Families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

During Lent

We are asked to pray for these intentions:

Candidates for the Sacraments, for Women, for the needy and the hungry of the world, and for all penitents and wanderers.



Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen