

St Cuthbert

Next Saturday we celebrate the feast of St Cuthbert, the secondary patron of our diocese (after Our Lady of Lourdes). As a young man he entered the monastery at Melrose before moving to Holy Island (Lindisfarne) as prior of the community there. His desire to be closer to God led him to abandon his duties and go and live as a hermit on one of the Farne Islands, a short distance from Lindisfarne. Here he devoted himself to a simple life of prayer, seeking to grow in union with God. He reluctantly accepted a request to become Bishop of Lindisfarne, a role he fulfilled with great acumen. His personal qualities and the time he spent in quiet prayer with the Lord allowed him to become a most effective pastor. But after only two years he resigned the role and went back to his deserted island to resume life as a hermit. Some people would come to visit and seek his advice, but his real desire was simply to be alone with God. Cuthbert died on the island in 687AD. He was venerated as a saint from an early time, and when in 875AD Viking raiders sacked Lindisfarne, some of the monks took Cuthbert's body around northern England, seeking a safe place for it. It is believed that his remains rested briefly at Lytham. He is now buried in Durham Cathedral. Mass for the feast is at 10am on Saturday.

Today's Readings

After a few weeks we return today to reading through St Mark's Gospel, which we will now hear almost every Sunday until Advent. Today's passage features a controversy between Jesus and the pharisees and scribes, who criticise the disciples for not observing ritual washing before eating. Jesus' response is to point out their own failings and also to provide a clear teaching about the need for conversion of the heart. The first reading comes from the book of Deuteronomy, a book whose name means "Second Law". It tells us of the greatness of the Law which God has revealed, a law in which He is close to His people – something unlike the false gods of the surrounding nations. In the epistle we begin reading through the letter of St James, which strongly emphasises the need to love others as an expression of our faith in the Lord Jesus.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 2; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 22

The first Mass each day is livestreamed and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Ints Richard Cockburn
Sunday 29 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	11:30am		Holy Souls
	6pm		Jeff Poole RIP
Monday	10am	Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward	John and Veronica Baines RIP
Tuesday	7pm		Special Intention (B)
Wednesday	9:15am		Bob Thomson RIP
Thursday	9:15am		David Wilkinson RIP
Friday	12noon	St Gregory the Great	Ints Bishop Thomas Neylon
Saturday	10am	St Cuthbert	For our Diocese
	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Bernard Breslin RIP
Sunday 5 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	11:30am		Holy Souls
	6pm		Holy Souls

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Fr Joe Duggan SJ**, **Fr Michael Sharratt**, and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11am-12noon and by appointment.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon. The church is also open Monday-Friday morning-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

ROSARY: After 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass on Fridays.

ANNIVERSARIES: Thomas Geoghegan, Anthony McCambridge, Beatrice Lynch, Robert Thomson, Joe Worden.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REBUILDING OUR PARISH: On Friday 10th September we will have a day of prayer for the renewal of our parish, following the disruption of the last 18 months. There is much rebuilding to do, and prayer is the only possible foundation. After 12noon Mass there will be solemn Exposition until 10pm; the church will be open throughout for people to come in and pray. Please try to keep a little time free on that day, to come and ask the Lord to grant us the renewal we need. Please see below for some more details of our preparation for this day.

DAY OF PRAYER SIGN-UP: As with the 40 Hours, we need volunteers to commit to a 15-minute slot so that we can ensure there is always someone at prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Please sign up in the narthex if you can commit to a time.

CANDLES AND FLOWERS: If anyone would like to make a donation towards candles and flowers for the day of prayer on 10th September (perhaps in memory of a loved one), please do so in a marked envelope, and write on it any prayer intention. A list of intentions for prayer will be displayed.

MONDAY MASS will be at 10am this week, as it's a Bank Holiday. Please note, there will be no Adoration on Monday afternoon this week.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: this Friday, 7-8pm. Come and pray before Jesus.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: Due to the uncertainty and added travel requirements resulting from the pandemic, the Holy Land pilgrimage has been postponed by twelve months, so that we will now travel in October 2022. This is at our request and has been agreed by the pilgrimage firm. Hopefully next year we will be able to travel with greater ease and more confidence, and more people will be able to come.

COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH: You are welcome to sit in groups if you wish, but please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. Face coverings should be worn when you are in church for any service, unless you are exempt. It is no longer necessary to book for any services.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: next weekend (4th/5th September). Please leave any items on the doorstep of the presbytery (priest's house) over the weekend.

CLEATOR PILGRIMAGE: The annual diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady at Cleator will go ahead on Sunday 12th September, with Mass and blessing of the sick from 3pm. Bishop Paul will preside. All welcome. See poster for details.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: next Sunday (4th/5th September) for CATEW, which supports the national work of the Church and the running costs of the Bishops' Conference.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 284 (figures for individual Masses: 61/91/44/58 (NCW 30)) Collection: £573.11 (excluding online giving – the figures for standing orders etc. will be published monthly, from the beginning of September). Thank you for your generous support.

Sunday Mass – a statement from the Bishops of England and Wales

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

“Unlocking” the Parish: our plan

The plan below gives some sense of how the parish may move towards normality in the coming months. It is subject to change!

Before the autumn (most dates to be confirmed):

- We hope to have an outdoor parish social event.
- Some visits to housebound parishioners and care homes are now resuming.

From September/October

- Further steps back towards normality at Mass, including an offertory procession and intercessions.
- Children’s liturgy and all our youth groups should resume.
- A normal year of sacramental preparation is planned, including for children whose confessions, first Communion and Confirmation have been delayed.
- A full programme of parish social life will take place, if permitted.
- Other parish groups should be able to resume.
- We hope to be able to hold some events to mark the 50th anniversary of our parish and school, in November 2021.

We plan to continue to livestream Mass each day, for the benefit of those who are housebound; everyone who can is strongly encouraged to attend Mass and rebuild our community. We will also continue with some other online output to assist with catechesis, evangelisation and outreach work in the parish.