



# HOLY FAMILY PARISH HARTLEPOOL



This week's readings

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To receive this newsletter by email each week, email [hartlepoolnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hartlepoolnewsletter@gmail.com)

SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

## A MESSAGE FROM CANON MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

On Holy Thursday, we gathered as priests to concelebrate the Chrism Mass. Once more we were directed to a downstairs room in the cathedral house. In this crowded room, one priest remarked 'well if you haven't had covid by now, you'll certainly get it in this room', he then proceeded to put on his mask!

In today's Gospel Jesus breathes on his disciples, and in that holy breath they each receive the Holy Spirit. Considering what we went through with Covid, the idea of breathing on people inside a locked room is more than a little unsettling. But keep in mind that one's breath contains much more than potential germs and viruses. One's breath contains the very force of life. God blew the breath of life into Adam's nostrils. So too in an emergency can we breathe life back into a person who has stopped breathing. We can imagine the disciples holding their collective breath in the days after Jesus' burial. He was no longer in the tomb. Mary Magdalene said she had seen him. But how could this be? What could have happened? Then he stood before them, wounds and all. Realizing he was alive, they let out their breath in relief and rejoiced. Then when he breathed on them, they received new life, new life in the Spirit.

In his parable of the lost sheep, Jesus tells of a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep behind in order to find the single sheep who went astray. After finding it, rescuing it, and bringing it home, he rejoices for the sake of this one who was lost and is now found. Fast forward to today's Gospel. When Jesus appeared to the disciples after his death and resurrection, a single disciple was missing: Thomas. John doesn't specifically mention that Jesus noticed, but undoubtedly he realized his absence. And so the following week the Good Shepherd returns, intent on finding Thomas, whose doubts had led him astray, to restore him to the fold. And Thomas, perhaps realizing that the Lord had returned just for him, just to relieve his doubts, just to convince him 'Doubt no longer but believe,' makes the most definitive confession possible: 'My Lord and my God!' (Jn 20:27-28).

The community of believers is the body of Christ. So in a sense when Jesus invites us to put our hands in his wounds, he is asking us to probe the wounds of the community. We are asked to make our wounded brothers and sisters whole, as Christ's wounded body was made whole. As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, we recognise that we address both our own woundedness and the woundedness of others, mercy is a heartfelt sympathy for another distress, propelling us to support them if we can, for mercy takes its name – misericordia – from denoting a person's compassionate heart for another's unhappiness (St Thomas Aquinas). Divine Mercy is God's refusal to leave us in our fallen condition: Jesus enters the closed doors of our hearts, banishing fear and sin, and saying *peace be with you*. He "showed them his hands and his side": Jesus shows us his wounds, so that we will not be afraid to show him ours.

*Fr Michael*

PEACE

BE  
WITH  
YOU

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK** - What wounds in my community can I help make whole? How will I do this?

# THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

Year of The Eucharist, Preparation for the Synod

**SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION 23/24 APRIL** - Every one of us will be able to recall a priest, who has been a support to us in our journey of faith. One of those priests may now be relying on your support at this time to the Sick and Retired Priests Collection. Our priests give their lives to work in our parishes, to support you through your good times and to be at your side through more difficult times as well. Can you support this collection today? This fund, also known as The Northern Brethren Fund, encourages legacies in peoples wills, or regular donations as standing orders and gift aided donations. For more information, ring Fr Ian Jackson on 0191 586 4319, or email [sjbh.1950@hotmail.com](mailto:sjbh.1950@hotmail.com) / [blackhall.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:blackhall.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk).

**ST PATRICK'S** - Thank you for all who turned up for the meeting at St Patrick's to discuss the recent vandalism. It has been decided to investigate ways of developing a better security to the site, and that the windows that need to be replaced will all have protections to avoid further vandalism.

**EASTER BASKETS** - The list of winners is at the back of church, the total raised was £653. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes.

**UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL** - CAFOD have launched an emergency appeal for Ukraine. If you're able to contribute, you can do this by ringing 0303 303 3030, logging on to [cafod.org.uk/Ukraine](http://cafod.org.uk/Ukraine) or sending a cheque to CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB. Please also continue to remember our collection bins at the back of church for the Hartlepool Food Bank, Refugee Project and Apostleship of the Sea. Thank you for all your generosity.

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** - We are trying to recommence the taking of the Eucharist to the sick and house bound and those in Care Homes. If you know of any person either in their own home or in a Care Home who would appreciate a visit from a Eucharistic Minister, please let us know. See Fr Jim or contact the parish office 866288.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - As we try to reclaim our parish life, we need volunteers to help with the following:

St Joseph's Tea and Coffee after Mass - The Filipino community have committed to doing tea and coffee on the second Sunday of the month, and we need to have a rota for the following Sundays. Please sign the list at the back of church if you can help.

Children's Liturgy - We would like to start a children's liturgy group on Sundays at St Patrick's. If you are interested, please sign the list at the back of church. We are looking for more volunteers for St Joseph's, please sign the list at the back of church.

Safeguarding - We are looking for a Safeguarding Rep for St Patrick's. This will be to work in conjunction with the other reps across the parish. The volunteer would be given lots of support from the diocese as well as the other reps here in the parish. Please consider this essential role and get in touch with Fr Michael through the parish office.

**NEW FINANCIAL YEAR** - All taxpayers please make sure that you're part of our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the parish office for further information. Please consider using a bankers order form for your Sunday collections, and non-Gift Aid planned giving please use the unnumbered boxes provided. All of this helps us in these difficult financial times. St Joseph's are trying to re-establish a counting rota, if you can spare half an hour after 10am Mass on Sundays, please sign the list at the back of church. Remember the more volunteers, the less often you have to count. Counters for collection are also required on a Sunday after mass on a rota basis at St Mary's. Please see Ian Fraser or Maria Morris.

**BONUS BALL** - The draw on Saturday 16th April took place, and the winning number was 44 - Mary Linighan. Thanks to everyone at St Patrick's for their support for the Drinks Hamper and £60 has now been forwarded to S.V.P.

**200 CLUB** - Annual Subscriptions of £25 Half yearly payments of £12.50 and Quarterly payments of £6.25 are now due. Please put cash or cheque in a sealed envelope and put your name and address on the envelope and put it in collection boxes at church. Cheques to be made out to "Saint Patrick's 200 Club". Thank You.

**SVP** - The St Joseph's Parish Conference of SVP is to meet at St Patrick's in the parish hall immediately after the morning mass on Sunday 1st May at 10.10am. All are welcome, particularly anyone who may be interest in helping to form a Holy Family Conference.

**LITURGY COURSES** - The Diocesan Liturgy Team will be running the following courses in April and May: Welcomers' Course, New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Course and a Sacristans' Course. If you wish to find out more information about these courses and how to register for them, please contact the Faith & Mission admin team: [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk).

**THANK YOU** - A big thank you to Tesco who supplied us with extra hot cross buns, as well as Morrisons last weekend.



## HOLY FAMILY YOUTH

For enquiries about Confirmation, ministry to young people, or to volunteer, please contact →

Holy Family Youth  
Ric Slatter, Coordinator  
07741162085 ☎  
[ric@holyyouth.co.uk](mailto:ric@holyyouth.co.uk) ✉

**WONDERTOTS** - Our playgroup will recommence after a 2 week break on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, at 9.30 am, in St Joseph's Church Hall.

**FAMILY RETREAT 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022** - If your family would appreciate an affordable weekend away in beautiful surroundings, ask your school office or Ric for a letter about our annual Family Retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village in Consett. Our team of young people organise activities for all the family and it's one of the most popular activities we offer all year so sign up soon!

# OUR PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

**Please remember in your prayers all those in our communities who are sick or housebound, especially:**

STEPHEN ANDERSON, PAT BAKER, KATHLEEN BARLOW, MICHAEL BLACKFORD, HILARY BRADBURY, DENNIS BRATT, MARGARET BURKE, KAY BURNS, JOHN CANN, SARAH CARROLL, RITA CHARLTON, VERONICA COCHRANE, DANIEL COSBY, BETTY CRANE, JAMES DALEY, NEIL DAVIS, LOTTIE DOCHERTY, NATALIE EGLINTINE, TERESA FALKINGHAM, EMILY FLANNERY, ALISON FOSTER, LORRAINE GALEN, DOROTHY GEEN, DAVID GEEN, PETER GRIEVES, CHRISTINE HANSELL, MARY HARPER, MARY HARRIS, ANDREW HAYGARTH, BELLA HOEY, MURIEL HOWE, MOLLY HUGHES, PETER JOHNSON, CHRISTINE JONES, ETTY JORDAN, MOIRA KELLY, CEILIA KING, MARGARET KIRKPATRICK, KEN KNIGHT, MARIE LYDON, MAUREEN MAGUIRE, VERA MARRIOTT, JAMES MARSHALL, MARY MASON, IAN MATTHEWS, PAUL MCCRAITH, OWEN MCENEANEY, JIM MCKENNA, CHRISTOPHER MGHEE, PAUL MOORE, PAT NESS, KITTY NEWSTEAD, SYLVICE NOTRIANNI, WINNIE OLIVER, MYRA PATTISON, EDDIE PEARSON, COLIN PRICE, DAMIAN RAFFERTY, JEAN RICHARDSON, PAM ROBERTSON, JOSEPH ROBINSON, PAULA ROGERS, HILDA RYAN, AGNES SCULLY, CORAZON SIMPSON, MATTHEW STEEL, BRENDA STOTT, BRETT SWAIN, GAIL SYMINGTON, MELVIN THACKERAY, LYNSEY TODD, NORA TRISCHLER, JONATHON VOKES, KAY WALLACE, JAMES WALSH, ANTHONY WEEGRAM

All the sick and their carers, both at home and in hospital, are prayed for at each Mass, as well as the health and safety of all parishioners.

**Please pray for those who have died recently:**

Peter Garthwaite, Mary Standen, Michael Almond, Martin Mullins, Billy Corbett and for their family and friends who mourn their loss.

**We also pray for all those whose anniversaries fall this week:**

**ST JOSEPH'S:** Jane Tulley, Stephen Elsdon, Ellen Humble, John 'Brendan' Mahoney, Jim Neenan, Seamus McEneaney, Margaret Lines, Joseph Monaghan, Margaret Huntley, Claire McClosekey, Johnny Larkin, Margaret Clifford, Nora Ward, Wilfred Storey.

**ST MARY'S:** Molly Marshall, Miriam Weegram, Tommy Waugh, John Hand, Kathleen Rooke, John Hanley, Ernest Butterfield, Michael Ryan, Thomas Sharp.

**ST PATRICK'S:** Veronica Reay, Margaret Lines, Bartholemew Nealon,

**ST JOHN VIANNEY'S:** Alex Malone, Charles Archibold, Kathleen Rooke.

**ST THOMAS MORE'S:** John Cavanagh, Richard Arkwright, Kathleen Flounders, Thomas Chapman, Michael Gunn, Raymond Allan, Veronica McDougall, Rex Harley-Smith, Charles Gofton, Anthony Gorman, Thomas Newlove, Jackie Reed, Patrick Hanson, Kathleen Noone, Lawrence Goulding, Elizabeth Crane.

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.**



Listen to the Word

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

*Acts 5: 12-16*

*Psalm 117*

*Apocalypse 1: 9-13, 17-19*

*John 20: 19-31*

**Blessed are you, who have seen me, have seen the wounds, have touched my side, but blessed more are those who believe by faith alone in Jesus Christ.**

We all have something of Thomas the Apostle in ourselves. We want to believe but we have the need to see, to touch. This is, of course, part of what it means to be human, we do not automatically accept, we need to be convinced. Faith however is something different, it is a leap into the dark, a journey towards a distant place on unfamiliar roads which somehow become familiar as we travel and then, at journey's end we shall see the face of Christ.

The Apostles were set on this path, walking alongside our Lord and Saviour; daily they sensed a growing awareness of a closeness to God that they had never experienced before. In today's reading there is a community of believers, gathered together by the spirit of Pentecost, meeting, just like our own parish communities, to worship and to spread God's Word. This first community should be the template upon which our communities should grow, each individual was important, the strongest looked after the weakest and the entire group was united, body and soul, in following Christ.

One phrase stands out to me in the passage from Apocalypse, "*Do not be afraid: it is I*". We each have a personal relationship with Jesus, when we are in need, we can turn to Him, and He is there for us. We need to deepen this relationship through listening to His Word and in prayer. Thomas is one of those voices we hear in the Gospels who always looks for meaning behind the word he has heard. He wants to know "*Where are we going*" he wants to be ready "*shall we go and die with him*" and today he cannot be convinced in the risen Lord until he can touch and see the wounds. His prayer is our inspiration, we cannot see but our faith leads us to belief and, through faith, his prayer becomes ours and together we proclaim. "*My Lord and my God*"

**David Frank**



**DONATIONS** – Anyone wishing to provide regular giving, you can instruct your bank to set up a standing order using these details:  
Beneficiary: DHN The Holy Family      Account Number: 11173928      Sort Code: 40-34-45.      Thank you.

# THIS WEEK'S MASSES

During the suspension of Sunday Obligation

\*Live stream: [www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyHartlepool](http://www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyHartlepool)

Pre-Recorded Telephone Liturgies Call: 01429 450388 for recorded Liturgy of the Word, homily, and prayers available from Saturday evenings onwards (calls charged at local rate)

It is essential to wear masks in Church, and to practice social distancing to maintain it as a safe place for worship.

	<b>St Joseph's TS26 9EY</b>	<b>St Mary's TS24 0HD</b>	<b>St Patrick's TS25 3QG</b>
Saturday <b>23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022</b> Saturday in the Easter Octave	<b>4.00 pm - 4.30 pm</b> Exposition and Confessions  <b>5.00 pm Vigil Mass</b> The Savage Family		
Sunday <b>24<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> Cath Butler (6 <sup>th</sup> A)	<b>*11.00 am Mass</b> Ann Cole (Nee Strickland)	<b>9.00 am Mass</b> Marie Cholmondeley
Monday <b>25<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> St Mark, Evangelist		<b>10.00 am Mass</b> Rachel Judge	
Tuesday <b>26<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> St George, Patron Saint of England	<b>12.05 pm Requiem Mass</b> Peter Garthwaite	<b>2.00 pm</b> Rosary	<b>10.30 am - 11.30 am</b> Exposition and Rosary  <b>1.00 pm - 3.00 pm</b> Over 60s Club  <b>6.30 pm Mass</b> Pat King
Wednesday <b>27<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>10.00 am Funeral Service</b> Mary Standen  <b>6.00 pm - 6.25 pm</b> Exposition and Confessions  <b>6.30 pm Mass</b> Seamus McEneaney		
Thursday <b>28<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>10.00 am Funeral Service</b> Michael Almond  <b>12.05 pm Mass</b> Jack & Joseph Kennedy	<b>6.30 pm Mass</b> Deceased Members of the Atkinson Family	
Friday <b>29<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe	<b>12.05 pm Mass</b> Eve Elizabeth		
Saturday <b>30<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> Weekday of Easter	<b>4.00 pm - 4.30 pm</b> Exposition and Confessions  <b>5.00 pm Vigil Mass</b> A Sick Person (Belinda)		
Sunday <b>1<sup>st</sup> May 2022</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> Terry Collins  Tea/Coffee after Mass	<b>*11.00 am Mass</b> Margaret Davidson	<b>9.00 am Mass</b> The Prior Family  <b>10.10 am SVP Meeting</b> in Parish Hall