



The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

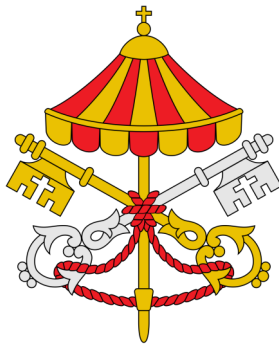
NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

www.citycentrepartnership.org.uk

The
SECOND SUNDAY
of
EASTER
27th April 2025

POPE FRANCIS *Jorge Mario Bergoglio*

Born 17 December 1936
Ordained Priest 13 December 1969
Consecrated Bishop 27 June 1992
Created Cardinal 21 February 2001
Elected Pope 13 March 2013
Died 21 April 2025



Dear friends,

With the celebration of the Requiem for Pope Francis this weekend, we begin our nine days of mourning as a catholic family. During which, we take time to reflect upon the legacy of his Pontificate and to commend his Soul to God in hope and gratitude.

From the moment of his election, Pope Francis brought a unique charism to the role. A charism marked by simplicity, humility, empathy and joy. He encouraged us to accompany one another as brothers and sisters, especially with the poorest and most vulnerable in our world, so that all could encounter the Lord. He was courageous enough to invite us all to discern what it meant to be the Church in today's context and reminded us of our collective responsibility to care for God's creation.

In these days of Easter Hope, we commend Pope Francis, a servant of the servants of God, into the eternal presence of the risen Lord.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, though the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Canon Simon Lerche
Cathedral Dean

CHURCHES

The Cathedral Church of St Mary

Clayton Street West
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 5HH
0191 232 6953
cathedral.office@diocesehn.org.uk
www.stmaryscathedral.org.uk

St Andrew's Catholic Church

9 Worswick Street,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6UW
07469 843 906
standrews.newcastle@diocesehn.org.uk
www.st-andrews-worswick-street.org.uk

St Dominic's Catholic Church

New Bridge Street,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 2TE
0191 232 6953
cathedral.office@diocesehn.org.uk

St Michael's Catholic Church

Westmorland Road,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 7RE
0191 232 6953
cathedral.office@diocesehn.org.uk

CLERGY

V. Rev Canon Simon Lerche

Cathedral Dean & Parish Priest St Dominic's

Rev. Fr William Nicol

Parish Priest St Michael's; Administrator St Andrew's

Rev. Fr Dermot Preston SJ

Rev. Fr Peter Randall SJ

Rev. Fr Gero McLoughlin SJ

Resident at St Dominic's

www.jesuitsinnewcastle.org

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Serving Newcastle & Northumbria Universities

St Andrew's Catholic Church

Lay Chaplain: Mia Fox

07713 259 137

mia.fox@diocesehn.org.uk

LISTEN TO THE WORD

Acts 5: 12-16 | Psalm 117 | Apocalypse 1: 9-13, 17-19 | John 20: 19-31

The rise of Christianity began a struggle between the power of this world, mainly associated with the Roman Empire, and the world of the Holy Spirit. Christianity was something new and was seen as a threat against the established order, this led to persecution of the faith, and this is reflected in the books of the New Testament.

The Book of the Apocalypse is written in a language of images and symbols. It follows some books of the Old Testament such as Daniel in which the message is hidden behind the images. John is believed to be the Apostle John, and the book is written in his old age. It is a difficult book to follow and, over the next few weeks, strange ideas and images will fill our imagination.

The miracles of Jesus did not stop at His death; today's first reading reminds us that His power was passed down to the apostles and that the healing continued. Life revolved around religious observance; if you turned away from the Jewish faith then you would lose your social status and your job. Despite this the group known as the faithful continued to grow and their influence spread through the city.

Thomas has a unique role to play in the Gospels. He is the one who brings a common sense, down to earth, attitude to faith in Christ. When he speaks, he speaks for all who need a clear understanding of events. In an early chapter of John, when Jesus is speaking of going to prepare a place for his followers, he is the one who says to Jesus "we do not know where you are going so how do we know the way". It is this practical side of Thomas which is so important. Today he refuses to believe on the word of others; he needs to see for himself.

We do not have the opportunity that Thomas has; we cannot see Jesus or touch his wounds, but because Thomas sees and believes we can have the confidence to confirm our faith in Him when, at the Eucharistic table, we pray the affirmation of faith "My Lord and My God", Faith is a mystery and is not given to all, we should always be thankful for the little faith we have for then we can be part of the community to whom Jesus promises "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"

David Frank

PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis,
whom you made successor of Peter
and shepherd of your Church,
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,
which he faithfully ministered on earth.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

'Jesus I Trust In You'



On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the Canonisation at the Vatican of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter be called "Divine Mercy Sunday."

St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, -including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy.

She wrote in her diary that He said:

'I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it...

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.'

Pope John Paul II discussed the significance of the image of Divine Mercy in his homily for the canonisation of St. Faustina:

From that Heart [of Christ], Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the blessed whom from now on we will call a saint, will see two rays of light shining from that heart and illuminating the world.

"The two rays", Jesus Himself explained to her one day, "represent blood and water" (Diary, entry 299). Blood and water! We immediately think of the testimony given by the Evangelist John, who, when a soldier on Calvary pierced Christ's side with his spear, sees blood and water flowing from it (see Jn 19:34). Moreover, if the blood recalls the sacrifice of the Cross and the gift of the Eucharist, the water, in Johannine symbolism, represents not only Baptism but also the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Jn 3:5; 4:14; 7:37-39).

Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As Pope John Paul II stated, "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified."

NEWS FROM ST DOMINIC'S

Fr Dermot Preston - was asked by Radio4 Prayer for the Day to deliver **Reflections on the life of Pope Francis**. This was broadcast on Tuesday 22nd April. You can catch up on BBC Sounds. May Pope Francis Rest in Peace.

Easter Triduum - Many parishioners have expressed their joy in the meaningful way the liturgy and surroundings of the Church were used to celebrate over this period. They send thanks to everyone involved.

St Catherine of Sienna - The pupils and staff of St Catherine's School will celebrate their patron saint's feast day at the 10 o'clock Mass on Tuesday, 29 April. You are invited to join their celebration.

Couples for Christ - is organised by our Philippino community. They will meet in the community room on from 1pm - 5pm and on Sundays in the coming weeks.

Fr Colin Carr OP - is in hospital in Cambridge and is awaiting news to see if he is strong enough to undergo surgery. We keep him in our prayers.

NEWS FROM ST MICHAEL'S

Please note that going forward there will only be one Thursday Morning Mass per month, on the second Thursday of the month during term time.

HOLY HOUR

The Association of the Eucharist will be holding a Holy Hour on Sunday 4 May at St. Andrew's from 2.30pm to 3.30pm followed by refreshments, everyone is welcome

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

The next stage of the Assisted Suicide Bill will be held in Parliament on 16 May. This Bill can still be defeated, but we need everyone to lobby their MPs. For more information and help to contact your MP, please visit: www.livesworthliving.org.uk There are also postcards available in Church for you to take away, complete your details and send to your MP. Bishop Stephen is also suggesting that we take a look at the website of Care Not Killing - www.carenotkilling.org.uk - for more information at this crucial time.

THE LATE SHOWS

NewcastleGateshead's annual weekend of after-hours culture, **The Late Shows** will return on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May 2025. The Cathedral is taking part on Saturday 17 May with the theme 'Medieval to Modern', from 6-10.30pm. Several workshops and tours will be held throughout the evening. Medieval chant - 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Windows tour - 7.15pm and 9.00pm. Visit the organ loft - 8pm and 9.30pm (no wheelchair access). For more information on the other fantastic events taking place in and around the city centre please visit the lateshows.org.uk

ROSARY PROCESSION

Calling the faithful! Let us publicly witness to our Faith in a spirit of prayer and reparation. Let us pray for Our Lady's intercession. A Rosary Procession will be taking place on 31 May, starting at 11am with Mass at St Joseph's Gateshead, leaving at 11.45am, processing over the Tyne Bridge, assembling at 12.20pm near the top

of Grey Street for the Holy Rosary. Please join in at any time. Followed by a shared table at St Andrew's. For further information, please contact Peter email the.real.pete.forbes@gmail.com Text or phone 0772 931 8686 after 6pm Monday-Friday or weekends.

HOLY NAME LECTURE 2025

'The Legacy of Pope Francis and the Future of Christianity'

After 12 years of one of the most reforming pontificates in modern times, how does the Christian future now look? In a lecture at Holy Name Church in Jesmond on **Saturday 17 May** at 11am, Pope Francis' foremost English-language biographer and collaborator, Dr Austen Ivereigh, will look both back and ahead to argue that the Francis era has reshaped the Church's ability to respond to a new, global era. All are welcome. Austen is the Pope's biographer as well as author of *First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis* which was published this year. He is also known for his role in the media explaining the convictions of the Catholic Church. Austen is a Fellow in Contemporary Church History at Campion Hall, Oxford. We are delighted that Pauline Media and Books will be attending the lecture with Dr Ivereigh's books on sale, which he is happy to sign for you!

OLD POSTAGE STAMPS...

David & Theresa O'Neill have been raising funds to assist the nuns of Little Sisters of the Poor carry on their wonderful work *cont...* caring for elderly people including retired clergy & religious. They are not asking for financial help but rather by your donations of used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (notes & coins from any country), broken or unwanted pieces of gold/silver jewellery & military medals from any conflict. If you have any old stamp albums or other items & let David & Theresa know. Their contact details are: David & Theresa O'Neill, Tel: 0191 264 5771 david-oneill3@sky.com

THE UPPER ROOM GROUP

Are you looking for a welcoming space to grow in faith and fellowship? The Upper Room Group is a vibrant community of young Catholic adults (18 to around 35) who come together on the first Monday of each month at 7pm at St Dominic's.

Want to join or find out more? Text or WhatsApp: Stephanie - 07387 556946; Ronan - 07859 779062; Danka - 07474 051656. Come and be part of a community that supports and inspires each other in faith!

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. You can donate to CAFOD online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS FUND

The collection for the sick and retired priests of the diocese remains open until 27 April for anyone who might like to make further or individual donations.

This collection goes to support our Sick and Retired Priests who have served our diocese over many years and we wish to make sure that this Fund is also there for future retired priests.



THE UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

Serving the Universities of Newcastle & Northumbria

www.catholicchaplaincy.org | Lay Chaplain: Mia Fox BSc MA 07713259173

Join us for social time in the Chaplaincy Room after Sunday Mass at St Andrew's.

Mondays at 5.30pm: PREGO (on Zoom)

Wednesdays at 6pm: FIDEM

30th April: 'Sede Vacante' Remembering Pope Francis | **7th May:** 'Which Path' with Dr Emma Morrison | **14th May:** No Fidem

21st May: 'Good Grief' with Chris Smith | **27th May:** 'Talking Points' | **4th June:** 'Endings'

Please join the Chaplaincy WhatsApp group for further details.



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS THIS WEEK IN THE CITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

SUNDAY 27th APRIL The Second Sunday of Easter <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	4pm	St Michael's	Celebrant's Intention
	5pm	St Andrew's	People of the Parish
	5.30pm	St Dominic's	Ian & Josie Luke
	9.30am	Cathedral	Bill Cryer (A)
	10am	St Dominic's	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Cathedral	Adrian Farrer RIP
	6pm	St Andrew's	Jimmy Cronon RIP
	6.30pm	Cathedral	People of the Parish
Monday 28th April <i>St George, Martyr, Patron of England (Sol)</i>	12.05pm	Cathedral	Francisco & Guilmermina Duarte RIP
	6pm	St Dominic's	Anne Burleigh & the Burleigh Family
Tuesday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Sienna, Virgin, (Feast)</i>	10am	St Dominic's	The Frazer Family
	12.05pm	Cathedral	Eileen Dodds (A)
Wednesday 30th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	10am	St Dominic's	Mary Elliott
	12.05pm	Cathedral	In Thanksgiving
	5.30pm	St Andrew's	Mary Condon
Thursday 1st May <i>St Joseph the Worker (Memorial)</i>	12.05pm	Cathedral	David McCormack
	5.30pm	St Andrew's	Celebrant's Intention
Friday 2nd May <i>St Athanasius< Bishop, Doctor (Memorial)</i>	12.05pm	Cathedral	Vaibhav & Jeneeta (Wedding Anniversary)
	5.30pm	St Andrews	Celebrant's Intention
Saturday 3rd May <i>Ss Philip & James, Apostles (Feast)</i>	10am	Cathedral	Mark Wilson (A)
SUNDAY 4th MAY The Third Sunday of Easter	4pm	St Michael's	People of the Parish
	5pm	St Andrew's	People of the Parish
	5.30pm	St Dominic's	Paddy Cosgrove RIP
	9.30am	Cathedral	James McGrane (A)
	10am	St Dominic's	Deceased members of the McLeman & Shanley families
	11.30am	Cathedral	Peggy Johnson
	6pm	St Andrew's	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Cathedral	People of the Parish

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Cathedral

No Confessions this week

St. Andrew's

Wed to Fri 4.45pm-5.15pm; Saturday 4.15pm-4.45pm.

St. Dominic's

Monday 5pm-5.45pm.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Cathedral

Tues, Wed & Fri 11am-11.45am. (*Rosary on Fridays*)

St. Andrew's

Wed to Fri 4.45pm-5.15pm.

St. Dominic's

Monday 5pm-5.45pm.

CATHEDRAL OFFICE

The Cathedral Office, located in Cathedral House, is open at the following times this week: **Monday—Thursday 9am - 5pm.**

Administrator: Julie Hindmarsh.

SAFEGUARDING

Our parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency and Diocesan policies and procedures at all times.

Each of our churches has a designated Parish Safeguarding Representative:

Cathedral: Migi & Robie Ramos 07584 048970 / 07824 155713

St Andrews: Terry Maxwell 07768 597512

St Dominic's: Angela Shanley: 07950 053009

St Michael's: Rebecca Daglish: 07934 881414