



# The Catholic Parish of St. John Boste. Serving: Penrith, Alston, Appleby & Kirkby Stephen

Parish Priest: Fr. John B. Winstanley, Deacons: Rev. Charlie Conner and Rev. David Greaves

The Rectory, St. Catherine's Church, Drovers Lane, Penrith, Cumbria. CA11 9EL

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St. Wulstan's Church, Kings Arms Lane, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3JF Our Lady of Appleby Church, Garth Heads Road, Appleby in Westmorland, CA16 6UA

The Haydock Community Centre at St. Catherine's: Bookings via parish website, T: 07976 255145, E: haydockccc@btinternet.com

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## 21 April 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Good Shepherd), Year B

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:

#### **Masses & Services at St. Catherine's unless otherwise stated**

- Sat 20 **9am** Holy Souls (Seddon)  
*2pm Wedding Service for Benedict Craft & Gigha Gibson*  
**6pm Mass at St. Wulstan's Alston** Infirm Clergy
- Sun 21 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Good Shepherd)**  
**World Day of Prayer for Vocations**  
**Mass Book page 265, Pr. V of Easter, p.75, EPII p.25**  
**8.30am** Patricia Ann McGeown  
**10.30am** Melanie Leeder (Thanksgiving Int)  
**4pm at Our Lady of Appleby** People of the Parish
- Mon 22 No Mass
- Tue 23 **ST. GEORGE**  
**12 noon at Our Lady of Appleby** Ints of Roger Gaynham
- Wed 24 **9.15am with School Class 2** Holy Souls (MacLellan)
- Thu 25 **7pm ST. MARK** Jackie Pereira (Birthday Intentions)
- Fri 26 **12 noon** Fr. Michael Finnigan
- Sat 27 **9am** Angela Entwistle  
**6pm Mass at St. Wulstan's Alston** People of the Parish
- Sun 21 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**8.30am** Tamsine Drake  
**10.30am** Hannah & Richard Little  
**4pm at Our Lady of Appleby** Intentions of Winnie Poland

**CONFESSION TIMES:** (also, anytime on request)

**St. Catherine's:** Saturdays 9.30am - 10am

**St. Wulstan's, Alston:** Saturdays 5.30pm

**Our Lady of Appleby:** Sundays 3.30pm

### DEVOTIONS:

**Rosary** - Thursdays 6.40pm

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - Saturday 9.30am - 10am

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**To be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church:**

Vanessa O'Dea on Pentecost Sunday, 19 May, at the 10.30am Mass.

**The Sick:** Barbara Carter, Eileen Holland, Maureen Richardson, Des & Pat Prior, Vivienne Knowles, Jackie O'Neill, Ken Oakley, Helen Farrow and Kath Rigby.

**Lately Dead:** Fr. Tom Forster (Former PP at St. Catherine's 1979 - 1980), Fr. John Heaney (Former PP Holy Family, Barrow) and Fr. Martin Chambers (PP Troon, Bishop-elect of Dunkeld).

*May they rest in peace.*

**Anniversaries:** Allan Reid, Fr Frank Moulding, Patricia McGeown, Annie Lee, Alfred Payne and Jeremiah Donovan.

### TEA & COFFEE after Sunday Mass:

8.30am & 10.30am every week.

At Appleby 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. All welcome.

**Fire & Light** with Cor et Lumen Christi Community, 8-10 pm in the Chapel, The Old Convent, St Cuthbert's, Wigton, on 8th May. Contact: stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Benedict Craft & Gigha Gibson who were married at St. Catherine's on Saturday 20 April.

**FR. TOM FORSTER RIP:** Fr. Tom died on Sunday 14 April. Parish Priest in Penrith 1979-1980, he returned for a short time in retirement living in Croft Ave. His funeral will be at Our Lady & St. Joseph's, Carlisle. Reception & Deanery Mass on Wednesday 1 May at 6pm. Requiem Mass on Thursday 2 May at 12 noon. Burial to follow. *May he rest in peace.*

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS** – deadline is Thursday mornings at 9am. Thanks. *Parish Office Team*

**TODAY is Vocations Sunday** when we are asked to reflect on praying for and promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated religious life. There will be a Special Collection for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund. We have a Pastoral Letter from the Bishop for this 'Good Shepherd' Sunday (copies available). The Vocations Director for the Lancaster Diocese is Canon Luiz Ruscillo who can be contacted at Our Lady and St. Joseph's, Warwick Square, Carlisle.

**FAMILY WALK AT LOWTHER:** On Sunday 28 April, weather permitting, there will be a family walk, picnic and fun in the park at Lowther CA10 2HH. We will meet at **2pm** in the Lowther Castle car park for a family-friendly walk of about 2 miles. Please bring a picnic for after the walk, when there will be family fun & games. For more details email Deacon Charlie on charlie.conner@lrcd.org.uk or call 07895 742 732.

**BLUE ENVELOPES:** Do you donate your offertory by standing order and have signed a gift aid declaration? You can now collect a box of blue dated envelopes for all the Special Collections so that we can claim gift aid on those donations too. Boxes are available in the Narthex - please write your details on the form (beside the box number taken). At the present basic rate of tax of 20%, for every £10 you donate to a Special Collection we can reclaim an additional £2.50.

### THIS WEEK:

**Tues 3pm** Prayer Group in the Quiet Room

**4pm** RE Subject Meeting in School

**Wed 2.30pm** CWL in the Quiet Room, all ladies welcome

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm** Family Walk & Picnic, Lowther

### ADVANCE DATES:

**Friday 3 May 3.45pm** First Confessions at St. Catherine's

**Sat 4 May 3pm** Clergy Fraternal at Alston

**Sun 5 May 2.30pm** Joseph Campbell's Baptism, Our Lady of Appleby

**Thur 9 May Solemnity of the Ascension:**

Masses: 6pm Alston for the Vigil (8<sup>th</sup> May)

On the day 9.15am at Penrith and 7pm at Appleby

**Sat 11 May 10.30am** First Holy Communion Mass at St. Catherine's

**Sun 19 May** Pentecost, Reception of Vanessa at 10.30am Mass

**Sun 2 June** Corpus Christi - 4pm First Holy Communion Mass at Our Lady of Appleby

**Fri 7 June** Bishop Paul to confirm Joshua 6.30pm, Penrith

**Sun 9 June** Monze BBQ

**Tues 11 June** Final AGM for St. Catherine's and PPC meeting. We hope to form a new PPC in the Autumn for the new parish.

**Tues 18 June 12 noon** Catholic Mass in the Hartley Chapel at Kirkby Stephen Parish Church

**Wed 3 July 12 noon** Thanksgiving Mass – Silver Jubilee of Fr. John. Refreshments to follow. All parishioners welcome.

**Sun 7 July** Summer Fair at St. Catherine's

### STATISTICS for 14/4/24: Many thanks for your generosity

	Attendance	Collection
Alston (Vigil)	23	£99.77 (2wks)+ £49 SO
Penrith	8.30am 95 10.30am 128	£490.49 + £471 SO
Appleby	52	£147.45 + £19.12 SO
Totals	298	£1,276.83

# THE *Wednesday* WORD



## Encountering Christ The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

*Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families*



**Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions.** Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



**Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

### 1

#### Read

#### The Gospel for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### THE TRUE VINE

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples."

**Taken from John 15:1-8 The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B**

### 2

#### Reflect

**After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.**

A vine is an extraordinary plant. It can grow to a huge size, spreading over a wide area, a whole garden wall or trelliswork, from one single root, and producing a rich sap which yields grapes at the end of countless little branches. And then there is the business of pruning: cut it back thoroughly on all its many shoots and tendrils, and it seems only more determined to grow thick and strong. So the vine was the symbol of Israel, drawing from the Lord a sap which penetrated to all its shoots, and lovingly pruned by the gardener in a way which best encouraged its growth. The image was taken over by Jesus for his own community, the new Israel. Pairing with last week's picture of the good shepherd, it is one of the greatest of Jesus' images. It perfectly sums up the two emphases of this Sunday's other two readings. The only source of fruitful energy for the Christian is union with and dependence on the life flowing from Christ. Without that, the branches wither and die; a trimming cut off from a vine no longer has any chance of life. The vine itself at pruning season looks stark, rough and suffering. It is in fact bursting with new life.

**What bits of your life need to be pruned away now? What more can you do to express the flow of Christ's life within you?**

*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*

### 3

#### Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy, forgiveness, hope or something else.

### 4

#### Pray for Families

**This Wednesday's word for our school families is GROWING!**

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

**St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 28th April 2024**



**1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31**

## Paul's Fearless Proclamation

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.



This reading is the first news that we have had that the Church has spread beyond Jerusalem. Paul has received his vision of the Risen Christ and has joined the disciples, being baptised at Damascus. Then, according to his letters, he went off to Arabia for three years before going up to Jerusalem. Paul's arguing with the Hellenists (or Greeks) is a foretaste of his bringing the Gospel to those beyond the borders of Judaism. His fearless proclamation of the gospel message, both in Damascus and in Jerusalem, is a characteristic of the work undertaken by the early missionaries. We have already come across it when Peter preached the message before the Jewish authorities. It will continue throughout the Acts of the Apostles, even till the end, when we see Paul proclaiming the message during his captivity in Rome. How are we to spread the gospel fearlessly? Perhaps when we courageously uphold Christian principles in moral behaviour (such as the protection of life, the rights of the poor and disadvantaged), and fearlessly face the issues of justice, war and peace, and sexual morality. But our proclamation must also be made in love and charity. **What other thoughts do you have about how we should fearlessly spread the gospel?**

“ **The saving power of Christ flows out from God's care for us.** ”



**2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24**

## The Two Commandments

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.



St John describes two commandments, and these will dominate the rest of the letter. They are not exactly the classic two commandments of the Law, reiterated by Jesus, to love God above all and our neighbour as ourselves. The two commandments of God here are firstly to believe in the power or name of the Risen Christ, and secondly to love one another. One might say that belief in the power of the Risen Christ is an application of love for God, an aspect which is especially relevant during Eastertide. The saving power of Christ flows out from God's care for us, and belief in it must both be a response in love within us and provoke love and gratitude. It must also make us fearless before God, full of the love which casts out fear, since the power of Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of God's acceptance of Christ's sacrifice for us; it saves us from our own sin and disobedience, and also helps us face a hostile world with the fearlessness of which we heard in Paul's preaching in the first reading. It must also inspire fulfilment of the second commandment, love of neighbour. Such belief, issuing in love, is the basis of our understanding that the Spirit is dwelling within us. **What does it mean to say that we believe "in the power or name of the Risen Christ"? How does this help us to face our fears and anxieties?**

**The Wednesday Word** Encountering Christ: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church  
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**