



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

T: 01768 862273 E: parishoffice.stcatherines@btinternet.com W: www.stcatherinepenrith.org.uk

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

Parish Contacts for Safeguarding: Rosemary (Penrith), Mike (Appleby) & Jeanette (Alston).07469 511974, safeguarding.stcatherines@btinternet.com

28 April 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Year B

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:

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

- Sat 27 **9am** Angela Entwistle
6pm Mass at St. Wulstan's Alston People of the Parish
- Sun 28 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Mass Book page 268, Pr II of Easter p.74, EPII p.25
8.30am Tamsine Drake
10.30am Hannah & Richard Little
4pm at Our Lady of Appleby Intentions of Winnie Poland
- Mon 29 **ST. CATHERINE of SIENA** No Mass
- Tue 30 **St. Pius V (Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse)**
12 noon at Our Lady of Appleby
Alona Sanjay Thanksgiving Intention
- Wed 1 **St. Joseph the Worker**
9.15am with School Class 4 Patricia Ann McGeown
- Thu 2 **7pm St. Athanasius** Ints of Michael Ainsworth
- Fri 3 **SS. PHILIP & JAMES**
12 noon In honour of the Sacred Heart
3.30pm First Confessions in church
- Sat 4 **THE ENGLISH MARTYRS**
9am Kenneth John Pollock
6pm Mass at St. Wulstan's Alston Sylvia Mary Ford
- Sun 5 **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am Brenda Doherty (Birthday Anniversary)
2.30pm at Our Lady of Appleby, Baptism of Joseph Campbell
4pm at Our Lady of Appleby Fr. Frank Flynn

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 –

Saturdays 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: Eileen Holland, Maureen Richardson,

Des & Pat Prior, Vivienne Knowles, Jackie O'Neill,

Ken Oakley, Helen Farrow and Kath Rigby.

Latently 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: Richard Leeming, Edward McAlindon, Joseph Lee,

Joseph O'Reilly and Joe Pearson.

TEA & COFFEE after Sunday Mass:

8.30am & 10.30am every week.

At Appleby 1st Sunday. All welcome.

FAMILY WALK TODAY 28 APRIL AT LOWTHER:

Weather permitting! Meet at **2pm** in the Lowther Castle car park CA10 2HH 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.

St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School:

It has been a very busy week at St Catherine's. On Tuesday night we had our first virtual book quiz for parents after school. We have also taken part in a number of sporting events including cross country, football and tag rugby. We are always proud of how well our children represent our school; they always exemplify our school values of kindness, respect and resilience. *Rebecca Davies, Headteacher*

CAFOD EMERGENCY SUDAN APPEAL Sun 5th May:

CAFOD are launching an emergency appeal for the people of Sudan. At least 25 million people need immediate emergency help, the situation has gone from serious to desperate very quickly. 'This crisis threatens to become the worst in living memory.' The UN is calling it 'the world's worst displacement crisis'. When violence broke out last year between government and paramilitaries, most aid agencies evacuated. Now, humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help. Many borders are shut. But the Church and CAFOD's local partners are still there and already responding. **We will hold a Special Collection at the Sunday Masses on 4th/5th May.** As always you can contribute on-line and further information is on the CAFOD website.

Thank you. *Janice Wrench*

PARISH DEVELOPMENTS:

Holy Communion: At St. Catherine's Church we hope to return to administering Holy Communion under both forms for those who wish to receive also from the Chalice. The intention is to begin from the Feast of Corpus Christi (Sunday 2 June). When there are insufficient Ordinary Ministers (priests and deacons) available to administer the Chalice at Mass, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may assist. A meeting and training is being planned for them with Fr. John and formal commissioning.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): The current chair, vice-chair, secretary and Deacon David are working with Fr. John to prepare a draft constitution for a new PPC for our Parish of St. John Boste. It is hoped that it will be available for consultation by the early Autumn. Some of the key features would be equal representation of 'Parish Representative' posts from Penrith, Alston and Appleby with Kirkby Stephen. It will be suggested the meetings (3 per year) move between our three churches with a Mass celebrated before the PPC meetings. There would continue to be a Mission Life Group and a Practical Management Group to feed into the PPC. More details in due course.

St. John Boste: Two icons of our new Parish Patron have been commissioned and are being 'written' by Sister Stella at Hynning Hall Monastery, near Carnforth. The icons depict St. John Boste in Mass vestments and in prayer at Holy Mass. More details to follow.

PLEASE NOTE on Saturday 11 May there will be no 9am Mass, Confessions or Adoration due to the First Holy Communion Mass at 10.30am on that day.

(PTO)

BISHOP RAPHAEL OF MONZE along with Fr. Spencer, chaplain to the UK Zambian communities, made a short visit to Penrith on Friday 19 April. Arranged at short notice, the Bishop was able to meet with members of the parish Monze Group and thank them for their ongoing support for the Neonatal Unit.

Fr. John

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: Thank you to everyone who used the special blue envelopes for special collections last week. Tax is reclaimed on those donations by the parish under the Diocesan charity registration. Bear in mind that donations need to be specifically to the charity for them to reclaim tax eg via CAFOD envelopes or online donations.

STATISTICS for 21/4/24: Many thanks for your generosity

	Attendance	Collection
Alston (Vigil)	18	£58.10+ £49 SO
Penrith	8.30am 97 10.30am 162	£568.18 + £471 SO
Appleby	33	£150.95 + £19.12 SO
Totals	310	£1,316.35

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 3pm Prayer Group in the Quiet Room

3.20pm Fr. John to meet School Group in Church re First Confession

3.45pm First Holy Communion preparation in School

Wednesday 6pm Deanery Mass and Reception for Fr. Tom Forster RIP at Our Lady & St. Joseph's, Carlisle

Thursday 12 noon Requiem Mass for Fr. Forster at Our Lady & St. Joseph's, Carlisle

Friday 3.30pm First Confessions

Saturday 3pm Clergy Fraternal at Alston

Sunday 5th 9.30am First Holy Communion Preparation in Haydock Centre

SOME ADVANCE DATES:

May

Wed 8 May 10am Practical Management Group, Quiet Room

Thur 9 May Solemnity of the Ascension:

Masses: 6pm Alston for the Vigil (8th May)

On the day 9.15am at Penrith (with School) and 7pm at Appleby

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

Thurs 16 May 7.30pm Mission Life Group, Quiet Room

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

Wed 22 May Key Stage 1 '*May Procession*' in honour of *Our Blessed Lady in her month of May.* (Rectory Garden)

June

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

July

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

Extract from the Wednesday Word.

Preparing the Gospel for Sunday 5th May 2024:

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me; no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another."

Taken from John 15:19-17 The Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Reflect:

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

Like so many of the great discourses of Jesus in the gospel of John, today's reading is not a shorthand record of Jesus' words, but will have been written up after the event. Most probably there were several slightly different versions of what Jesus said at the Last Supper. In any case, one can see that the author has in mind two different contexts: Jesus' own historical situation at the Last Supper and the situation of the early Church, where the disciples are being tested hard in their mission. They need encouraging by Jesus' own example of his sacrifice and by his promise of real friendship; they are friends, not servants, specially chosen by Jesus to bear fruit that will last. So we too are welcomed as friends, chosen and commissioned by Jesus to go out and bear fruit, but reminded that we must be prepared to pay the price. There is no fruit without pruning. Jesus had just given the example of service by washing the feet of his disciples. If we are to share the joy of Jesus we must be ready to join him also in laying down our lives for our friends.

Do we ever have to make hard choices for Christ?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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 5th May 2024

LOVING LIKE GOD

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me; no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.”

Taken from John 15:19-17 The Sixth 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.

Like so many of the great discourses of Jesus in the gospel of John, today’s reading is not a shorthand record of Jesus’ words, but will have been written up after the event. Most probably there were several slightly different versions of what Jesus said at the Last Supper. In any case, one can see that the author has in mind two different contexts: Jesus’ own historical situation at the Last Supper and the situation of the early Church, where the disciples are being tested hard in their mission. They need encouraging by Jesus’ own example of his sacrifice and by his promise of real friendship; they are friends, not servants, specially chosen by Jesus to bear fruit that will last. So we too are welcomed as friends, chosen and commissioned by Jesus to go out and bear fruit, but reminded that we must be prepared to pay the price. There is no fruit without pruning. Jesus had just given the example of service by washing the feet of his disciples. If we are to share the joy of Jesus we must be ready to join him also in laying down our lives for our friends.

Do we ever have to make hard choices for Christ?

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 LOVE!

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 5th May 2024**



1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

The Conversion of Cornelius

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. "Stand up," he said. "I am only a man after all!" Then Peter addressed them: "The truth I have now come to realise," he said, "is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him." While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, "Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?" He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.



Jesus was the Messiah of Judaism, bringing to completion the promises made to Abraham. It came as a surprise to the first Christians that the salvation brought by Jesus was meant not just for Jews alone but for all the peoples of the earth. This is the scene where it happens. Peter has been prepared for it by a vision which annulled the Jewish food-laws. Then he was summoned to bring the gentile Cornelius to the faith. Now, even while he is speaking to Cornelius and his household, the Spirit takes matters (so to speak) into his own hands and comes down upon Cornelius. This is Pentecost for the gentiles. Today we may be tempted to think of our own group as the chosen ones, neglecting the breadth of God's love and desire that all people should turn to him and be saved. We can read again and again that Jesus actually went out of his way to welcome lepers, prostitutes, tax-collectors, and we still find it hard to believe that to God they are not 'undesirables'. It is all too easy for us to stay snugly wrapped up in our own neat cocoons. Remember: God has no favourites.

How far does the message of Christ extend beyond Christianity?



2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Christian Love

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.



When John was writing, the Jews regarded gentiles as 'dogs'. This did not mean beloved pets, for dogs in John's world were either frightening guard-dogs or filthy scavengers. The first reading showed us God actually taking gentiles to himself by sending the Spirit upon them. The second reading now meditates on the nature of that love. The old saying, 'I love him but I can't stand the sight of him,' will not do if God is love itself and love itself is the nature of God. If God is not only the source of love and of life, but simply is love itself, even the distant 'wishing somebody well' from my heart is not enough. Would any of us be satisfied and comfortable with the idea that God doesn't actually like me but wishes me well in a distant sort of way? Love generates affection, respect, trust, a desire to come closer to the other. It is comforting to know that I am a son of God and can call God 'Abba', 'Father', but the consequence of this knowledge is more daunting: you too – whoever you are, whatever faults I see in you – are also the closest member of my family.

Do the faults of your family impede or enhance your love?

“ **God is love itself.** ”

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**