



# NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP



THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE

In the pastoral care of Bishop Stephen Wright



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## THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 18th February 2024 (*Year B*)

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**The Cathedral Church of St Mary** | Clayton Street West, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 5HH  
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**St Andrew's Catholic Church & Chaplaincy for the Universities of Newcastle & Northumbria**  
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[newcastle.standrew@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:newcastle.standrew@rcdhn.org.uk) Lay chaplain: [mia.fox@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:mia.fox@diocesehn.org.uk) | 077132 59173

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Whenever we see a rainbow we see a sign of hope, the rain has ceased, and the sun is never far behind. There is a pot of gold which, we have been told, lies at the end of the rainbow; how many times, as children, have we studied the rainbow to see where it ends, so that we may find that gold.

Many childhood stories have a basis in fact, and I would like to believe that the rainbow story is part of the Noah story and that the gold is our faith passed to us through the sacrament of Baptism. The rainbow is also a sign of hope and that is something we are very short of in this world of ours. Lent is a time of hope; during this season we prepare for Easter and the hope that the death and resurrection of Our Lord brings to all humanity. Our actions during this season are concentrated on prayer, repentance, and almsgiving; prayer for the world and all humanity, repentance for our behaviour and that of those around us, and almsgiving, that we may create a better, more equal world, where division is no more, and everyone can live in peace.

Perhaps it was a longing for peace that drove Jesus out into the desert.

Mark's passage on the forty days in the desert is very brief; he speaks of wild beasts and angels. Jesus needed time to come to understand the wild beasts and angels in his life; he needed to prepare himself for what was to come, to put on the armour of God and go into the world, to save the world, through his message of love. We too, have wild beasts and angels. Each of us has a good and bad side; sometimes we hide, very successfully, these sides to our nature but life as we know is a constant conflict within ourselves with the powers of darkness and light. Let us pray today that we may see a rainbow of hope in our lives this Lent and perhaps then we may find that elusive pot of gold!

*David Frank*

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### CITY CENTRE CLERGY

**V. Rev. Canon Simon Lerche** (*Cathedral Dean and Parish Priest St Dominic's*)

**Rev. Fr Andrew Shaw** (*Parish Priest St Andrews, Priest Chaplain to Newcastle & Northumbria Universities*)

**Rev. Fr William Nicol** (*Parish Priest St Michael's; Assistant Priest, Cathedral*)

**Rev. Fr. Dermot Preston SJ, Rev. Fr Peter Randall SJ & Rev. Fr Gero McLoughlin SJ**, (*Resident at St Dominic's* | [www.jesuitsnewcastle.org](http://www.jesuitsnewcastle.org))

Newcastle Hospitals Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Mariadass (0191) 273 3903 & Rev. Deacon Paddy Jackson (0191) 233 6161



*“Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life  
and in this way to know the fundamental truth:  
who we are, where we come from,  
where we must go, what path we must take in life.”*

*Pope Benedict XVI*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** Fridays in Lent at 11.00am at the Cathedral.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.** Regular times throughout the Partnership are listed overleaf.

**EVENING PRAYER.** On Tuesday evenings during Lent, Vespers (Evening Prayer of the Church) will be prayed at 6pm in the Cathedral, including a short reflection on the Gospel. All are invited and most welcome to attend this time of contemplation and prayer, which should last no longer than half an hour.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY.** This Friday, **23 February**, Friday is the first of the two days in the year when CAFOD invites us to support its work of providing aid and development for people in need overseas. By giving up a meal or undertaking some other form of self-denial, we can be in solidarity with them in their struggles. Envelopes are available at the back of our churches and can be returned next weekend.

**LENTEN MEALS.** In preparation for Easter with Churches Together, these will take place beginning in St Dominic's on Wednesday, **21 February** - Stations of the Cross at 12 o'clock (noon), followed by a light lunch and reflection in the community room. This will be followed by, in St Dominic's, on Wednesday, **28 February** at 6.30pm (after exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) with Stations of the Cross followed by a light supper and reflection in the community room. Everyone is very welcome.

**LENTEN ONLINE RETREAT - THROUGH LENT WITH POPE FRANCIS.** The Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow, invite us to join for a Lenten online retreat. In this daily online retreat there is a daily quotation from the writings of Pope Francis and add a suitable quotation from Scripture. There is also a picture and some music to help stimulate prayer and finally a suggestion for pondering over this subject matter. Take as much as you find helpful. You don't have to use everything, sometimes less is more! Find the site at [onlineprayer.net/lent-2024](http://onlineprayer.net/lent-2024)

**ST CUTHBERT'S CARE LENTEN ALMS** *From St Cuthbert's Care...* Over the last 12 months the achievements of the Charity include: Some of the Children's Services have been rated as **OUTSTANDING** by Ofsted; The opening of a brand new Independent Living Support Project, enabling people with learning disabilities to live in their own homes; The organisation's two Nursing Homes are benefitting from the expertise of a dementia specialist to implement new initiatives in improving the well being and quality of life of those residents living with dementia. Although this is a small snapshot of the care and support provided across the diocese, none of the achievements would be possible without you and your generosity. There will be an opportunity to donate to St Cuthbert's Care throughout Lent in all of our churches. Thank you for your ongoing support.

## **NEWS FROM ST DOMINIC'S**

**Family Fast Day.** A retiring collection will be held next weekend. Envelopes are available in the inner porch. Thank you for your generosity.

**Charity Boxes.** The intentions are for your Lenten donations. These will be used to support the work of St Cuthbert's Care as well as other local and international charities.

**RCIA.** Congratulations to Hiu Yan Winna Po, Shay Wellden, and Idwin Dias Neto, as they celebrate the Rite of Election this Sunday, and begin the final stage as catechumens. They will be initiated into the Church through the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil, at the Cathedral. At the Easter Vigil in St Dominic's, the following adults will be confirmed, after waiting patiently since their initial preparations pre-pandemic: Maria da Luz Mateus, Maria Bamba Monteiro, Nazareth Cassama Gomes Campote.

## **RCIA RITE OF ELECTION**

The Diocesan Rite of Election for those currently preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter will take place this Sunday, **18 February**, at 3.00pm at the Cathedral We ask you remember all the candidates in your prayers as they continue on their Journey in Faith.

## **THE WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER. 3-8 MARCH**

This is a retreat in daily life. You have an opportunity to see a qualified prayer guide for 30 minutes each weekday at the Catholic Chaplaincy at St. Andrew's, Zoom is also a possibility. It gives you a chance to kick start or deepen your prayer life and is a great thing to do during Lent. It costs £20 per person and you must register with Mia at the Chaplaincy (details on front page of newsletter). There is a leaflet with more information about the week at St. Andrew's.

## **PROUD CATHOLICS**

**Sharing Our Stories with Bishop Stephen:** Do you identify as LGBTQ+ or are you questioning your sexual or gender identity? Would you like to attend a support group run by and for LGBTQ+ Catholics in the North East? The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 20 February**, at 7.30pm. The group welcomes Bishop Stephen for prayer and share experiences as LGBTQ+ Catholics in parishes and as members of Proud Catholics. For more information visit the website [proud Catholics.co.uk](http://proud Catholics.co.uk)

## LOUDFENCE EVENT



**Bishop Stephen writes...** I am delighted and honoured to say that together with St Nicholas' Cathedral and the Diocese of Newcastle we will be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Mary's Cathedral. It will begin with the 11.30am Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday 3rd of March** and will end with a Service in at St Nicholas' at 6pm on **Wednesday 6th March**. All are welcome to the Mass and the final service.

Both Cathedrals will be open during these days and people are welcome to come and pray or offer their thoughts for those who have suffered abuse in any way. There will be opportunities to leave prayer ribbons and other prayerful symbols inside and outside of the cathedrals, recognising that for some people entering a church will be distressing. There will be trained people available at both cathedrals to listen to and accompany those who wish to speak.

You may recall I invited representatives of LOUDfence and victim/survivors to my Installation Mass last July. The prayer ribbons presented to me remain on my Chair in the Cathedral as a reminder to never forget those who have suffered.

The LOUDfence ministry is explained by its founders: **"We want all survivors and victims of abuse to know that we believe you, we will hear and support you and we will do all we can to prevent this happening again. People are invited to join in by tying a ribbon, pausing to reflect, offering a prayer and making a resolution in solidarity with survivors,"** explains Survivors Voices and End Church Abuse activist Antonia Sobocki, who brought the first LOUDfence to the UK in 2020, at the parish of Kirkbampton, Cumbria.

Please see: [survivorsvoices.org/loudfence](https://survivorsvoices.org/loudfence) and @ASobocki on X (formerly Twitter)

Please do come and offer your prayerful support to those who have suffered. We pray for healing and to never forget our need to safeguard the vulnerable. We are very grateful to join with our Church of England sisters and brothers in this time of prayer, reflection, and advocacy.

## THE YEAR OF PRAYER 2024 & THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pope Francis has called a Jubilee Year for 2025, with the theme *'Pilgrims of Hope'*. In preparation for the Jubilee Year, the Holy Father has also called for 2024 to be designated a Year of Prayer. Throughout this year, David Frank offers a short reflection and prayer based on the Sunday Gospel.

The poet John O'Donohue speaks of the idea that each time we leave home we journey to somewhere we have never been before. Perhaps that could be a theme we can follow this Lent and look at the way we live as a journey into the unknown where everything is seen with fresh eyes.

A Prayer based on "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand." (*Mark 1: 15*)

*Lord,  
Lead me through these Lenten days.  
Help me to see, each day, your presence in the world,  
So that I may understand what I must do to bring your kingdom closer.  
Let each day's experiences bring me closer to you.  
So that, one day, I may dwell, forever, in your kingdom.  
Amen.*



## THE UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY *Serving the Universities of Newcastle & Northumbria*

[www.catholicchaplaincy.org](http://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: ROSARY. Pray the Rosary in a different way**

**Wednesdays at 6pm: CONTAGIOUS FAITH (including a hot meal of veggie pasta)**

Wednesday 21 February 'Mary and the Hope of Heaven'

Wednesday 28 February 'When the Pope Calls' - In the Company of Bishop Stephen

### WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER 3-8 March

A time to deepen your relationship with God including evening workshops throughout the week. Please take a leaflet with all of the details.

Tuesday 22 February - 'Pool Night' Meet at the Chaplaincy at 7pm to go to Hustlers together.

Saturday 9 March - Film Night in the Chaplaincy Room

*Please join the Chaplaincy WhatsApp group for further details.*

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS THIS WEEK IN THE CITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

<b>SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY</b> The First Sunday in Lent	5pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	Peter Ridley (A)
	5.30pm	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Celebrant's Intention
	8am	<i>Cathedral</i>	People of the Parish
	10am	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Celebrant's Intention
	10am	<i>Cathedral</i>	Eileen Dodds RIP
	11am	<i>St Michael's</i>	In Thanksgiving to St Michael & The Holy Angels - NP
	11.30am	<i>Cathedral</i>	Living & Deceased Members of the Hogarth Family
	3pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	<i>Diocesan Rite of Election</i>
	6pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	Jean Kelly RIP
7pm	<i>St Dominic's</i>	People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 19th February</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	12.05pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	Weir Larsen RIP
	6pm	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Celebrant's Intention
<b>Tuesday 20th February</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	10am	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Celebrant's Intention
	12.05pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	Corazon Perez RIP
	5.30pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	Pierre Brechenmacher RIP
<b>Wednesday 21st February</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	10am	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Celebrant's Intention
	12.05pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life
	5.30pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	Ann Marie Clarke
<b>Thursday 22nd February</b> <i>The Chair of St Peter, Apostle (Feast)</i>	9.30am	<i>St Michael's</i>	People of the Parish
	10am	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Celebrant's Intention
	12.05pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	Duncan James Todd (A)
	5.30pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	People of the Parish
<b>Friday 23rd February</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	10am	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Celebrant's Intention
	12.05pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	Joan Maughan (A)
	5.30pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	Genevieve Brechenmacher RIP
<b>Saturday 24th February</b> <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	10am	<i>Cathedral</i>	Joe McCormac (A)
<b>SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY</b> The Second Sunday in Lent	5pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	Special Intention - CR
	5.30pm	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Norman Hall RIP
	8am	<i>Cathedral</i>	In Thanksgiving - MIP
	10am	<i>St Dominic's</i>	Birthday Intentions - Eileen Kinghorn
	10am	<i>Cathedral</i>	Kathleen Thoburn (A)
	11am	<i>St Michael's</i>	Deceased Members of the Branning Family
	11.30am	<i>Cathedral</i>	Special Intention - M & Chloe
	6pm	<i>St Andrew's</i>	Wyndham & Olive Thompson
	6.30pm	<i>Cathedral</i>	People of the Parish
	7pm	<i>St Dominic's</i>	People of the Parish

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Cathedral**

Mon, Wed & Fri after 12.05pm Mass.

**St. Andrew's**

Tues to Fri 4.45pm-5.15pm; Saturday 4.15pm-4.45pm

**St. Dominic's**

Wed 5pm-6.30pm



### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Cathedral**

Mon to Wed & Fri 11am-11.45am (Stations on Fridays)

**St. Andrew's**

Tues to Fri 4.45pm-5.15pm

**St. Dominic's**

Wed 5pm-6.30pm