

THE FAMILY OF HOLY CROSS: 3 CARRINGTON AVE. COTTINGHAM, EAST YORKSHIRE, HU16 4DU

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Parish Priest – Fr. Pat Day BA. BD.

Vigil Mass – Saturday – 6.30 p.m. Sunday – 10.00 a.m. Weekdays – 9.00 a.m. except Tuesday – 7.00 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day Saturday from after morning Mass and ending with Benediction at 6.00 p.m.

The church is open all day from dawn till dusk. Tea and coffee are served after the 10.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

“In those days, ten people of nations of every language will take a Jew by the sleeve and say: ‘We want to go with you since we have learned that God is with you.’”

SUNDAY MARCH 11TH. 2007 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

A Surprising God: It's not often that a man fleeing from a murder rap sees God. But that is exactly what happened with Moses. A fugitive after slaying one of Pharaoh's overseers who was abusing Hebrew slaves. But this was a different Moses, different to the man who had spent half his life learning leadership skills from the ruling empire of the day. He had spent a further 40 years learning wilderness survival skills. A perfect combination. In the desert he learned to know the voice of God, a God of the present tense 'I am'. And yet, his palace upbringing surely gained him a foot in the door with Pharaoh. God can work even our past to good, no matter how unpromising material it may seem. He still walks into lions' dens, fiery furnaces, weddings, funerals, broken homes, hospital rooms, bankrupt businesses and jail cells saying 'I am – always with you'. Moses teaches us that you don't run from your past – you learn from it and that no experience is ever wasted. You will always learn something. Yes, everyday the press will report murders, accidents, front-page catastrophes. Jesus himself reported two news items in today's gospel, not to scare, but to warn of complacency. Everyone runs the risk of being hardened to the urgency of conversion. You could even be like the tree he cites – not giving a fig. But God is a patient gardener. All things and experiences turn to good.

Last week's letter re. our amalgamation with Holy Name Parish:

"Before Bishop John left for his period of recuperation, he had appointed Fr. John Wood of the Holy Name Parish to take up the new appointment of Parish Priest of Withernsea later on this year. After considering a number of options, many of which are already enshrined in the diocesan pastoral plan, your Parish Priest has agreed to take on the responsibility of the Holy Name from the beginning of May 2007. Mindful of the existing workload of Fr. Pat, Fr. Bill Serplus currently in Middlesbrough has agreed to take up residence in the Holy Name presbytery from the beginning of May, to assist Fr. Pat, in the short term, to ensure a smooth transition. We are confident that all will be generous and supportive as we work towards the decisions which inevitably have to be made for the good of all."

St. Anthony's Parish: Added to the above was: *"As St. Anthony's is twinned with Holy Name, Fr. Bill will provide pastoral support, in the short term, until priestly provision for the wider needs of Hull is assessed. We will all want to be generous and considerate as we work towards the decisions which inevitably have to be made for the good of all."*

Holy Name Parish: *"With the appointment of Fr. John Wood to Withernsea, the diocese finds itself no longer able to provide a resident priest because of the reduced numbers of clergy at this time. Reluctantly therefore, I and my Council have had to make the decision to place your parish under the pastoral care of Holy Cross, Cottingham. In the coming weeks, Fr. Pat will be discussing with Fr. John and yourselves the best way to carry out this responsibility."* (edited)

Michael Pinder is now in Dove House and is very, very ill, maybe only a matter of days. Please remember Sallie and all the family at this time. And can I thank Chris and Mike Eyres who have 'religiously' brought the Eucharist to them every Sunday after Mass over this past year.

An Afternoon of Music and Reflection for Lent: "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." (Victor Hugo). The day will be led by Fr. Stephen Maughan from St. Charles, at The Endsleigh Centre on Saturday 17th. March from 12 - 4 p.m. and beginning with lunch. Cost £10. For more information call Sr. Catherine at The Centre on 342779.

Let Yourself be Loved: I was going to call him on the phone, but he called before I did. I knew that he'd been away, indeed that he'd been sick on the journey, but now he'd returned and we would see one another soon. Nevertheless, I'd wanted to call him straightaway, just to make contact, have a quick exchange, and mark a date when we would meet and talk properly. But he beat me

to it. The telephone rang. I picked it up not thinking of anybody in particular and there was his voice.

As we chatted I was aware of my own feelings. First the sheer joy at hearing his voice again; but almost immediately after that a certain uneasiness and shame because I hadn't been able to call him first. To some extent I'd failed him and I felt bad about it.

Then, shortly afterwards, and still talking on the phone, an interesting thing happened. I noticed that I now felt easy and happy inside. Why? Because I realised that I'd given him the chance to show his love for me before I'd shown my love for him... and that was worthwhile.

At times, allowing oneself to be loved is more difficult than to love. And one doesn't exist without the other.

Family Fast Collection: Many, many thanks for your continued generosity. So far the amount collected is £670.57 of which £366 was Gift-aided which added another £102.48 to the total, making it £773.05. And again our thanks to Leo for co-ordinating these collections and dealing with CAFOD.

The Humber Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk for Christian Aid. Leo does this every year and takes up a collection after the Masses that weekend. This year the Walk will for the first time also be supporting CAFOD. It's on Saturday May 12th. starting at 2.00 p.m. More details to follow.

St. George's Day Dinner? It's about time we celebrated our National Saint and Feast Day. So, we're planning a typical English Dinner in The Garden Room on Monday evening, April 23rd. (in case you didn't know!). Roast Beef and Yorkshire Puddings etc. with all the trimmings. Sounds good? Obviously the numbers will be limited but we can cater for around fifty people. If you are interested have a word with either myself or Gwen on 845459. Any profits will go towards our Freetown Project, the two school classrooms that we're proposing to build. Any suggestions for entertainment?

Terry Waite Presents Emmaus: You are invited to an Afternoon with Terry Waite CBE and Honourable Alderman Patrick Doyle (Chairman of Emmaus Hull) this Tuesday at The Guildhall starting at 3.30 p.m. Emmaus communities offer homeless people a supportive home, meaningful work and the chance to regain their self-respect in a positive community environment. And their Motto? "Giving people a bed and a reason to get out of it."

Area Lenten Station Mass: And this week we will be at The Marist Church on Cottingham Rd. on Friday at 7.00 p.m. Try and be there if at all possible, a little extra for Lent maybe?

The Problems of a Parish Priest (Found among Mary Wood's 'things' [the mother of Fr. John] when she moved to St. Catherine's Home).

If his homily is a few minutes longer: "He sends us to sleep."

If it's short: "He hasn't bothered."

If he raises his voice: "He's shouting."

If he speaks quietly: "You can't understand a thing."

If he's away: "He's always on the road."

If he stays at home: "He's a stick in the mud."

If he's out visiting: "He's never at home."

If he's in the presbytery: "He never visits."

If he talks finance: "He's too fond of money."

If he doesn't: "Nobody knows what he's up to."

If he organises a bazaar: "He wears everyone out."

If he doesn't: "The parish is dead."

If he takes time with people: "He goes on and on."

If he's brief: "He never listens."

If he starts Mass on time: "His watch is fast."

If he starts a minute late: "He holds everyone up."

If he decorates the church: "He's spending too much money."

If he doesn't: "He's letting everything go."

If he is young: "He lacks experience."

If he is old: "He ought to retire."

And if he dies: Well of course: "No one could ever take his place."

"Les Miserables": The St. Mary's College Production this Lent.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, March 20, 21, 23 and

24. Beginning at 7.30 p.m. each evening. Tickets are : £5 for

Adults and £3 for Concessions. See me for tickets and don't leave

it too late! This is the longest running musical in the West End,

going for the past 21 years! You'll never see it in Hull!

"A survey carried out recently showed that the average British household spends more each week on gambling than on fresh fruit and vegetables... Unfortunately, three cherries on a fruit machine don't count towards your five portions a day!"

Sierra Leone: What a wonderful turn-out on Tuesday for the slide presentation on the recent trip, with maybe fifty or sixty squeezed into the Garden Room after Mass, where most of them were also. Also good to see some visitors from the local churches in the village. We are preparing our next consignment for shipping in the very near future and we are looking for (this is what the people at Star of the Sea School asked for): Pens, pencils, exercise books, crayons, water paint and brushes, rulers, sharpeners, erasers, more books for the library, old clothing for 3 - 15 years (boys and girls), adults clothes, old shoes and bags. Anything can be left in the porch in the coming weeks. Thank you. We are having a meeting on Tuesday after Mass in The Garden Room to investigate further some of the things we might do, such as Sponsoring Children in their education etc. There has been a very good response to this need especially from many parishioners.

"Wilberforce: Making Goodness Fashionable." The title of a lecture given by Rev. Dr. Clifford Hill from Bedford on Thursday this week at Swanland Church at 7.30 p.m. Friday at Hessele Methodist, and Saturday at Beverley Minster (The Peter Harrison Room) at 7.00 p.m.

"Did is a word of achievement. Won't is a word of retreat.

Might is a word of bereavement. Can't is a word of defeat.

Ought is a word of duty. Try is a word for each hour.

Will is a word of beauty. Can is a word of power."

That Vatican Football League: Hoping for fair play, the priestly passions reached fever pitch! In the long awaited inaugural match of the 16-team "Clericus Cup" tournament, the all-Brazilian students of the Pontifical Gregorian University took on a largely Mexican team of trainee priests from Mater Ecclesiae Seminary. Hoping to avoid red and yellow cards, the referee had to brandish

two yellow cards, while an ambulance crew had to help one player writhing on the synthetic pitch. The game was a one-sided affair with the Mexicans easily outpacing their chubbier Brazilian opponents to win 6 - 0. Since their goalkeeper's name was Jesus, perhaps they were never likely to lose! (**After all, Jesus saves!**).

An agnostic found himself in trouble and a friend suggested he pray. "How can I pray when I do not know whether or not there is a God?" he asked. "If you are lost in the forest," his friend replied, "you do not wait until you find someone before shouting for help."

"Amazing Grace" coming soon to a screen near you! This film is based on the true story of William Wilberforce. It chronicles his extraordinary contributions to the world, primarily his 20-year fight to abolish the British slave trade, which he won in 1807. He was also instrumental in passing legislation to abolish slavery in the British colonies, a victory he won just three days before his death in 1833. Fr. Tony was invited to the premier in Hull recently and thoroughly enjoyed it. You might too! The hymn 'Amazing Grace' was written by John Newton who was a slave trader off Sierra Leone. In 1748 he was shipwrecked off Lough Swilly in Donegal, converted to Christianity, ordained into the Church of England in 1764. His tombstone reads: "John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy." He died in 1807 aged 82.

Anniversaries this coming week:

Saturday - Thomas Thomson (Harry's father).

Sunday - Ada Norton (Jim's mother) and Edmond White (Pauline Howlett's father).

Monday - Josephine Codd, Thomas Gilson (father of Dennis) and Peggy Radley.

Tuesday - Florence Walsh (Marion Mooney's mother), Allen Harrison and Elizabeth O'Neill (Anne Purdy's mother).

Wednesday - Stanley Lord (Tony's father), Mary Shipley (Mary Pidd's mother), Ralph Dagleish (Teresa Ulyatt's father), Emily Milsom, John Campbell (Christine's husband) and Rose Dyas (Peter's mother).

Saturday - Patrick McPhillips, Charles Watts (Peter's father), Agnes Smith (Dorothy Hought's mother), Philip Maguire, and Peggy Smyth.

Sunday - Bridie Lynch (Edward Flanagan's aunt).

Mass Intentions for the coming week:

Saturday - 6.30 - Joan and Harry Williams - 64th. Wedd. Anniv.

Sunday - 10.00 - Eddie White

Monday - 9.00 - Domenico Delfino

Tuesday - 7.00 - Fr. Timothy Feeley (90th. Birthday today!)

Wednesday - 9.00 - Jean Kemp (In Thanksgiving)

Thursday - 9.00 - John Bottery

Friday - 9.00 - Christine Carruthers (RIP)

Saturday - 9.00 - Dora Tulip (B)

Saturday - 6.30 - Catherine Johnson (RIP)

Sunday - 10.00 - Bridget Downey

The children preparing the their First Holy Communion will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this coming Saturday at 10.00 a.m. Pray for them and their families.

St. Margaret of Cortona Group: We help raise funds for the Orphanage at Bo in Sierra Leone. Our next event will be on Saturday next at "Ray's Place" on Princes Ave. from 11 - 4.30 p.m. Curry will be served but you can bring your own drinks and snacks. Helpers are needed. Speak to Annie on 876955. The last party was noticed by other café owners on the Avenue and the staff at the Indian and Continental who provided the pulses. Al Noor provide the rice (I saw enough of that in Sierra Leone!).