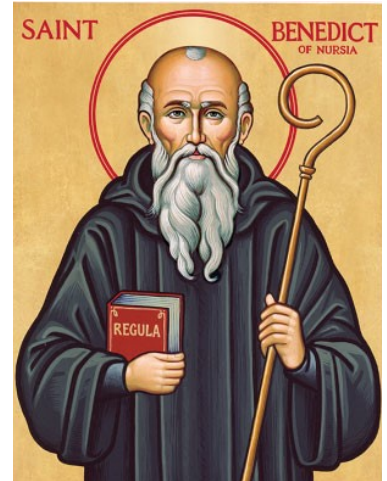


The Benedict Partnership News

March 2020

Welcome to the eighth edition
of the Benedict Partnership
Newsletter



In this edition

- ◆ Easter service times and locations
- ◆ A parish survey.
- ◆ Year of the Word events and resources
- ◆ Extinction Rebellion - why this Partnership parishioner became a member.
- ◆ Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary
- ◆ Romero Pilgrimage to Holy Island
- ◆ Partnership Pilgrimage to Holy Island
- ◆ Partnership Feast Day Celebrations.

“Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s creation”

(Laudato Si, 14)



BENEDICT PARTNERSHIP VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

VISION

The love of Jesus and the gospel are at the heart of our partnership.

MISSION

- † We come together as individuals and church communities to respond to the Lord's call to be disciples.
- † We will value and build on the histories and strengths of our individual church communities.
- † We will build on a strong foundation of spirituality, prayer and celebration.
- † We will be an open and welcoming community where there is a place for all.
- † We will encourage everyone to fulfil their unique potential providing support, formation and training.
- † We will go out together with Christ to all!

Partnership Holy Island Pilgrimage

All parishes / churches in the Partnership are invited to join the pilgrimage to Holy Island that is being organised by Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw. The pilgrimage is on **Saturday 13th June**, with a safe crossing time between 11.25 and 20.15.

The proposed programme for the day is:

11:30	Arrive at Holy Island
Noon	Mass in St Aidan's RC Church
1:30	Picnic in the shadow of the castle
Afternoon	Free to explore
5:30	Meet at bus park
5:45	Depart for home

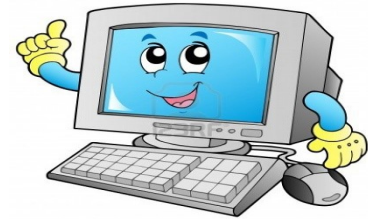
The Partnership Online

Here are a few sites you might find of interest.

<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/partnerships/ptnpsharing.php>

On this page you will find links to:

- † Our previous partnership newsletters
- † Links to information on other partnerships and their activities



Our Parish Websites

St Joseph's, Birtley

<http://www.stjosephsbirtley.co.uk/>

St Cuthbert's, Chester-le-Street

<http://www.stcuthbertschurch.org/>

St Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring

<http://www.stmichaelshoughton.co.uk/>

St Bede's, Sacriston

<https://stbedescatholicchurch.co.uk/>

St John XXIII, Washington and Penshaw

<https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk/>

Facebook Pages

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Cuthberts-Chester-le-Street-375047405964616/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ParishStJohn23/>

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Feast of St Benedict

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* As the Feast of St Benedict (11th July) is a Saturday
* this year the Partnership Development Group agreed
* to make the Celebration of the Partnership Feast day
* a family day. Our Lady Queen of Peace Penshaw, will
* host the day, beginning with the celebration of Mass
* at 11.00am followed by a picnic and family orientated
* activities.

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A Parish Group Survey

St Joseph's Birtley recently carried out an audit of groups active in the parish and they were really surprised to find that they had listed 35 groups working quietly in the background.

On completion of the survey the Parish Webmaster downloaded details of the Groups onto the Parish Website and set up a "Contact Enquiry Form" so any enquiries about a Group will be passed on via the Website, for the group contact to deal with personally.

Why not try out their website and see what groups they have? Go to <http://www.stjosephsbirtley.co.uk>, click on "Local Area", then "Parish Groups". You will find all sorts of other information about St Joseph's Parish on the Website, together with links to other associated sites.

A list of all Parish Groups, **without contact details**, was also drawn up and is to be displayed at the back of church, suggesting that any enquiries can be made via the Website or by speaking with either the Priest or Deacon, who again will pass any enquiries to the appropriate contact. A small A5 leaflet listing all Parish Groups has also been produced and in about a year's time they will check that the details of the Group are correct

Is this something that would help in your parish/church to make people aware of what is happening and what they could join in with.

Chickpeas Not Meat

News from the Justice & Peace Refugee Project

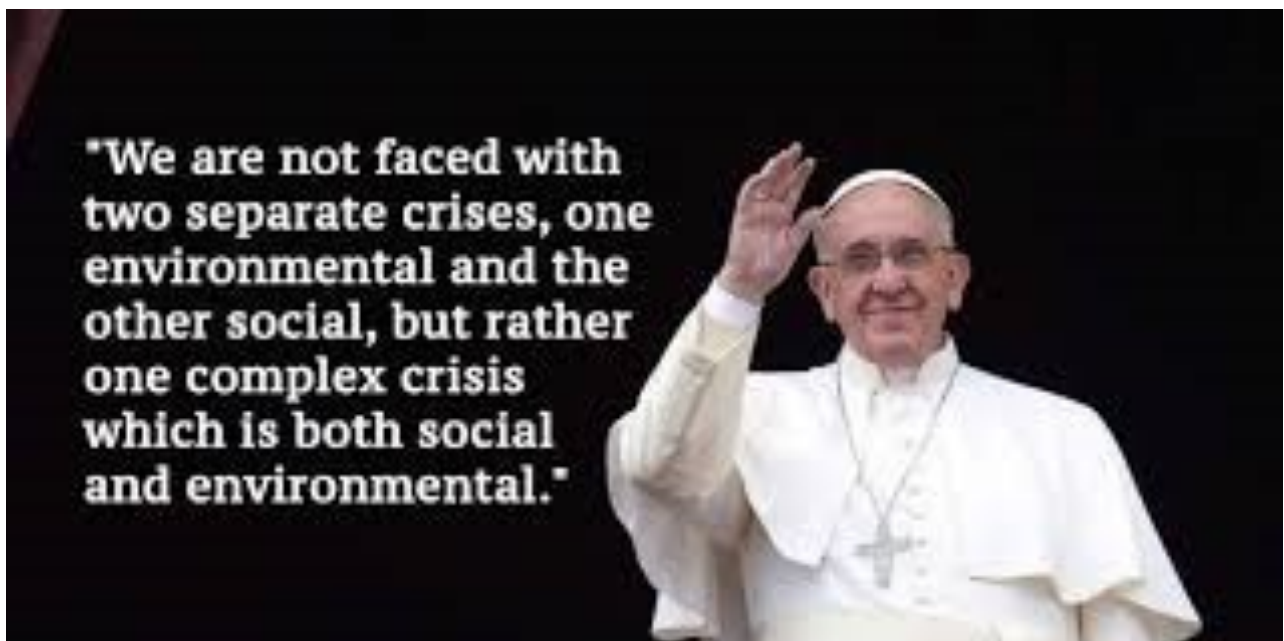
For quite some time, we have been aware that meat is the least popular item in our food bag. During January we ran an experiment to see if chickpeas would be acceptable to our clients as an alternative. That was a success and we have now made the decision to replace meat with chickpeas in our bags. Can I ask everyone therefore to spread the news to our donors to replace meat in their shopping basket with chickpeas.

The Benedict Partnership consists of the following parishes and churches within those parishes:

Birtley	St Joseph
Chester-le-Street	St Cuthbert
Houghton-le-Spring	St Michael
Sacrison	St Bede (served from St Cuthbert)
Washington & Penshaw	St John XXIII - the four churches of: Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate St Bede St John Boste

Current List of Priests and Deacons:

St Cuthbert & St Bede	Fr Christopher Jackson
St Michael	Fr William O’Gorman Deacon Richard McLaughlin
St John XXIII & St Joseph	Fr Mark Millward Fr Jim O’Keefe Fr Martin Wheaton Deacon Chas Ferguson Deacon Peter Lavery Deacon Frank O’Neill Deacon Tony Joy



Partnership Reconciliation Services

Monday 30th March - 7:00pm

St Michael

Thursday 2nd April - 7:00pm

St John Boste for St John XXIII and St Joseph

Wednesday 8th April - 10:30am - 4:30pm - Confessions

St Cuthbert

Partnership Holy Week and Easter Services and Events

**Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by
Watch of the Passion**

7pm St Michael, St John Boste, St Bede (Sacriston)

**Good Friday - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion with
Veneration of the Cross and Holy
Communion**

11am St Bede (Washington) Service for families/children

3pm Service in all churches

Holy Saturday - 11th April - Vigil Mass

6pm St Joseph, St Michael

6:30pm St Cuthbert

7pm Our Blessed lady Immaculate

Easter Sunday - 12th April

8:30am St Bede (Washington)

9am St Bede (Sacriston)

9:30am St John Boste

10am St Michael, Our Lady Queen of Peace
and St Joseph

10:30am St Cuthbert

11am Our Blessed lady Immaculate



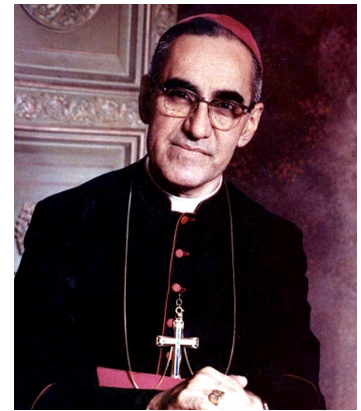
He is Risen!



Microphones of God Romero Pilgrimage to Holy Island



Saturday 4th April



**A celebration of the life of St Oscar Romero
as we reflect on
the 40th anniversary of his martyrdom**

Prayer, Liturgies, a Film, Dance Performance
and a pilgrim walk around the island.

Key-note Speaker:

Edgardo Colon-Emeric,
Methodist Theology Professor,
Duke University in North Carolina.

Welcome Gathering and Prayer at 11am
in the Anglican Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

Safe crossing times for the causeway
mean that all participants
must be on Holy Island no later than 10:30am.
Bring a picnic lunch or buy food on the island.



YEAR OF THE WORD

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



What's happening in our Diocese?

Bishop Robert is calling us to read and reflect on the Bible as a parish/partnership group.

Events to help us do this:

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE is a course that will run in our partnership and others during Eastertide. Training Day for those willing to lead it at:

St John Vianney's, West Denton, Saturday 21st March
10am – 12.30pm.

To book a place: adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May.

The Word on the Road at Ushaw College. This is a national Scripture Roadshow at which there will be something for everyone. No need to book. Further information from:

adultformation@diocesehn.org.uk

Saturday 16th May.

A day's Scripture Retreat at Stanbrook Abbey, Wass, York.

Booking essential via adultformation@diocesehn.org.uk

Other Resources

Pauline Books & Media Centre, Newcastle www.pauline-uk.org For Catholic editions of the Bible, commentaries and many other Scripture related resources.

Bible Society – www.biblesociety.org.uk/products For Bibles in languages other than English

Minsteracres Retreat Centre - www.minsteracres.org

There are a number of Scripture based events and retreats at Minsteracres this year.

Diocesan Liturgy Department - liturgy@diocesehn.org.uk
Readers - Training days for those who read at Mass.

Diocesan Spirituality Department -
spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

- The Power and the Mercy of God - Daily reflections on Scripture and resources for those running a Scripture group.
- A booklet by Sr Michael (£1.50) The God Who Speaks Through Art. Using pictures on scriptural themes in local art galleries as a way into prayer.

National Events - godwhospeaks@cbew.org.uk Social Media: #godwhospeaks #Behold2020

COMING SHORTLY:

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (sometimes called the Fifth Gospel) this will be led by Bishop Robert in February 2021. Details available soon.

Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary

The Bishops Conference have decided to re-dedicate England as the Dowry of Mary on 29th March.

There will be a Partnership Mass in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate to celebrate this at **7.00pm on Wednesday 25th March** - the Feast of the Annunciation.

Musicians and singers from all the churches in the Partnership are invite to come together to provide the music for the Mass.

There will be a practice for singers / musicians starting at 5.30pm on Wednesday 25th March.



Extinction Rebellion.

I have worked/Volunteered for CAFOD for a long time and last December when I was introduced to XR I realised this was a grouping I had been looking for.

At the turn of the Century Anne Marie Hanlon (CAFOD Regional Organiser), asked me to attend a meeting in Newcastle with other like minded people to see if we wanted to join what became Make Poverty History, and then NECAP, The North East Call to Action against Poverty and Climate Change. I have been a member of this group ever since. At our December 2018 meeting our Chair-person Ben Young told me of a group he had met in London called Extinction Rebellion. As soon as he said what they were about I knew this was something I had been looking for.

With my great friend and fellow supporter Austin Dunphy I went to what we heard was XR's Christmas party in the Star and Shadow, Newcastle, and learned of their vision for the future – what I would call protesters with teeth! The first session we went to was called NVDA training, Non-Violent Direct Action. This attracted me mainly because it was non-violent but strong action nevertheless. We went to training and met a lot of like-minded folks who were prepared to take action to save the Planet.

I believe the science, the planet is heating up at an alarming rate. I believe Sir David Attenborough, Sir Robert Houghton, the IPCC, and many other scientists and climatologists around the world and of course our own Pope Francis. I think XR had an insight into Laudato Si! they were seeing the same vision as our pontiff. You just have to glimpse Laudato Si to understand that XR are on the same page as Pope Francis.

In Laudato Si, the Pope says we have to look after each other and look after our home i.e. the Planet. XR see what is happening and are prepared in a nonviolent way to move heaven and earth to raise awareness of the coming dangers. My great friend Austin gets

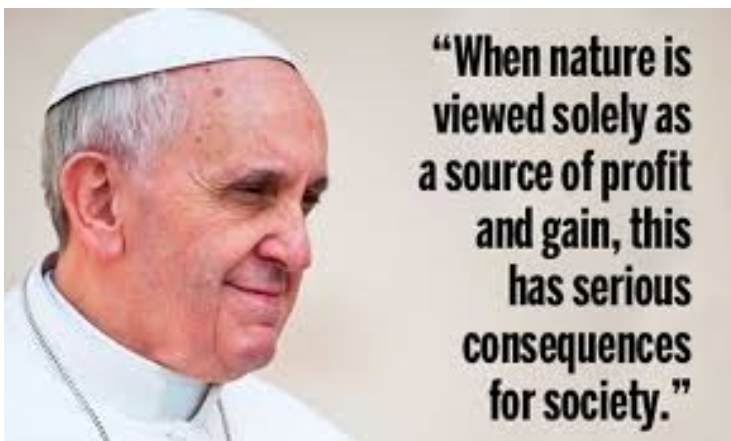


very frustrated when he can't get through to his family and friends and, unfortunately, he hasn't got any offspring. I have 8 grandchildren with ages from 12 up to 20 years of age. I have to try and do my bit to secure a lasting future for them. Some say it is too late! Wow, I hope not. In a way it is a dichotomy for me with my Catholic upbringing. In the words of the Hymn "Lord for tomorrow and it's needs I do not pray" but, at the same time who would run into a blazing building to end their life?

I would love for fellow Catholics and Christians to join me in XR, there is already a "Christians in XR" group and, if anyone wants to learn about Extinction Rebellion I would be happy to chat with them.

God Bless and Gan Canny.

Kevin Haigh, St. Joseph's Birtley.



If you would like to talk about XR please email sj23it@gmail.com and your details will be forwarded to Kevin.

Seeing Jesus in others

A lesson I learned from my children happened one Holy Thursday when we stopped after Mass to pray at the altar of repose. My daughter, who was four years old, watched our fellow parishioners kneel to pray and look reverently on the Blessed Sacrament. As we left she asked, "Why do they kneel down and look like that?" I answered that it was Jesus and they were kneeling because they loved him. She innocently replied, "But if Jesus is in all of us, why don't they look at each other that way?" Her words have followed me all these years as I sometimes struggle to see the face of Jesus in others.

Joanne, NY, USA

A Prayer for Our Partnership

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.

As we build on the deep foundations of faith laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands, by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede, may our Partnership of Benedict continue the mission of building your Kingdom on the earth: to give living witness to your love, and to your compassion and hope for our world.

We pray in trustful confidence that your power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Adapted from the diocesan website:
<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/partnerships/ptnphome.php>*