

JOHN INGRAM PARTNERSHIP  
THE PARISHES OF ST ANNE  
AND ST AUGUSTINE  
GATESHEAD,

**Parish Priest and Dean:**

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**Deacon:**

Reverend Patrick Jackson, BEM,  
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**The sacrament of Reconciliation**

is available **before** Sunday Masses (up to 15 minutes before Mass starts) and **after** Sunday Masses, in both churches. Fr Paul will be available at the front of the church and not in the Confessional.

If you intend to go to Confession **before** Mass, please come to church **30 minutes early**.

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**Vigil St Anne 5.30 pm**

**10.00 am St Augustine**

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Vigil St Anne 5.30 pm**

**10.00 am St Augustine**

Leon Consterdine  
For the Parishioners

**10.00 am Funeral Mass for George Dodds.**

George & Hilda Parker

Steve McGee

David Askew

Robert Charles Mavir

For the Parishioners.

James White

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March: The sacrament of reconciliation**

When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul. To leave with greater spiritual health. To pass from misery to mercy. The centre of confession is not the sins we declare but the divine love we receive, of which we are always in need. The centre of confession is Jesus who waits for us, who listens to us and forgives us. Remember this: In the heart of God, we come before our mistakes. And let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God. And let us pray that God may give his Church merciful priests and not torturers.

**COMING TO MASS**

To make it easier to come to Mass, the need to phone and pre-book your place in church is no longer required. Simply come along and the stewards will keep a tally of numbers entering the church up to the maximum allowed. Face coverings, social distancing are still required. We will also need your name and contact phone number. To make it easier for the stewards, please bring a piece of paper with you, on which you have written your name and phone number and give it to the stewards when you enter the church.

Your charitable prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **George Dodds, Ann Bennell, and Fr Thomas Cunningham** who have died. **May their souls and souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.**

**Jesus' Commandment Is, Love**

We must learn to move beyond ourselves, to say no to instant gratification, to set limits on our own needs and somehow to meet somebody else's needs. That's why Jesus *commanded* us to love. He didn't suggest it. He didn't say when you get healed, love; when you grow up, love; when you get it together and have dealt with all your mother/father/husband/children wounds, then start loving. No, the commandment for all of us is, Love.

Until we love, we really do not even know who we are. In fact, we can buy into all the self-discovery the world has to offer and *still* not know ourselves.

That is countercultural. We are supposed to keep telling people they're good and beautiful; they're great and fantastic, Jesus loves them – and eventually they'll believe it. But I haven't seen that work. I think we know the love of God is within us when we ourselves can "do love" much more than when people tell us we are lovable. We can always disbelieve the second, but the first is an unexplainable power.

**(Letting Go: A Spirituality of Subtraction.' by Richard Rohr)**

**Darkness without Truth**

In ancient times the really terrible thing about prisons was that they cut people off from the light of day and plunged them into darkness. So at a deeper level, the real alienation, unfreedom, and imprisonment of man consists in his want of truth. If he does not know truth, if he does not know who he is, why he is here and what the reality of this world consists in, he is only stumbling around in the dark. He is a prisoner, he is not "being's freedman." The first and most fundamental of all human rights is the right to God ... Without this basic right, which is also the right to truth, the other human rights are not enough. Without this fundamental right to truth and to God, man becomes degraded to the level of a mere creature of needs. And the deep darkness and alienation of our times is shown in the fact that we have powers and abilities but do not know what they are for; we have so much knowledge that we are no longer able to believe and see truth; we are no longer able to embrace the totality. Our philosophy is that of Pilate: What is truth? This only looks like a question; in fact, it is a statement, to the effect that there is no truth, and only idiots and fanatics imagine they have it or argue about it. But if this is how things are, if man has no truth, only abilities, he is fundamentally alienated, and "participation" is only an empty playacting in the dark, deluding man with the notion of freedom and hurting him deeply. There is nothing fortuitous about the strident protests against such empty freedom: man, deprived of truth, has been dishonoured. **(Behold the Pierced One.' pp 125 – 126. by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)**

**WEEKLY QUOTES**

'Where does the family start? It starts with a young man falling in love with a girl – no superior alternative has yet been found.'

**(Sir Winston Churchill)**

'The family is more sacred than the state, and men are begotten not for the earth and for time, but for heaven and eternity.'

**(Pope Pius XI)**

'The family may be regarded as the cradle of civil society, and it is in great measure within the circle of family life that the destiny of states is fostered.'

**(Pope Leo XIII)**

'No authority has the power to impose error, and if it resists the truth, the truth must be upheld until it is admitted.'

**(Lord Acton)**