8 May 2016

The Ascension of the Lord

ST AIDAN'S

Coach Lane

www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com

Parish Priest Fr Michael Hickey M.A.
Fr Patrick McMahon
Tel: 0191 2655290

	Date	Time	Service	Feast	Intention
Saturday	**7 May**	10:00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Vigil Mass		Sick in the Parish John and Doris Nicholls
Sunday	**8 May**	9:30 am	Mass	The Ascension of the Lord	People of the Parish
Monday	**9 May**	10:00 am	Mass		
Tuesday	**10 May**	6:30 pm	Mass		
Wednesday	**11 May**	10:00 am	Mass		Special Intention (CO)
Thursday	**12 May**	10.00 am	Mass		
Friday	**13 May**	10.00 am	Mass		Tony Charlton (R.I.P.)
Saturday	**14 May**	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Mass Vigil Mass	St Matthias	Sick in the Parish Kathy Humble (R.I.P.)
Sunday	**15 May**	9:30 am	Mass	Pentecost Sunday	People of the Parish

Parish News

The Come to the Well and Drink **course continues on Thursday 12 May** between 7.00 pm and 8.30pm in **the hall** It aims to help people to explore and experience different ways of praying. No expertise is required – only a desire for God. The fourth session considers: **Imaginative Contemplation, Praying with Pictures/Images** and **Praying with Music.** Everyone is welcome – at any time.

Our Justice and Peace Plant and Home Bake Sale is only **two** weeks away, on the weekend of 21/22 May. Please get ready to bring your plants and home baking. We would also be grateful for DVDs and any suitable items **ASAP** for the **Tombola** to be held during the Sale. See Bill Spence or Tony Welby. We need your help and support. Don't forget to bring a shopping bag on the day (and some money). All profits go to support people in need. More details next week.

May Devotions continue every Sunday in May with the Rosary at 4.00 pm.

April Collections Week 1 £487; Week 2 £443; Week 3 £423; Week 4 £360 plus payments by standing order £682. Many thanks to everyone for their continuing generosity.

Special Collections **Little Sisters of the Poor:** £620; **Sick and Retired Priests**: £465

World Communications Day A special collection for this will be held THIS weekend (7/8th May)

Appeal by Comboni Sisters Next weekend (14/15 May) Sr Michaela Pirra will come to make the Mission Appeal. She has spent most of her life in the Sudan and Middle East: Jerusalem (West Bank), Jordan and Bahrain. She is now based in London and does voluntary work with the homeless and refugees.

Gardening: Anyone who can help is most welcome after Tuesday & Friday mass.

Calling All Gardeners: Please keep our Spring Plant Sale in mind when sowing seeds and taking cuttings

Active Kids Vouchers: Sainsbury's have reintroduced these until 31st May. A green basket is in the entrance foyer and vouchers will be passed onto St Stephen's School

Golden Jubilee Celebrations: We will be holding a collection for jubilee gifts for Fr. McMahon and Fr. Hickey. The collection will close on Sunday 29 May. If you would like to make a donation please put it in the jubilee box at the back of church. The money collected will be divided equally between both priests. Thank you for your continued support and generosity in preparing for the celebrations.

You are warmly invited to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Fr Patrick McMahon at either:
The parish church of St Aidan, Benton on Monday 6th June at 6pm Refreshments in the hall afterwards
or
The parish church of St Teresa, Heaton Monday 13th June at 6pm Refreshments in the hall afterwards
For catering purposes, please indicate on the lists at the back of church the numbers in your family who will be attending the celebration at St. Aidan's.

The Gift, Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Pilot Course. Helping people encounter the Holy Spirit and share their faith – a Life in the Spirit Course on Saturday the 14 May and 4 June, 10.00am to 3.30pm at Church of St Cuthbert, Albion Road West, North Shields, NE29 0BJ. This free course is open to small Parish Teams. See notice board for more details. If you would like to be part of that team please inform Fr Michael, Fr Patrick or Peter Short.

Volunteer drivers and helpers needed – Fareshare is a food re-distribution service that takes surplus food and re-distributes it to local community groups and people in need. FareShare North East is hosted by national charity Changing Lives and they are looking for volunteers to help with their FareShare service. Van drivers and warehouse helpers are needed to work at their site on Newburn Riverside, Newcastle NE15 8NX. If you could spare some time please contact Michael Shields, Project Manager, at: Michael.shields@changing-lives.org.uk or call 0191 2781895.

Justice and Peace Summer Concert with Newcastle Concert Band–26 June.
http://www.newcastleconcertband.org.uk/

Please Continue: To bring small bags of sugar as well as canned goods to support local people in need. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

St Cuthbert's Care Our own local Catholic charity St Cuthbert's Care helps people in our area who are suffering hardship by distributing good quality used clothing through their 5p Bus Service. Donations can be left at church for collection by the charity.

Please Continue to Pray for our Sick and Housebound:

Diocesan Prayer: Glory be to the Father, in whom we live & move & have our being. Glory be to the Son, whose name we bear & who calls each of us to be his disciples to build his Kingdom & to go out into the world & bear its fruit. Glory be to the Holy Spirit, pouring out grace and guidance, forming us & renewing us. Inspire us all in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle to live the Gospel, to be open to change & to move forward together in hope.

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers

Date	Host	Chalice	Chalice	Reader
Sunday May 8	A. Willson	W. Willson	P. Sanderson	J. Firbank
Sunday May 15	A. Rebello	F. Gilmour	M Bell	C Rebello

Summary of St. Aidan's Parish Accounts 2015/16

		Yr. to 31/3/16 £	Yr. to 31/3/15 £
Income	Offertory including mass intentions and stole fees	35239	31426
	Rent (hall hire etc.)	12203	15650
	Special Collections	5990	3908
	Piety, Papers, Votive Candles	2621	2246
	Total	**56053**	**53230**
Expenditure	Church Requisites	3218	2501
	General Admin	7519	2670
	Repairs and Renewals	14256	21636
	Gas, Electricity, Water	5689	3672
	Clergy Allowance	7584	7286
	Special Collections	5884	3896
	Diocesan Levy	5844	4185
	Piety, Papers, Candles	1142	2013
	Total	**51136**	**47859**
	Bank Balance	49209	44292
	Deposits with Diocese	721788*	23390
	Total Assets	**770997**	**67682**

*This figure comprises 1) Gift Aid accrued (both parishes), 2)40% of proceeds of sale of St. Joseph's School, Killingworth, 3) 80% of sale of St. Peter and Paul's church. The remaining 20% allocated to St. Mary's Forest Hall.

Improvements To Building: We are pleased to say that the Diocese has given approval for the following improvements to the building.

1. **Foyer.** The temporary closure of the main church entrance glazed doors and use of hall entrance doors has alleviated the congestion in the foyer. As a permanent solution, the main entrance doors will be relocated to the area where the piety stall currently stands. Additional heating will be installed as this area is very cold. The current frontage doors/windows are set back from the building and will be brought forward to line up with the upper floor to create more space.

2. Ladies and Men's Toilets. These date from the construction of the church in 1960 but are now rather tired. They will be fully updated with new sanitary fixtures, new flooring and additional heating.

Work will be put in hand shortly subject to any necessary planning approval. Estimated total costs are £30,000.