

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

English Martyrs Presbytery, Dalton Terrace, York. YO24 4DA.

T. 01904 623783

Parish Priest: **Rev. John Bane**

E. ppemyork@gmail.com

The Middlesbrough Diocesan Trust.

W. englishmartyrsyork.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233748.

23rd February 2020- Sunday 7, Ordinary Time, Year A

1st March 2020- Sunday 1, Lent, Year A



Day & Time	Mass or Service	Mass Intention	Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat. 6pm	7 th Sunday Ordinary Time	Mary Sturdy	Sat. 5.20-5.50pm
Sun. 10.30am	7 th Sunday Ordinary Time	Bill Shread	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Mon. 2pm	Feria	Joe & Doreen Hardgrave	Prayer for Vocations: Wed. 4 th March 6-7pm
Tue. 10am	Feria	Maurice O'Connell	
Wed. 9.30am	ASH WEDNESDAY	IN EM CHURCH	SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2019-20
Wed. 11.15am	ASH WEDNESDAY	IN EM CHURCH	Meet: 5pm, Thur. 5 th March, Our Lady's Church
Wed. 2pm	ASH WEDNESDAY	IN OLQM SCHOOL	
Thur. 10.30am	Requiem: Joe Burton	Our Lady's Church	CAFOD LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY Fri. 6 Mar
Fri. 10am	Of Lent	Joe Burton	A great opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. The emphasis this year is on training and supporting locals. Please take an envelope today and return it on Sunday 8 March.
Sat. 6pm	First Sunday of Lent	Jeff Kelly	
Sun. 10.30am	First Sunday of Lent	Adrian Elliott	
Mon. 2pm	<i>Of Lent in OLQM School</i>	Fr J. McNamee	
Tue. 10am	Of Lent	Sr Pia Francis	
Wed. 2pm	Of Lent	Joe & Doreen Hardgrave	
Thur. 7pm	Of Lent	Josie Laffey	
Fri. 10am	Of Lent	Fr Sean Leonard	
Sat. 6pm	Second Sunday of Lent	Joe Burton	YEAR OF THE WORD 2020
Sun. 10.30am	Second Sunday of Lent	For the People	An evening with Bishop Terry at English Martyrs from 7pm, Thur. 12 March.

BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH

Here comes a warm invitation to participate at English Martyrs Parish's first shared lunch on Sunday, 23rd February after 10.30am mass. We would like to bring together all members of our Parish, share a meal and celebrate our lovely community. We hope this will become a regular event.

Please, bring a dish of food, -enough for your family plus one person- and something to drink. All foods are welcome, i.e. starters, salads, mains and puddings. A small note listing the ingredients and stating if the contribution is vegetarian/gluten-free/vegan would be much appreciated. Food can be dropped off in the hall before mass. We hope to see everyone there!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

The celebration takes place in English Martyrs Hall on Friday 6 March at 2pm. All Welcome. Cakes for refreshments (bring on the day) and help with serving gratefully received. More information from Judith Smeaton 01904 704525 judith.smeaton@btinternet.com

LIFT TO MASS - CAN YOU HELP?

A long time parishioner has moved to Acaster Malbis but is unable to get to Saturday night mass as there are no buses. If you can help with a lift please see Fr John.

St Patrick's Ceilidh Sat 21st March, EM Hall
No ticket required. Just come, dance & enjoy.
7pm start. Bring your own refreshments.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE - a one-day conference and training event. 9.30am-4pm,
Sat. 7th March, Tyneside Irish Centre, 43 Gallowgate St, Newcastle NE1 4 SG: £30pp, incl. lunch & refreshments. This SPUC Society for the Protection of Unborn Children event will provide: up-to-date info on key pro-life issues; how to take effective pro-life action locally; how to lobby to make a difference. Visit spuc.org.uk

CATHOLIC MIRACEL RALLY (North) 14-15th March, Preston. A Cor et Lumen Christi event celebrating Jesus is alive and that the miracle healing, loving power of his Spirit is moving in his Church today. A first time in the North after 10 successful years including: joyful praise, intimate worship; Holy Mass; Adoration and Confession; Healing Service. Cost: £10 registration plus donation during the event. Info: T/Mb. 01697 345623 / 07588 159341; E. stcuthberts.wigton@gmail.com; visit www.coretlumenchrsti.org Leaflets in porch.

COLLECTION 9.2.20: £814.90 (£406.70 Loose, £408.20 Gift Aid) Thank you. **Second Collections**
COLLECTION 16.2.20: £690.44 (£369.07 Loose, £321.37 Gift Aid) Thank you. **8 Mar. CAFOD Family Fast Day**
100 Club: 9.2.20 K. & S. Dunsire (98); **16.2.20** A. Leyland (48) **16 Feb. Sick & Retired Priests: £396.76 - Thank you**
GIFT AID: If you pay tax you can make a Gift Aid Declaration. Tel. Martin Nicholson 868743

HOSPITAL: If you or someone you know enters hospital and would like to see a Catholic Chaplain make an explicit request in the hospital &/or also contact Fr John or the SVP Society Tel. 07709 899246. Hospital Chaplaincy number: 01904 631313. **PARENTS:** Please ensure your children are supervised when they go to the hall.

In Lent 2019, Pope Francis reflected on the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

1. The other person is a gift

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful.

The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called Lazarus: a name full of promise, which literally means God helps. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

2. Sin blinds us

The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man (cf. v. 19). Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called "a rich man". His opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes. Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities (cf. Jer 10:9) and kings (cf. Jg 8:26), while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: "He feasted sumptuously every day" (v. 19). In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride (cf. Homily, 20 September 2013).

The Apostle Paul tells us that "the love of money is the root of all evils" (1 Tim 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 55). Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.

The parable then shows that the rich man's greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence (cf. *ibid.*, 62).

The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

Looking at this character, we can understand why the Gospel so bluntly condemns the love of money: "No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money" (Mt 6:24).

3. The Word is a gift

The rich man's real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.