



Welcome back to St Cuthbert's!

On Sunday June 30, the children of St Cuthbert's Primary School in Kenton, Newcastle, who had received their First Communion in May, returned to Church for 10.15am Mass with their families to receive their certificates.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr John Juliet Ulaganathan OCD. Over the year, a number of parishioners had chosen to pray for a child.

At the end of Mass, each met the child they had sponsored, and were presented with a prayer card by Fr John and the school's parish link Pat Kennedy.

Christians still face persecution, Blessed Ingram walkers discover



PRAYERS for good weather were rewarded by sunshine on Sunday July 28 when Father Luke Wilkinson led the 52nd Annual Blessed John Ingram Walk between Newcastle and Gateshead, writes Peter Monaghan.

Blessed John was martyred on 26 July 1594 and the walk is held every year on the nearest calendar Sunday to his death. The walk is one of Tyneside's great ecumenical events, organised by the Tyne Central Council of the SVP, with assistance from local Anglican communities.

It follows the course taken by Blessed John from Newgate prison to his place of martyrdom in Gateshead.

The walk has taken on a greater significance in recent years, as it also commemorates anyone of any religion who has suffered or died for their faith, and those still enduring persecution.

In an echo of past persecutions, one walker disclosed that they had recently been attacked for being openly Christian, and still suffered a number of leg injuries. They struggled to complete the route, so were escorted across the High Level Bridge to meet the walkers in Gateshead.

The day began when about 35 walkers assembled at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Gallowgate, including one man who had been on the very first walk all those years ago. During the opening service, Father Luke quoted from Fr Paul Zielinski's book on Blessed John to demonstrate his strength and fortitude in the face of death. The service ended with the congregation lustily singing Faith of our Fathers.

The walk started, and, in his white cassock, Fr Luke drew many glances on the way, along with questions on why we were walking.

It was warm work going down 'The Side' at Newcastle, crossing the Swing Bridge and climbing up Bottle Bank and the walkers eventually reached the site of the toll booth where another short service was held. In a splendid gesture on such warm day, Eric Hope the church warden from St Edmund's brought down some bottled water to hand out to thirsty walkers. An SVP member read out a passage from St Paul's letter to the Romans and there was a hearty rendition of the hymn The Church's One Foundation.

There was then a short walk to reach St Edmund's where the walkers were given a very warm welcome. Fr Luke gave a moving homily which told us to be true to ourselves as Blessed John had been true to himself - and had not recanted in the face of so much pressure.

We were commemorating a very brave man who had suffered greatly for this faith, as many Christians across the world are now suffering. The President of the SVP Tyne Central Council John Kilgour then gave a message of thanks to all the people who had helped with the walk and of how its commemoration of events many years ago had achieved the effect of bringing the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities together. The service was followed by a wonderful afternoon tea, provided by the parishioners at St Edmund's, and was very gratefully received. Old friendships were revived, and new ones made on a wonderful, and meaningful, day.

Life in the Spirit

Seminar Series

An introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord.

All sessions will be held at St Mary's Church, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4HT and will run from 7.00 - 8.30pm.

30 September 2024

God's Love

Andy Drozdziak

21 October 2024

Receiving God's Gifts

Gerry Connor

11 November 2024

Transformation in Christ

Deacon David Smith



THE next Life in the Spirit seminar takes place at St Mary's Church, Newton Aycliffe, on Monday September 30 from 7-8pm, writes John Wheeler - and are an opportunity for people to re-affirm the fundamentals of our faith: that we are loved, saved and redeemed.

They are an opportunity to let go of obstacles to us receiving all that God, through the Holy Spirit, wishes to give us, and - through baptism in the Holy Spirit - to receive more of these gifts.

We are grateful to Fr Anthony Cornforth for inviting us to run the seminars, to Andy Drozdziak, Fr Jeff Dodds, Anne Connor, Gerry Connor, Fr Mark Millward, Deacon Alison Rebello and Deacon David Smith for providing the talks, and to Bethany prayer group members for sharing their experiences of the Holy Spirit.

Places on the seminars can be booked on the diocesan website, at <https://bit.ly/CDSCLifeInTheSpirit> or by telephoning 07375 934713.

On July 3 the children, governors and staff of English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Sunderland, part of Bishop Chadwick CET, were joined by Bishop Stephen for the morning, writes deputy head teacher Ashley Pescod. Pupils in each year group performed a song or dance - to Bishop Stephen's delight. He presented the Faith in Action group with their bronze pin badges, then, with Fr David Russell, visited students in their classrooms and answered questions about his role, his family and hobbies. It was a wonderful experience for everyone.