

## Darlington Anglican group to join Catholic Church

A GROUP from the Anglican Church of St James the Great in Albert Hill, Darlington, is preparing to leave the Church of England in order to become Roman Catholics.

The group consists of the Vicar, the assistant priest, the church wardens, secretary, treasurer, church council members, organists, directors of music, the choir, the master of ceremonies, the vergers, the caretaker, servers and other members of the parish and congregation.

They will celebrate Mass for the last time as Anglicans on Sunday, February 19, in St James' Church. The new Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev Justin

by Bernadette Lawson

Welby, will preach at this service. They will then continue to prepare for reception into the Catholic Church.

The group from St James the Great, known as the Darlington Ordinariate, will worship in future at St Anne's Catholic Church, Welbeck Avenue, Darlington. Those wishing to join and support the Darlington Ordinariate are asked to contact Mr Don Ross at 7, Glaisdale Road, Yarm, TS15 9RN or 01642-896118.

Fr Ian Grieves has been Vicar of St James the Great since April 1989 and

has offered himself for ordination as a Catholic priest.

He told Northern Cross: "It is the only way forward and everything is going well. We have been shown overriding generosity from so many people, and a real feeling of welcome from the people of St Anne's. We began a series of instruction during Advent and the talks were wonderful.

"Each one was attended by 60/70 people. Many of the people have already been attending St Anne's and went to their carol service and Christmas fair."

The people will attend Mass and be welcomed at St Anne's on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and will receive the

ashes and a blessing during Holy Communion.

The instructions will resume on February 27, beginning with Stations of the Cross and a talk by Fr Michael McCoy on Confirmation and Reconciliation.

Each Monday during Lent the Stations will be followed by a talk, with speakers including Deacon Jurgen Muller, Deacon Peter Lavery, Fr John Butters, Sister Michael and Fr Seamus Doyle, who will speak respectively on Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick, the Sacrament of Marriage, the Moral Law, Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church, and Everlasting Life and the Celebration of Funerals.

The group will be received into the Church with Mass at 7pm on the Wednesday of Holy Week, April 4.

Fr Grieves has requested that the group attend the 5pm vigil Mass at St Anne's every Saturday from February 25.

Each Sunday Fr Grieves will say Morning Prayer at St Anne's at 10am, followed by a choir practice. He also recommends that members attend Rosary and Mass at St Anne's at 9.10am on Wednesdays.

"It is a wonderful programme of preparation," said Fr Grieves. "The speakers are stars in a galaxy. We feel so welcome."

## Doctors gain support over faith conflicts

THE dilemma faced by doctors whose Catholic faith is occasionally at odds with medical policy or opinion has led to the foundation of a new support group for medical staff in the North East.

A Newcastle branch of the Catholic Medical Association UK has been established by Dr Dermot Kearney, a cardiologist at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.

The Catholic Medical Association (CMA) is an organisation for Catholics working in healthcare and for students of the healthcare professions. It aims to provide support to Catholics involved in healthcare to help them remain faithful to Church teachings while carrying out their duties in the workplace. The CMA marked its centenary year in 2010 by opening its newest branch in November based at the Catholic University Chaplaincy, at Windsor Terrace, Newcastle.

Founding member Dr Kearney said: "Doctors and health practitioners increasingly face ethical dilemmas in their work as they try to remain faithful to their Catholic faith while continuing to carry out their duties. Sometimes this can be challenging and it's very important that nobody should feel alone when faced with an ethical or moral dilemma in their work or in the course of their studies.

"We aim to provide moral support and advice for any Catholic who might find



Dr Dermot Kearney.

themselves in such situations. We also aim to inform and educate Catholics about Church teachings related to health and scientific issues to instil them with a degree of confidence and pride in their Faith and enable them to defend and explain the Catholic vision to others in a compassionate and loving manner."

Topics discussed at recent meetings of the Newcastle branch of the CMA have been High Risk Pregnancy, A Catholic Approach, Care towards the End of Life and the Liverpool Care Pathway, and Faith in the NHS?

Topics to be discussed at future meetings will include The Ethics of Stem Cell Research, Conscientious Objection and Science and Religion.

Dr Kearney said: "Sometimes doctors who raise issues of faith are mocked or laughed at. But Catholic teaching has a scientific basis to it and there are legitimate alternatives, for example, to the current medical thinking that abortion should be offered as a

first option in cases of high-risk pregnancy."

A Catholic junior doctor and colleague of Dr Kearney came under pressure when he refused to prescribe drugs used in starting an abortion procedure.

"The CMA exists to support doctors who wish to work as far as possible within their faith," said Dr Kearney. "We want people to know that they can hold on to their Catholic beliefs."

Dr Kearney established the Newcastle branch of the CMA after attending a branch meeting in Leeds. He said: "Nobody in the North East was active in the association and I hadn't heard of it until I received an invitation from a doctor to attend an introductory meeting in Leeds. I went along and it was attended by a great crowd of junior and senior doctors and consultants.

I approached Fr Andrew Downie, then Chaplain to the Universities in Newcastle, and he agreed to set up meetings in the chaplaincy. We hope to attract between 15 and 20 regular attendees to our meetings when word gets around."

Anybody interested in attending CMA meetings, becoming a member of the CMA or subscribing to the CMA journal (Catholic Medical Quarterly) should contact Dr Kearney at derkearney@yahoo.com or by phoning 0191 413 3077.

• Report of the November meeting of the Newcastle CMA branch – Page 3.



In a costume tribute to Lions International, four members of HCPT, the Pilgrimage Trust, donned big cat costumes for the Boxing Day Dip at Seaton Carew. Pictured (l-r) are Nick McKenzie, Lynn Docherty, Paul Crossling and Dave Falkingham. • Report and picture, Page 5

## Bishop announces new appointments

**BISHOP Seamus Cunningham has announced the following appointments.**

Fr Derek Peel is to retire from St Joseph, Highfield, and Our Lady of Lourdes, Chopwell, on the grounds of ill health.

Fr John James (Ss Peter and Paul Tyne Dock) is to become Parish Priest to St Agnes Crawcrook, St Joseph, Highfield, and Our Lady of Lourdes, Chopwell, and is to reside at St Agnes, Crawcrook.

Fr Andrew Shaw (Tynemouth and

Cullercoats, North Shields) is to become Co-Pastor in the South Shields Cluster of Parishes and is to reside at Ss Peter and Paul, Tyne Dock, South Shields.

The appointments will be effective from the middle of January 2012.



Dedicated campaigners on behalf of the oppressed people of Burma, Anne, Tony and Declan Stokle, of Gosforth, were granted a cherished meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi, the celebrated Burmese opposition leader, to present her with the Freedom of Newcastle Upon Tyne. Full report and pictures on Page 14.

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