



Growing in the image of God

Just as there are times when we energetically give everything we have for those who matter most to us, there are other times when we need to be equally energetic about taking some initiative on our own behalf. We can find ourselves in certain situations where it is we ourselves, who have to make the primary move. No one else can really do this for us. The woman with the flow of blood in today's Gospel reading is a good example of someone who takes an initiative on her own behalf. She did not ask anyone to go to Jesus for her, she went to him herself. She showed great boldness in approaching Jesus in the way she did. In the religious culture of that time, a woman with her condition was expected to keep her distance from those who were considered holy, as Jesus was. The cultural expectations of the time, did not undermine this woman's determination to make contact with Jesus – even if it was only to touch the hem of his cloak. Jesus went on to publically acknowledge her great faith. Here was a faith that was on par with that of Jairus, who threw himself at Jesus' feet on behalf of his daughter.

If Jairus in the Gospel reading, and Paul in the second reading speak to us of our need to invest ourselves wholeheartedly in the care of those who are vulnerable, the woman in the Gospel reading speaks to us of our need to invest ourselves in making contact with the Lord for ourselves, and in growing in our relationship with him. Yes, the Lord seeks us out, but he looks to us to seek him out too. The energy that drove the woman to make contact with Jesus, was her awareness that she could only be whole and complete, in and through him. We too, believe that it is only in relationship with him, that we will become all that God is calling us to be. The first reading tells us that we were made in the image of God's own nature. Jesus was the full image of God. It is in reaching out to touch him and to engage with him, like the woman in the Gospel reading, that we too will grow into the image of God that we were created to be!

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)

502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)

502196

Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

GENERAL NOTICES AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESE

Increased Capacity in Our Churches: We have increased the number of people who may attend church per Mass. This has been achieved by cutting our current safety margin from two blocked off pews between active seats down to just one blocked off pew while still maintaining a safe 2m distance between individuals. St Patrick's will increase to 70, Our Lady and St Joseph (Brooms) will increase to 70, St Pius will increase to 40 and St Mary's to 70.

Bookings For Masses: It is still a legal requirement that we have a full contact tracing list before people begin to gather for any public service in any of our places of worship. Our clergy have noted that, particularly since the resumption of daily public Masses, a lot of people have been turning up without pre-booking, we need to stress that pre-booking is **not** optional. If we admit people to services who have not booked, that is supposed to be an exception rather than the norm. If this trend of people turning up without booking continues, we will have to review our policy about whether or not people who have not booked will be admitted under any circumstances. The telephone number to book a place for Mass is **07907 369233**.

Requiem Mass and Funeral Services: At the present time, the attendance at these services continues to be capped according to the capacity of the church, and all of these are considered private services rather than public services. It is therefore up to those family members of the deceased person who are organising the services to determine who is or is not invited to attend. The fact that we may list these services publicly on the Mass sheet does not mean that these services are now open to other people.

Communion in the Mouth: The Bishops of England and Wales have recently decided that the COVID protocol limiting Holy Communion exclusively to reception in the hand can now be relaxed. Therefore, those who wish to receive on the tongue will now be permitted to do so. However, there are still some special rules for this. 1) In order to ensure that the smallest possible number of people are exposed to any remote possibility of spreading the virus by hand-to-tongue contact, those who are receiving Communion this way must wait to come forward until all those who wish to receive in the hand have already done so. 2) It is also necessary that the priest or minister distributing Communion must use hand sanitiser after each and every communicant who receives this way before giving Communion to anyone else. This is rather time consuming, so we need everyone involved to cultivate the virtue of patience!

Hospital Chaplain's: If you wish a visit from a Priest for a family member who is in hospital please contact the hospital chaplain for that hospital.

Shotley Bridge Hospital - Fr Paul Tully 01207 583583 or 01913332183

Hexham General - Fr Christopher Warren 0844 8118111 or 01434 603119(church)

The University Hospital Durham - Fr Paul Tully 0191 - 3332333 or 0191 - 3332183

Freeman Hospital and RVI - Fr Mariadass Pagyasamy 0191 2336161 or 0191 2733903 (church)

Thank You: The Little Sisters of the Poor would like to thank everyone for supporting the recent Diocesan Church Collection in aid of St Joseph's Home (Newcastle). We are extremely grateful for the kindness shown to us. We ask God to bless and reward you and your families for all you have done to help us continue the work of Jeanne Jugan in caring for our elderly residents. Assuring you of our grateful prayers. Mother Deirdre and The Community.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2021-2022: The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The CCRS course programme is now available for 2021-2022 and there is a short presentation shown on the Diocesan website: www.edurcdhn.org.uk/courses/courses_ccrs.php If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk

Consett Incinerator Proposal: Have Your Say: As many of our local residents will already be aware, the County Council is currently considering a proposal to build an incinerator at Hownsgill Park. For more information, and an opportunity to let our representatives know what you think: 1) you can view the proposal at publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications; and 2) any comments may be sent by email to planning@durham.gov.uk.

Faith Witness Against Hassockfield: The proposed Prayer Vigil at Hassockfield this Sunday 27th June has been postponed. However, a short meditation will be live streamed from the Youth Village at 1.30pm to 1.45pm on Sunday. It can be accessed at YMT [Facebook@youthministryteam](https://www.facebook.com/youthministryteam). Please join in this short time of prayer. The Faith Witness against Hassockfield Group is committed to pray near the site in the future to protest against this development and to pray for the women who may ultimately be detained there. Further information will be circulated.

Novena To Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour: The Novena to Our Lady, which has been suspended since the pandemic began will resume at 7pm on Friday's at St Patrick's Consett.

Friends of the Holy Land: Many thanks for the generous support. Current donations collected amount to £311 with a further £130 online. Closing date for appeal is 30th June, donations can continue to be made until then.

Ministeracres re-opening - Volunteers Wanted: If you would like to share your skills or learn new ones, meet new people or simply help us provide our unique service please check us out at www.ministeracres.org or email: info@ministeracres.org for more information.

ISC Glasgoe at Ministeracres: This retreat is held in silence and will be led by members of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre from Glasgow in collaboration with the team at Ministeracres. This retreat starts on Friday 3 September at 6.30pm and ends on Friday 10 September at 10.00am. Suggested donation £595.

YMT Open Day at the Emmaus Youth Village: We are happy to announce and invite you to an Open Day to reconnect at the Emmaus Youth Village on the 3rd July 2021. The day will start at 11am and the time table will run until 3pm with a 'Sing Along; Hymns Old and New', a quiz and a BBQ. It is £5 entry that can be paid on the door with cheque, cash or card which will cover you for the BBQ and quiz entry. The bar will also be open serving alcohol and soft drinks. It is an outdoor event so depending on weather you may want to bring an umbrella or gazebo. We

hope you will come and are looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd of July. Email to admin@ymt.org to let us know you're coming and how many in your group.

St Mary's News

Collection: This week - Peters Pence: Collection will be taken on Tuesday 29th June but can be donated at any mass by putting donation in an envelope and marking it Peters Pence.

Lately Deceased: Barbara Burns please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: For a Beloved Daughter Joanne Storey and Deceased members of the Storey Family.

Resumption of Communion Visits: Following on from our meeting on 2nd June, most of our ministers have agreed to resume bringing the Blessed Sacrament to the housebound in accordance with the Bishops' Conference guidelines for doing so safely during the pandemic. If anyone is aware of someone who was not housebound before the lockdown, but who is now and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

300 Club Winners for June Draw: £200 (55) A Parker, £100 (186) M Page, £50 (81) H Murray, £20 (162) F Bell.

Memorial Stones: Anyone wishing to purchase a memorial Stone in memory of a loved one please give information in writing, The name for the memorial stone and also the Name, address and phone number of the contact person. Please place in an envelope and either put it through St Mary's Door or hand it to Joe Anderson. Names by end of June please.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Peters Pence.

Holy Face Prayer Group: The Holy Face Prayer Group has recommenced on Tuesday evenings, in church, from 6pm onwards. For further details telephone 01207 506425. the latest Holy Face Youtube video link is:- <https://youtube/55Plmlikt38>

St Pius X News

Holy Rosary Hour: Starting on 28th June, a Holy Rosary Hour is to be held at St Pius X every last Monday of the month from 6pm to 7pm. All are welcome.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Sudan Feeding Station: The collection for the SVP Sudan Feeding Station to date has raised £2,327. Thank you for your continued generosity.

St. Joseph's Hall, Leadgate: Prince Bishop's Veterinary Practice, Plantation Street, Leadgate have contacted Hexham & Newcastle Diocese to express an interest in buying St. Joseph's Hall to expand their premises and business. If this was to happen all money from the purchase would go directly to Brooms parish. This could be spent on much needed refurbishment and repair of Brooms Church and its Presbytery. When Mass times return to normal there are three available venues in Leadgate Village where we could continue to hold weekday Mass.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Owen Longhorn, Anne Mulhearn, Joseph McElhone, Robinson Lenaghan, Francis Beard, Katie Cassidy, Monty Hopton, Rose Hopton, Janet Kennedy, Norah McBride, Ann Parker, Michael Outerside, Leonard Corrigan, Irene McArdle, Ellen (Nell) McGough, Megan Hobkirk (baby), Vincent Kelly, Thomas Coleman, Ronald Williamson, Rachel Brannigan.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Neil McKie (snr), Desmond McNally, Alice Bell.

St. Patrick's: James Crozier Snr, Josephine Darroch, Matthew Hall, John Westgarth, Jordan Graham, Barbara Stevens, Margaret Conroy, Clarence Hope, Molly Glancy, Arthur McArdle, Margaret Calvert, Joe Conroy, Theresa Hutton, Maurice Byrne, Mary Hannant, Mary McArdle (Burns), Bernadette McGurk, Ada Lister, Catherine Milner, Margaret Railton, Billy Pledger, Peter Harpin, Rita Hughes, John Crawley, Anthony Bough, Ann Dickinson, Malcolm Wright, Joanne Storey, Andrew Rowlands, John Bell, Marjorie Whitton, Elizabeth Carr.

St. Pius: Yvonne Carter, John Henry Glasgow, John McElhone and Marie Mohan.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Charles Cullen, Ralph Wilks, George Fountain, John Clark, Rita McCabe, Pat Matthews, Rosa Matthews.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISH

We keep in our prayers:

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Tilly Lockey, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Norman Riches, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Joan Kennedy, Tom Slane, Tony Quinn, Julianne Kennedy, John Winch, Eileen Haughey, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, David Oliver, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross and Simon Quinn.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reilly, Judith Hindmarsh, Nora Robson, Veronica Naisbett, Geraldine Donnelly and Michael Shaw.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Paul Hunt, Nancy Malone, Gerry McArdle, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell and Jade Telford.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson.

Pope Francis – Prayer To Mary For Protection During The Covid - 19 Pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves
to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –
and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

'My Jesus I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you, never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Partnership Prayer

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.

As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede

may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth: to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.

We pray in trustful confidence that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen