

21st Sunday of the Year - Year C - 21st August 2022



The narrow door?

This weekend's readings present us with good news and bad news. The good news is that God never intended for salvation to be for Jews alone. So, although we Gentiles missed out on the first covenant, we have a real chance to be sharers in the new and everlasting covenant. In both our First Reading and our Gospel Reading, God tells us (through Isaiah and Jesus respectively) that he plans to save people of all nations. The bad news is that this does not necessarily mean that **everyone** will be saved. Jesus warns that many who are trying to enter God's Kingdom will not succeed, and he advises that we should try to enter "by the narrow door". Unfortunately, he doesn't specify exactly what this means or how we should proceed.

He does, however, tell a parable that should give us a strong clue. The master of the house tells those locked outside that he won't let them in because he doesn't know them or where they come from. Apparently, these are the people who have made God a stranger—who have not spent much time with him and have not really shown love for him by the way they've lived their lives. When the main gate is closed, family members and those who really belong to the household would be the ones who would know that there's another way in—a hidden entrance, or a hidden key that opens a different door. This dovetails with the Second Reading, which reminds us that we are all called to be "sons" to God and that this status comes with responsibilities and challenges as well as benefits. If we make the effort to truly live as sons of God, we can be confident that we will be welcomed at the narrow door when the time comes.

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
01207-502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)
01207-502196

General Notices Around the Partnership

Covid Guidance: The following guidelines still apply: face coverings: Even though it is not compulsory, we recommend that people wear masks throughout our services unless they are medically exempt, and that they are particularly mindful of this if they plan to sing hymns.

- Hand sanitising: On entering and leaving the building is also still highly recommended.
- It is still advisable to minimise close physical contact where possible between members of separate households. Communion will continue to be given under one kind for the foreseeable future and reception in the hand is still strongly recommended.
- If you have any symptoms that may be COVID, please refrain from attending services until/unless you are able to use a test to verify that it is not COVID.

Obligation to Attend Sunday Mass: The obligation for Catholics to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days has now been re-introduced. We understand that there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: For the Consett area, St Patrick's, Consett; Saturday after 10am Mass. Our Lady and St Joseph's Brooms on Saturday's before the 5.30pm Vigil Mass 4.45pm-5.15pm.

RCIA – Journey in Faith: Are you wanting to find out more about the Catholic Faith? Are you interested in deepening your understanding? Are you a baptised Catholic who never went further, baptised in another Christian Church or have never been baptised at all? The above Journey in Faith course could be for you. Please see information below.

Parishes of St Mary's, Blackhill and Our Lady of the Rosary, Shotley Bridge: please contact Fr Tom McHale at St Mary's Blackhill on 01207 502320.

Parishes of: St Patrick's, St Pius and Our Lady and St Joseph's: we are starting RCIA / Journey in Faith on Thursday 15th September at St Pius X Church, Moorside where we will meet from 6.45pm until 8.30pm. Anyone interested should contact the parish office at St Patrick's Consett on 01207 502196.

Miracles of the Eucharist: A display of 24 boards is now in place around St. Patrick's Church outlining some of Blessed Carlo Acutis' research on verified Eucharistic Miracles - some very recent. You are encouraged to view them because they may aid/deepen your celebration of Christ's ongoing Real presence.

Flower Fest at Ushaw College: a celebration of County Durham through flowers. Friday 9th - Sunday 11th September. Over 35 arrangements and installations will take visitors through the County, all set within the beautiful environment of Ushaw. Tickets £8 but free with an Annual Pass. Book a time slot to guarantee admission.

Around the Diocese

Liturgical Formation and Days of Reflection: The Vicariate for Faith & Mission is pleased to share their Autumn calendar for Liturgical Formation and Days of Reflection for Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers. Please visit bit.ly/Liturgy2022 for further details or see the poster and information sheet on the parish notice board/website. Please book via the parish office. Further dates will be announced for other ministries.

St Bernadette Relic Tour: The Relics will arrive at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle on 1st October 2022 at 11.00am and will leave on 2nd October at 11.00am. The reservation system is now open and can be accessed at: stbernadette.org.uk/the-tour/. There is a sign-up sheet to explore interest in putting on a bus from our area at the back of St Patrick's church.

The Relics are also on display at Carfin, and we would like to invite Parishioners across the partnership to join us in a trip to Carfin on Wednesday 28th September. The cost to travel to Carfin will be £18 per person. If you wish to go there is a sign up form at the back of St Patrick's Church and money must be paid as soon as name is given.

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

Cleaner-Blaydon, St Joseph and Winlaton, St Anne – part-time (8 hours), permanent.

Refugee Project Worker, Newcastle – part-time (12 hours), initial 12-month contract. Closing date for applications: 30 August. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301

Cafod - Fix the food system: A few big businesses with powerful interests take over huge areas of land, destroying forests to grow commercial crops like soya, leaving local people dependent on buying seeds and fertilisers. It is not a healthy outcome for many like Alpona Mondal and Suchitra Roy two women in Bangladesh. Look out for the leaflets in church for "Fix the Food System" which aims to draw attention to an alternative food system that helps tackle the climate crisis rather than fuelling it, putting people first.

St. Mary's News

Collections: This week – S.V.P

Red Box Appeal: This weekend Fr Stephen Botto will make an appeal on behalf of the Mill Hill missions.

Legion of Mary: Will say the Rosary and Legion Prayers on Tuesday Evenings at 6pm.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound since the lockdown, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

The Environment Group and a number of volunteers: undertook our inaugural Litter Pick on 4th August. Judging by the amount of litter we collected in the local area surrounding the Church, the exercise was very worthwhile and surprisingly enjoyable. We'd like to pass on sincere thanks to all who participated - a special mention for Tom and Heath - by far the youngest team members who brought great enthusiasm, energy and litter-finding skills."

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week – No collection

Divine Mercy Devotions: will be held every Thursday at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our Lady of Fatima: A Day for Our Lady of Fatima has been arranged for Saturday, October 22nd more details to be published soon. In preparation for this event, the Devotion of the First Five Saturdays will continue on Saturday, August 20th in church with Rosary and prayers after the 10am Mass. All are welcome to join us.

300 Club: Payments are now being taken for the next 12 months. Please put your payment of £12 per year, per number in either cash or cheque and post through Presbytery letterbox asap. Cheques to be made payable to St Patrick's. Last year we made £1440, £740 was paid out in prize money and £700 was paid into church funds. The more members we have the bigger the prizes. Envelopes for payment can be found at back of church. For further information please contact one of the organisers, Clare 591842, Christine 504870, Josie 588718.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - No collection

Cemetery Fund: The fund is now open for donations until the end of September. If you gift aid your contribution please add your planned giving envelope number to the cemetery fund envelope. Envelopes are available at the back of church. To date the fund has realised £515. Thank you for your support.

People's Kitchen: Thank you for your continued donations of coppers and small change which is forwarded to the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. A further £150 has been sent recently. The total amount raised so far totals £750.

St Pius X News

Collection: This week - No collection

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45 - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary Hour: Last Monday of the month. The next one to be held on 22nd August.

Foodbank: Bring a tin to Mass - We will be collecting for the foodbank at Mass over the next few weeks. Please bring a tin if you can. Cash donations are also welcome.

100 Club: Eleanor Glasgow would like to restart the 100 Club. The numbers are 50p per number per week. Contact Eleanor after mass or on 01207 504090.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – S.V.P

Red Box Appeal: Today Fr Stephen Botto will make an appeal on behalf of the Mill Hill missions.

70th Anniversary: On Thursday 8th September Our Lady of the Rosary will celebrate its 70th anniversary of opening with Mass at 10am and a coffee morning afterwards. If anyone has any other ideas as to how the anniversary can be celebrated please contact Penny Barron. Maybe a few people could get together to discuss options.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Elizabeth Louise Elliot, Bryan Michael Dixon, Thomas Paterson James, Peter Grogan, Monty Hopton, Ellen Black, Rose Batey, John McKenna, Thomas Whitfield, Raymond Hanley Thomas Christopher Kiernan, Martin Regan, Theresa Newbould.

Our Lady of the Rosary: John Winch, James Bertram Nicholson, Patrick Healey Jnr.

St. Patrick's: Marie Campbell, Thomas Murray, David Lumley, Richard Lumb, Theresa Askew, James Colin Laidlaw, Leonard Stephenson, Hilda Grimes, Joan Butler, John P Sheekey, Mary Fortunato, Joseph Kileen, Elizabeth Quinn, Maureen Green, Anita Fulford, Sean Melody, Martin Jennings, Marie Therese Joyce, Aileen Marie Reilly, Larna Hobson, Gus McArdle, Andrew Hanson, Maureen Fox, Ronald Harris, Brian Murphy, John Rossi, Margaret Joan Furness, Oswald Johnson, Dennis McDonagh, Moira Dyer, Patricia Colburne, Kathleen Goldsmith, Rose McElhatton, James Stanyer.

St Pius: Arthur Donaghy, Thomas Phillips, Paddy Thorpe, Nicholas Townson and Ann Watson.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Noel Clarke, Mary Williamson, Betty Dodds, Kirsty Dixon.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Patrick Healey snr, Joseph Clifford, Margaret Bowery, Irene McKie, Fr John F Gunning, Teddy McKie, Cassie McKie, John Rossi, Margaret Healey.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Tom Slane, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Adrian Hepplewhite, Penny Barron.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

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

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Paul Hunt, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell, Teresa Philipson, Margaret Smith, Jade Telford, Derek Hicks

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson, Elizabeth Foreman, Ted Richardson.

Pope Francis – For The Ukraine

O God, In this time of violence. We call on you to draw near.
Draw near to the people of Ukraine.
Draw near to the terrified children.
Draw near to the terrified parents.
Draw near to those who have nowhere to go.
Draw near to the elderly, the infirm,
the disabled, the displaced, the orphans.
Draw near to the caregivers and aid workers
Draw near to the helpers.
Draw near. Draw near. Draw near.
In this time of violence-Draw near.
Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence
is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting.
May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

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