

18th Sunday of the Year - Year C - 31st July 2022



What if?

This is the time of year when our attention may turn to packing our case for our holiday destination, so what do we consider taking? Firstly, the essentials, things we must take, things that we know we will need. Then we consider the question “What if”. What if it rains? What if it is windy? What if it gets cold on an evening? So we think what else we might need to make our stay comfortable. Then we come to pack the case, and with limited space many things that we considered are discarded.

A familiar story no doubt but what about Life – is life not a journey back to our final destination, a life with God, so what do we collect to fill our case with? The reality is that many people fill their case with status, power and riches. The gospel tells them how wrong they are, although possessions play a big part in our lives, we can concentrate on them so much that we forget those things that make us rich in the sight of God.

When our case is unpacked in His presence any contents involved with power, status and riches will be discarded but the all items involved with living a good Christian life will be noted and rewarded. This is not the time to ponder the question “What if”: What if I had considered the Christian values lived in life, which I rejected; What if I had considered the acts of charity I had the chance to carry out, but didn't; What if I had considered the works of mercy I had the chance to carry out, but rejected.

The time to ponder the question “What if” is not whilst emptying your case in front of God, that is too late, it should be considered now.

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
01207-502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)
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Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

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 (as we hope everyone will!).

- 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

Catechists; Catechists are required for to assist in the Baptism and Confirmation Courses. If you are interested please contact either Fr Tom or Fr John.

Parish Environment Group - Litter Pick: In-line with our aim of protecting and improving our environment, we are looking to undertake a litter picking exercise . If you would like to help, please meet outside St Mary's Church at 10am on Friday 5th August. Please bring gloves and a litter picker if you wish."

Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham: The balance of payments is now due. The total amounts are Ensuite £350 and Standard £305. Please make your payment to Jim McArdle. The dates are Friday 19th to Monday 22nd August. The times of departure will be announced later.

Job Vacancy: St Mary's Convent, Ebchester are looking for an Activity Co-Ordinator for their residential home. The role is for 20 hours a week. If you are interested please contact St Mary's Care Home on 01207-560288 or call in and pick up an application form.

Mass Intentions: Please do not put Mass Intention envelopes onto the collection plate. Thank you.

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.

Around the Diocese

Ushaw: Summer is officially here, we've got plenty of exciting events for you to enjoy during July! From a special 40s-Themed Day to Live Music, Ushaw is the place to be during July! See our website for more information.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2022-2023: 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 2022-2023 and there is a short presentation shown on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development-and-formation/#ccr> If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk

From the Lourdes Pilgrimage Group: There will be Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Shotton Colliery at 11am on Wednesday 3 August - this is to mark when the Diocese would normally have been in Lourdes. All are welcome and you are invited to bring a packed lunch, refreshments will be served. After lunch, there will be Marian devotions at the church grotto.
St Bernadette Relic Tour: In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes will journey on pilgrimage from Lourdes to England, Scotland and Wales for the very first time. 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.***

St. Mary's News

Collections: This week – Flowers Next week – No collection

Sanctuary Candle: Will burn in Loving Memory of Michael and Molly Glancy

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.

Thank you: the British heart Foundation would like to thank the family of Michael Corr and all who contributed to the funeral collection totalling £272.43 which was donated to them.

Piety Stall: Is open in the JFK Centre on Sunday's after 9.30am Mass

July 300 Club Winners: £20 (200) – M McNally, £10 (261) – M Smith, £10 (115) – T Kelly, £10 (207) – A Rooney, £10 (54) – B Kelly.

Parish Environment Group - Litter Pick - CORRECTION: In-line with our aim of protecting and improving our environment, we are looking to undertake a litter picking exercise. If you would like to help, please meet outside St Mary's Church at 10.45 on Thursday 4th August. Please bring gloves and a litter picker if you wish.

SVP National Raffle: Tickets will be on sale Sunday after 9.30am Mass.

1st prize, £5,000, 2nd Prize £1,000, and 15 x £100 prizes.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week – Church Flowers

Coffee morning: In hall 10.45am on Sunday 14th August all proceeds to Willowburn hospice in memory of Tom and Maureen McCory. All are welcome Thank you McCory Family

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

Rose & Robin: Saturday 13th August at 7pm - 9pm in the Church Hall. Mad Alice Theatre Company are presenting their lovely, fun, quirky and heartwarming theatre show. Tickets are £3 each (includes post show music and refreshments) Order your tickets by telephoning 07517 929658 or email stpatrickshallconsett@gmail.com. You can also pay on the door.

Our Lady of Fatima: A Day on 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 commence on Saturday, August 6th in church with Rosary and prayers after the 10am Mass. All are welcome to join us.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Church Flowers

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 £395. 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 £600. A thank you letter from People's Kitchen can be viewed on the notice board at the back of church.

Collections : The retiring collection for Church Flowers, over the last two weeks, totalled £183. Thank you for your support and generosity.

St Pius X News

Collection: This week - Church Flowers

Benediction and evening prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45 - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary Hour: Last Monday of the month.

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 – Flowers Next week – No collection

Lately Deceased: Herdman Armstrong, please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Thank You: The family of Chris Storey would like to thank Fr. Tom and the parish community for their Mass cards and messages of sympathy and support given on the sad loss of Chris. We as a family took great comfort from the beautiful funeral Mass celebrating her life. A collection in memory of Chris for the S.V.P and CAFOD raised £305. 86. We are so grateful to all who contributed. Thank you. A Mass will be offered for your Intentions in the near future.

70th Anniversary: On Thursday 8th September Our Lady of the Rosary will celebrate its 70th anniversary of opening. A Mass and a coffee morning have been suggested and 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: John Joseph Robinson, Lawrence McGeary, John James Hester, Janet Ramsay, Margaret Carney, Paul Williams, Richard Atkinson, Bernadette Maria Nichols, Kathleen Campbell, Peter Hopper, Malcolm Hester, Joseph Clifford, Georgina Devaney, Mary Knowles, Ellen Veronica Armstrong, Donald Murray, James William Oliver, Elizabeth Jones, Francis Rogan, Maria Sullivan, Thomas Sidney Thirlwell, Marie McElhone, Ann McElrue, Sadie Anderson.

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, Margaret Joan Furness, Oswald Johnson, Dennis McDonagh, Moira Dyer, Patricia Colburne, Kathleen Goldsmith, Rose McElhatton and James Stanyer

St Pius: John Agnew, Helen Beckham, Patricia Bell, William Campbell, David Collins, Betty Dodds, Ronald Kelly, Frank McGuigan, Brian Murphy, Don Murray.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: June Williamson, Catherine Williamson, Paul Richardson, Teresa Toole, Peter Grogan, Billy White.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Dixon, Gerry Corr, Larry McKie, Ellen Clifford, David Barron, Vincent Robson.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Tilly Lockey, 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, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, David Oliver, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson.

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, Michael Shaw, Andrew Bates

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