

23rd Sunday of the Year - Year C - 4th September 2022



Hate your family – really?

The Gospel this weekend may take us by surprise. Is the same Jesus who told us that the second most important commandment, after loving God, was to “love thy neighbour as thyself”, and who also told us to love even our enemies, now telling us that we should hate our father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters; yes, all that is dear to us and, even our own life? And is he saying that, if we don’t hate these things, we cannot be his followers?

Maybe from time to time we should stop and consider the challenges we face by making the decision to be disciples of Jesus. We would, no doubt, prefer an easy pathway which is rarely disturbed or challenged. But we must come to terms with the fact that Jesus’ words this weekend are demanding. Now, he is probably overstating in order to make a point. He probably does not literally want us to actively hate those who are precious to us in life. But he is insisting that our mission as his disciples needs to take priority over everything else: even our loved ones; even our own lives.

The two parables warn us that our efforts must be thorough and not half-hearted if we are to see our mission through to the end. We cannot afford, like the builders of the tower in the parable, to leave our work unfinished as a monument to our being ill-prepared. We cannot be like the king in the parable who faces defeat and death in battle because he fails to account for the scale of the challenge before him.

With respect to the issue of family, Jesus wants us to realise that our responsibilities extend beyond those who are closest to us. As children of God, we all belong to one family and as such are brothers and sisters to each other. Therefore, we shouldn’t put the desires of close family members above the genuine needs of others in our world. If we do so, we are acting unjustly towards other members of God’s family. And that is what Jesus is speaking about: not so much hating those who are close to us, but recognising and loving all our other brothers and sisters too and giving priority to those who stand in the greatest need.

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
01207-502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)
01207-502196

General Notices Around the Partnership

Obligation to Attend Sunday Mass: 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.

To all Confirmation candidates: Our Confirmation preparation programme for 2022 will be launching soon. We would ask all potential candidates from Year 10 and above, and their parents, to attend one of two meetings that will be held to launch the programme, register the candidates, and provide details concerning the times and venues for the preparation sessions and the other elements of the programme. These meetings will take place as follows:

7pm Saturday, 17 September 2022, at All Saints Church, Lanchester.

or 7pm Sunday, 18 October 2022, at St. Patrick's Consett.

You may choose whichever of these meetings is more convenient for you. If you are unable to attend either meeting but would still like to join the programme, please contact your parish priest to discuss the matter.

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: 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. or, explore the Catholic Faith online please see information below.

Exploring the Catholic Faith Online: Join us on a journey this Autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. We gather weekly via Zoom and invite you to come along to find out more. The course starts on Wednesday 21st September at 7.00pm. If you are interested to find out more, you can enquire/register using the online enquiry form. email us (adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk)

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.

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.

In addition the Relics are 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.

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 6th September 2pm at St Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and cake bring your friends as there will be bingo and a raffle too everyone is welcome.

Around the Diocese

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.

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.

The Emmanuel Catholic Charismatic Community: invite you for a time of sharing and prayer on Saturday 5 November 2022 with the Right Reverend Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton. The event is taking place at St Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7PE. To book, please contact Pat Kennedy by email: pat.kennedy42@icloud.com or tel: 0191 284 1690

The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA): invite you to attend a short workshop led by Alison McLean (Director of Music at St Cuthbert's, Durham) and Paul Berry (Director of Music at St Mary's, Hexham) on Sunday 25th September, 3.00-5.00pm at St Cuthbert's Church, Durham, DH1 3HL. Advanced booking is essential, please book by Friday 16th September. <https://diocesehn.org.uk/whats-on/event/music-for-communion/>

St. Mary's News

Collections: This week – Cafod (Pakistan Flooding) Next week - Catholic Education

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.

Lately Deceased: Arthur Robinson please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Pastoral Council Meeting: There will be a meeting on Tuesday 6th September in St Mary's presbytery after the 6.30pm Mass.

St Mary's Special Needs Club: A special Mass will be celebrated for our group on Friday 16th September at 7.15pm in St Mary's Blackhill. We'll be remembering those from our group who died during the 2 years of covid lock-down.

Six of our members went to the Party In Heaven during the pandemic and this service will be an opportunity for us to celebrate their lives, and the lives of others we love who also died during covid. If you are a friend of the group, or if you would just like to come along to join in the celebration of these truly wonderful lives, we would love to welcome you!

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Cafod (Pakistan Flooding) Next week - Catholic Education

Divine Mercy Devotions: Due to unforeseen circumstances the Divine Mercy Devotions will be cancelled resuming again on Thursday 22nd September at 3pm. Everyone is welcome.

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 connection with this event, the Devotion will continue on the following dates September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th and December 3rd after 10am Mass, in church with Rosary and prayers. 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

Collections: This week – Cafod (Pakistan Flooding) Next week - Catholic Education

Lately Deceased: Ann Lucy, please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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 £670. 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 thank you letter can be found on the notice board at the back of church.

St Pius X News

Collections: This week – Cafod (Pakistan Flooding) Next week - Catholic Education

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 26th September.

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.

Consett Lions Raffle Tickets: now on sale in the Porch after Mass. Please see Eleanor Glasgow. £1 a Ticket. £5 a book.

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 – Cafod (Pakistan Flooding) Next week - Catholic Education

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Hilda Eve Davis, Wilfrid Barry Britten, Patricia Bell, Robert Parkinson, Catherine Leighton, Ellen Hanlon, Helen Marie Murphy, Kathleen Comiskey, Jane Guest, Brian Patrick Lavery, Raymond McIntyre, Anne Robson, James Francis McGurk, Joseph Thompson, Jenny Welsh, Mary Agnes Cudden, Thomas Donaldson Marion Telford, Gerald Campbell, Frank Kearney, Fr. Wayne Roxburgh.

St. Patrick's: Nancy McGurk, Sheila Campbell, David Agnew, Audrey Whales, Denis McNally, Lily Loughran, Alan Ramsden, Joan Holliday, Theresa Hudson, Maurice Rose, Peter Lockeron, Thomas Henderson, Yvonne Clare, Catherine Smith, Christina Scott, Ivan Wright, Mary Lydon, Alma Byrne, Denise Hunter, Winifred Gettings and Joseph Rennoldson

St Pius: Doreen Brown, Billy Cosgrove, Hazel Cousins, Hilda Eve Davis, Jane Haughey, Mary Ellen (Ella) Kerr, Margaret E Newton, Gerard Pinkney and Jenny Welsh.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Catherine Clark, Joseph Gill, Alby Allen, Kirsty Dixon

Our Lady of the Rosary: Hilda Mary Greash, Mary Underhill, Agnes Telford, Anne Robson, Margaret Healey, Elizabeth Haggon, Peter Paul Smith, Margaret Corr, Vincent Farrell, Maurice Paul, Denis McNally, Marian Golightly, Fr. David Condon, Jim Haggon, Bridie Walker.

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