

31st Sunday of the Year - Year C - 30th October 2022



Giving our First Fruits

The image of Zacchaeus, a man short in stature climbing a tree to see Jesus, is probably one that is very familiar to us. However, despite this familiarity, there is a deep message that can often be overlooked. When Zacchaeus has a conversion experience, he vows not only to correct the wrong he has done, but to give back “*four times as much.*” Zacchaeus teaches us that we shouldn’t give the bare minimum, but seek greater generosity in our gifts, especially of our time and talents.

As Christians, we must consider prayerfully the gifts that we have received from God, and ask ourselves, are we really giving God the best of our time and talents, or do other obligations take priority?

For example, with respect to time, we should strive to establish and protect scheduled moments of daily prayer. Likewise, with our talents, we should try to offer our gifts first for the good of the church before our own personal interests. Let us prayerfully review how we use our time and talents and seek ways to better serve the Kingdom of God within our parish communities.

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
01207-502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)
01207-502196

Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

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.

St Bede's Quiz & Bingo Night: A group of students from St. Bede's are hoping to go to Lourdes in 2023 and, in order to help raise funds, are holding a Quiz and Bingo night at St Mary's Church Hall on Saturday 19th November. Doors will open at 6pm for 6.30pm start. Tickets (including the cost of quiz entry and light refreshments) are £5 per person and are available now from Isobel English at St. Mary's Blackhill, Christine Byrne at St. Joseph's Stanley, or directly from St. Bede's School.

St Bede's Knit and Natter Group: would also like to extend warm thanks for the donations of knitted squares they've already received. Some of our local care homes have already expressed interest in the lap blankets, so additional donations would be very welcome.

First Friday For Life: Bishop John Keenan, St Mary's Cathedral, Paisley is asking us to join him in fasting and prayer on every First Friday for the next 9 months, to protect the unborn child, to help promote the pro-life movement and to build a society with an authentic culture of life.

Universe Catholic Weekly: We are happy to let you know that despite inflation rising to 10.1% that the Universe Catholic Weekly subscription will remain at the current price of £20 for 3 months or £80 for the year. We guarantee that there will be no increase at all until the end of this year. We hope you continue to enjoy your weekly read and don't forget your 10%discount on everything (except subscriptions) when you order from our online shop. **(Use coupon code: SUB10 at checkout).**

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: Helping you get the 'big picture' of the Bible in an eight week course will now commence on **Thursday 3rd November** for 8 weeks 7pm until 9pm in the upstairs room of St Patrick's Hall.

Holy Land 2023: Anyone interested in a week-long informal led visit to Jerusalem and Bethlehem in March - May 2023 is invited to contact 07576 496212. If there is sufficient interest a meeting will be arranged for further discussion.

A Celebration for Christmas We are delighted to announce that St Joseph's Church will be hosting the Ushaw Chapel Choir on Saturday 10th December from 7-8pm for A Celebration For Christmas. Tickets available to purchase from St Joseph's Parish Office. Adults £5 and Children (6-16 years) £2. We hope you join us for what promises to be a most memorable evening. The retiring collection will be for Father Dermott Donnelly's charity Significance.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal: If you are hoping to contribute to the appeal this year, Your Move estate agents in Consett have once again agreed to act as the drop off point for completed shoeboxes. They are already accepting shoeboxes and will continue to do so until mid-November.

Love Christmas 2022: - Watch this space

Tea on Tuesday 1st November: Held at St Patrick's Church Hall from 2pm. Tea and cake, bingo and raffle everyone is welcome.

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully, tel: 01388 818544/ 0191 3332183. Please telephone the chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit.

Around the Diocese

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023: Can you help the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year? We need nurses, healthcare assistants, doctors and volunteers to provide care to the assisted pilgrims who travel with us. Previous helpers have found it is a rewarding and spiritually uplifting week. We plan to travel on Friday 28th July. If you would like to find out more information please email or look at our website

<https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/> or email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk

Vacancies: **Safeguarding Administrator, Department for Safeguarding, Newcastle** full-time permanent. Closing date for applications: 9 November

Parish Secretary, St Joseph, Stanley – part-time (24 hours), permanent Closing date for applications: 11 November Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301

St. Mary's News

Collections: This week - Clergy Training Fund Next week – Clergy Training Fund

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Micheal Reddington, son of our former organist and choirmaster John Reddington. Micheal was raised in St. Mary's parish before emigrating many years ago to New Zealand where he has recently passed away. We also pray for his family who are mourning him at this time.

Recently Deceased: Joe McNally formerly of Bridgehill sadly died 26th October peacefully at home in Bedford aged 89. Please Pray for him and his family at this sad time

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, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

Sanctuary Candle: If you would like the Sanctuary candle to burn in memory of a loved one please contact the office.

Light A Light On The Christmas Tree: will be happening again this year, 'cost £2'. If you would like a light lit on the Christmas tree for a loved one then please put the name of the person and the donation into an envelope and hand it into the office or contact Joan Devanney.

St Patrick's News

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Our Lady of Fatima Devotion: In connection with the Fatima Visitation, the Devotion will continue on the following dates November 5th and December 3rd after 10am Mass, in church with Rosary and prayers. All are welcome to join us and any help on the day would be greatly appreciated.

300 Club Winners for September:

£20 No. 106 M & A Smith £10 No. 134 Winnie Agnew £10 No. 195 S Jackson

Christmas Fayre: To be held on **Saturday 12th November** from 12.30pm. Please bring to church/presbytery (Presbytery Monday, Thursday and Friday) suitable Tombola and Raffle Prizes, bric a brac (unused) and bottles of Wine/Spirits for our famous Bottle Draw. There will also be a cake stall for which we will require cakes made for/on the day.

St Patrick's First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme: There will be an information meeting for Parents who wish their children to take part in this year's programme on Monday 31st October at 7pm, in St Patrick's Church. Application forms will be given to the children at school or can be collected from the Presbytery and must be handed in by this meeting for inclusion in this year's programme. Please do not bring your children to this meeting.

Calling all Knitters: This year we hope to distribute knitted/stuffed stars to parishioners for them to hang on a Christmas Tree Mantlepiece via an attached ribbon. Two patterns are available at the back of the church please be as creative as you like!.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week: Clergy Training Fund Next Week: Clergy Training Fund

Retiring Collections: The retiring collection on Home Missions Sunday realised £146. Thank you for your support.

The Priest Clergy Training Fund opens this weekend and will continue until November 27th.

Recently Deceased: Graham Dimmick. Please Pray for him and his family at this sad time.

People's Kitchen: Thank you for your continued donations of coppers and small change which is forwarded to the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. Your donations can be deposited in the named tin at the back of the church.

Reception Children - September 2023: If you or anyone you know has a child due to start school in September 2023, we would love to show our lovely new Early Years environment. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet with staff and ask any questions you may have. Please contact the school on 01207 503979 or email ourladystjoseph@durhamlearning.net to make an appointment.

St Pius X News

Collections: This week: Clergy Training Fund Next Week: Clergy Training Fund

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45 - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary Hour: Last Monday of the month. The next one is to be held on 28th November at 6.00pm. All are welcome.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week: Clergy Training Fund Next week: Clergy Training Fund

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Charles Dewhurst, Eleanor Mulligan, Margaret Corrigan, Gerald Smith, Kelly Ann Dunstan, William Bell, James Williams, William Alton Storey, Edward Brown, Michael Carey, Maureen Mulholland, Christina Stella Elliot, Ernest Platt, Polly Alexandra Smith, Ann (Nancy) Miller, Mary Toner, Margaret Black, Steven Black, Rose Ellen Agnew, Nicholas Boyle.

St. Patrick's: Dominic McGurk, Mary Theresa Stevens, Sheila Elder, John O'Neill, Catherine Rafferty, Catherine Connelly, Hugh Malone, Catherine Donaghy, Richard Forbes, Terry Burns, Mary Burnage, Mary Theresa Hughes, Joseph Raw, Flora Nimmons, Tommy O'Neill, Mary Donaghy, Alan Foley, Gerard Slavin, Moira Reed, Brian Rogan, James Fail, Thomas Kerr, Ellen Parker, Nancy Collins, John Harpin, Stephen Fenwick, John Haggon, Bill Kennedy.

St Pius: Leonard Crawley, Sheila Gibson, Catherine T Hall, Nancy McCourt, James C Walker.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Ged Doughan, Sydney Fountain, Norman Henderson, Laura Mallon.

Our Lady of the Rosary: John Wilfred Smith, David Bradley, Neil McKie (snr), Desmond McNally, Alice Bell, Bill Storey, Jenny Clark, John Jack 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, Ged Hester, Terry Curran.

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, Jean Walls, Seamus Doran.

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

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

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