

Pentecost Sunday - 28th May 2023



Sevenfold Gifts of Grace

In the last few decades, we've witnessed amazing advances in telecommunications. Not only does almost everyone have a mobile phone these days, but most people have 'smart' phones. And the younger generations among us might find it strange that some older people still use their phones mostly for calls or texts when they could also be accessing the internet, social media, all kinds of useful apps, and so on.

God may find it equally strange—and frustrating—that so many Christians are seriously under-utilising the amazing power of the Holy Spirit, the incredible gift that we are celebrating on Pentecost Sunday this weekend. Indeed, the constant, indwelling presence of God with each and every one of us—which is absolutely mind-blowing if we take some time to reflect upon it—is only one part of this gift. The Spirit is also associated with seven other powerful gifts: knowledge; wisdom; understanding; counsel; piety; fortitude; and awe. Seven is an incredibly significant number in Judaeo-Christian tradition. It symbolises completion or perfection. This suggests that the Holy Spirit, if we respond to it properly, can potentially give us everything that we need to experience the fullness of salvation.

Unfortunately, a lot of Christians these days seem to use the Spirit in a limited way: mainly to nurture their personal salvation and their own closeness to God. As this weekend's readings remind us, when the Spirit was given to the first Apostles and the other members of the early Church, they had a much bigger mission: to share in all the works of Christ; to evangelise and to sanctify the whole world! In truth, we all have the same calling, the same gifts and the same potential. God would probably greatly appreciate it if we all started tapping into some of those more advanced features that he's equipped us with.

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.

Partnership - Sacrament of Reconciliation: 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.

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.

Confirmations; Considering Confirmation? Discover the Power of the Spirit. Saturday June 3rd 2023 St. Mary's Church Hall, Blackhill. There is to be a Family Day with Guest Speakers, Activities Refreshments and Food. All young people (currently in Year 8 or 9) who wish to start the journey towards Confirmation in the coming year, together with their families*. Sign up forms for the day are available at St. Bede's School and in church. *Each young person must be accompanied by a parent/primary carer (and vice versa)*

Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2023: The annual pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Friday 18th to Monday 21st August 2023 The cost will be approximately £310.00 standard and £360 ensuite. Apologies for the late notice (due to hospitals etc.). Because I am late with the notice, could those wishing to take part in the pilgrimage please contact me Jim McArdle on 501938 as soon as possible. We have been offered a special deal so I need to give numbers quickly. A deposit of £70 is payable when booking your place. HURRY AND BOOK YOUR PLACE ONLY TWO PLACES LEFT

Family Day Trip to South Shields: Saturday 1st July leaving at 10.30am from St Patrick's Consett and St Mary's Blackhill. Returning at 5.30pm. To book a place on the bus contact St Patrick's 502196 or St Mary's 502320. There's also a sign up sheet at the back of the church. Places are £7 per adult/£3 for children. First come first served.

Around The Diocese

A Day for Catechists: A Day for Catechists is to be held on Saturday 15th July 2023 10am - 3pm at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School, Washington NE38 8AF Are you involved with Baptismal Preparation, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, Marriage Preparation, RCIA, Children's Liturgy or other faith sharing initiatives? We are excited to host the largest gathering of Catechists the diocese has seen in recent times. This will be a special opportunity to come together and renew our approach to sacramental preparation and faith-sharing post-pandemic. Whether you are a seasoned catechist or just considering becoming one, we want you to join us. We will be sharing key principles from the New Directory of Catechesis and affirming good practices, as well as providing new ideas and inspiration. Individuals and parish groups are welcome. To register your interest/book a place, please visit bit.ly/DHNDOC23. refreshments are included, please bring a packed lunch.

Corpus Christi Service: St Mary's Church, Hexham is organising a Corpus Christi Service on Sunday 11th June at 3pm. Parishioners from across the diocese are welcome to attend with

refreshments being served afterwards. The Service will also be lived-streamed should people wish to join us. The website is www.stmaryshexham.org.uk

The Little Sisters of the Poor: The current economic climate is having a significant impact on our fundraising activities and the charitable donations we rely on to meet the ever increasing daily running costs of the Home. We are working hard to raise vital funds to help with the cost of replacing the three lifts in the Home, which in turn will help the Sisters and Staff deliver essential person centred care at all times. Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to: St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA.

Alternatively, secure, online donations can be made by visiting:

www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/ Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are extremely grateful to you for the kindness shown to us.

Job Vacancy: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint the following roles: **Fundraising Manager** to lead on the development and implementation of a Diocesan Fundraising Strategy to include trusts, foundations and legacies. The role is full-time and permanent.

Department for Safeguarding, Newcastle – Senior Administrator and Administrator – both roles are permanent and full-time.

Vicariate for Faith and Mission, Newcastle – Administrator (maternity cover) full or part-time. The closing date for applications is 5 June. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Job Vacancy Little Sisters of the Poor Registered Nurses Required. The Little Sisters of the Poor run a large residential care home for the elderly in Newcastle. This is a friendly, relaxed, well equipped Home with over 105 staff. Day shift - 37.5 Hours per week, Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm Night shift 20 hours per week, 9pm-8am 2 References and an enhanced DBS check are required. For more information please contact Lee-Marie on 0191 273 1279 or email lee.marie@lsplondon.co.uk

Extra ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Day of reflection: Saturday 3rd June 2023, 10.30am-3.00pm - arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am. The venue for this event will be St Michael's, Durham Road, Houghton-le-Spring, DH5 8NF and will cost £10.00 per person. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. To book your place or for more information visit bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents. **Booking Deadline: Tuesday 23 May 2023.**

St. Mary's News

Collection: This week - Lay Training - open until 25th June

Lately Deceased: James Alan Hogg and Peter Martin Smith. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

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.

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

Universe Catholic Weekly: is back in print at a cost of £2.50. If you would like to order a copy on a weekly basis please contact the Parish Office.

Clock Repairs: As the cost of work required is in excess of sixteen thousand pounds we are appealing for donations towards this cost. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Welcome Thursday: The church hall will be open from 10.30am on Thursday's for anyone to pop in for a coffee after Mass. We serve lunch from 12 noon normally consisting of 2 choices of

soup with fresh baked bread rolls, Corn beef pie, sausage or bacon sandwiches as well as cakes, biscuits, tea & coffee. We will shortly be offering a cooked lunch as well as soup. Transport can be provided if needed. We are also looking for more volunteers.

300 Club Winners - May: £20 – (208) M Oliver, £10 – (224) T Page, £10 – (63) A McCoy, £10 – (154) S Milner, £10 – (180) M Robins.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Lay Training - open until 25th June

Divine Mercy Devotions: The Divine Mercy Devotions are held every Thursday at 3pm.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Lay Training - open until 25th June

Collections: The collection for World Communications Day realised £98. Thank you for your support.

Pie and Pea Supper and Bingo: To be held at Leadgate Cricket Club on June 9th 2023. Tickets cost £3 and are available at Brooms Church. Donations of prizes would be gratefully accepted.

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 church. A thank you letter for a deposit of £150 and update from the charity, can be viewed on the church noticeboard. Thank you for your generous support.

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. Thank you for your support.

St Pius X News

Collection: This week - Lay Training - open until 25th June

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45pm - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary: Will be held in Church on the last Monday of the month - next one Monday 29th May at 6pm.

Statue of Our Lady: Have the Statue of Our Lady in your home. Anyone interested in having the Parish statue in their home for a period of time please indicate your interest by placing your name and address on the list in the porch. When numbers are known a rota will be arranged together with the length stay in each home.

100" Club: winning numbers for May draw: £30 - Helen Moore (5), £20 - Marie Thompson (20), £10 - Linda Dodd (62).

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week –Lay Training Fund – open until 25th June

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Universe Catholic Weekly: is back in print at a cost of £2.50. If you would like to order a copy on a weekly basis please contact St Mary's Parish Office.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: John Grimes, Margaret Bell, Edward McElrue, John Gerome Grey, Edward Malpass, Norman Leslie Black, Alice Grogan, John M Grugan, Esther Lavery, Richard Nelson, Anne Marie Ryan, Rose Greenfield, Mary Campbell, Josephine Toner, John Jerome Grey, Nicholas Boyle, Daniel Robinson, Keith Kennedy, Margaret Jones, Robert Sample Bell, Thomas James Bell, John Aitchison, John Corr.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Fr. John Kelly, Nellie McNally, Winifred Arthurs, James Bertram Nicholson, Patrick Healey Jnr, James McNally

St. Patrick's: Jim Crozier, Rose Mary Moran, Roy Garvin, Ann Wall, Jerome Hillas, Patrick McNicholas, Michael Pearson, Vera Teasdale, Margaret Haggarth, Teresa Clark, Christopher Langdon, Agnes Fowler, Frances Ann Sloane, Mary Murray, Ned Joyce, Mary Graham, Jason Peter Thorpe, Charlotte Irwin, Martin Young, William Miller, James Edward Hunter, Bill Hunter, Maureen Hughes, Joyce Price, Clive Robson, Terence Dumigan, Catherine Ann Patterson.

St Pius: Vincent Armstrong, Ken Carter, Neil Dobson, Hecter Hughes, William Kane, Margaret Murray, Michael Murray, Mary Townson, Nicky Townson, Doreen Wilkes.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Charles Cullen, Ralph Wilks, George Fountain, John Clark, Rita McCabe, Pat Matthews, Rosa Matthews, Kenneth Lowerson, Fr. Michael Keoghan, Marie McShane, Mary Bell (nee Grogan)

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, Ged Hester, Terry Curran, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Catelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Betty Wears.

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, Andrew Bates, Patrick Lynch, Jean Walls, Seamus Doran, Gerard Harpin, Sienna Jane McNestry

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Keith Elliott, 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