

21st Sunday Of The Year - 27th August 2023



Getting To Know You

You may have come across a form of competition that runs on commercial radio stations. They have a simple format; people send in their telephone number and at a specified time a number is called at random from those entered. To win the prize you have to repeat the key phrase; if you do there is a substantial cash prize ready for you.

At a superficial level there is a similarity when Jesus asks the disciples, after first asking what the people were saying, the key question: "But you, who do you say I am?" to which Peter responds "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is the correct answer but unlike a radio programme there are no cheers and sound effects. The reward that that Peter gets for his response immediately tells us that this is a completely different situation. There is no bag full of cash for Peter, (that 'prize' will end up in the hands of a different disciple much later on.)

The context in which Jesus asks these questions is that he is bringing his inner group of disciples along with him as he carries out his public ministry, getting them ready for the work they will carry on by getting them to know him, to love him and be strengthened by him. Just like everyone else they of course have their own questions and concerns.

So Jesus isn't trying to catch them out, he is looking to see if the penny has dropped yet. And it had. Peter shows that they understood, not yet perfectly of course, just who Jesus is. That was enough to task Peter with being the foundation of his Church, a pivotal moment that 2000 years later we still are part of building up.

And that brings the question back to ourselves. Do we focus on the material comforts of the world, looking for someone or something to make our lives easier. Or is our life centred on getting to know Jesus better and our part in building his Kingdom?

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Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

General Notices Around the Partnership

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.

RCIA – Journey in Faith: Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith? Are you wanting to deepen your understanding of Faith? Whether you are a practising Catholic, non Catholic, or just curious about Jesus. The above course could be for you!

For St Patrick's, Our Lady and St Joseph's and St Pius we are starting on Thursday 7th September at St Pius X, Moorside where we will meet from 6.45pm until 8.30pm. Please contact the parish office at St Patrick's on 01207 502196.

For St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary please contact the parish office on 01207 502320 for further information.

Bible Study Group: This new group will meet on a monthly basis at St Pius X on a Monday evening at 6.30pm.

In Need of Support: If you are in need of support from the SVP Society please put your name and telephone number in a sealed envelope marked SVP and place it through St Mary's presbytery door. A member of the SVP will contact you.

Pray to end abortion: Don't lose hope in the power of prayer 'Abortion Recovery Care Helpline (ARCH)' 0345 6038501

Charity Concert in aid of Church Clocks: The Lions Club of Consett are presenting a Charity Concert in aid of Consett Town Clocks (St. Mary's, Blackhill and Christ Church, Consett) featuring Consett Citizens Choir and artists with An Enchanted Evening of Songs from the Musicals and Movies. This will take place in St Patrick's Church Hall Consett on Friday 22nd September. 2023 at 7pm. Tickets £5 or pay at the door. Raffle and refreshments.

St Patrick's Quiz Saturday 23rd September: St. Patrick's Quiz will take place on Saturday 23rd September at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church Hall. Over 16's only. 6 Players per team £2.50 a head Please note only drinks bought at the bar may be consumed. Email: ted_young27@hotmail.com (underscore between 'd' and 'y') to book a team. Teams from all Partnership Parishes are Welcome.

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 5th September 2pm at St Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and cake bring your friends as there will be bingo and a raffle. Everyone is welcome.

Around The Diocese

Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries: Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries, (AFCM) Newcastle is organising a Youth Retreat with specific focus on 17-24 year old students who are embarking on the journey to Universities and Higher Studies. The 3-day residential retreat 8-10 Sept, 2023 held at the Emmaus Youth Village, Consett DH8 9BA will be facilitated by AFCM ministers from Birmingham. The retreat starts at 10am on Friday and wraps up at 4pm on Sunday. Please register your interest at <https://afcmuk.org/register/> or get in touch with Santhosh Joseph 07545-861400 or Deacon Alison Rebello 07931-136243 for more details.

Days of Reflection and Liturgical Formation Courses Autumn 2023:

DAYS OF REFLECTION: *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*-23 September |

10:30am-3:00pm | St Joseph's, Gateshead

Liturgical Leaders of the Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion (Lay Leaders) 7 October

10:30am-3:00pm | St Joseph's, Gateshead.

COURSES

New Readers of the Liturgy of the Word Commencing 9 October | 2 sessions | St Aidan's, Benton

Liturgical Leaders of the Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion (Lay Leaders), Commencing 26 October | 6 sessions | St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Rainbows Bereavement Support Great Britain (GB): is a well-respected National Charity which supports Children and Young People who have experienced a significant loss through death, relationship breakdown or any other Adverse Childhood Experience. Volunteers are needed to join the North East Team. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Ruth Higginbottom, Rainbows North East Secretary, on 01670 518546 or

rainbows.northeast@btconnect.com

'Eucharistic Miracles of the World' Exhibition:The Association of the Eucharist will be hosting an exhibition about Blessed Carlo Acutis and his documentation of Eucharistic Miracles from around the world. The exhibition will be held at St Joseph's, Gateshead, NE8 1LX from Saturday 14 October to Saturday 28 October. On Saturday 14 October, Bishop Emeritus Séamus Cunningham will celebrate Mass to mark the opening of the exhibition; there will also be a guest speaker and a time of Adoration. More details about the launch day and timings to follow. Event details can be found at <https://bit.ly/DHNCarloAcutis>. Parish groups are welcome to attend.

St. Mary's News

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: Rosary and Legion Prayers on Tuesday Evenings at 6pm.

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

This week the candle will burn 'In Thanksgiving and Hope to the Sacred Heart, St Jude and St Raphael.

Clock Fund Update: A big thank you from Fr Tom and the parish council to all of those who have contributed to our fundraising for the Clock Appeal. All donations great and small are very much appreciated. This week we received a huge donation from a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous, which will go a long way towards ensuring that the work can go ahead soon, and without drawing too heavily from parish funds. We cannot thank this person enough for their amazing generosity.

The Tablet: Many of you may be familiar with this established Catholic magazine which is published monthly. We've been sent a few copies this month on a trial basis which are on sale at the back of the church for £6. If there's sufficient interest, we'll consider getting a regular subscription for the parish.

Welcome Thursday: The church hall will be open from 10.30am on Thursday's for anyone to pop in for a coffee after Mass. Lunch from 12 noon normally consisting of soup with fresh

baked bread rolls, Corn beef pie, sausage or bacon sandwiches as well as cakes, biscuits, tea & coffee. Transport can be provided if needed. We are also looking for more volunteers.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Flowers

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

Congratulations: To Michael Baker and Agnieszka Janina Przeworska on the Celebration of their Marriage at St Patrick's on Saturday 26th August 2023.

300 Club: Payments are now being taken for the next 12 months. The first draw for 2023/24 will take place on the last Saturday of October. Please put your payment of £12 per year, per number in either cash or cheque and post through Presbytery letterbox. Cheques payable to St Patrick's. Last year we collected £1440. £740 was paid out in prizes and £700 was paid into church funds. The more members we have the bigger the prizes. Envelopes for payment can be found at the back of the church. For further information contact Clare 591842, Christine 504870, Josie 588718. Thank you to everyone who supported the 300 Club in 2022/23.

Used postage stamps: The Little Sisters of the Poor are very grateful for the used postage stamps. To date they have been able to donate over £20,000 to the Sisters which more recently has provided them with much needed funds.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Flowers

The collection for Social and Welfare, last week, realised £109. Thank you for your generous 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. Your donations can be deposited in the named tin at the back of the church.

Cemetery Fund: The fund is 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 the church. Thank you for your support.

St Pius News

Collection: This week – Flowers

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

Holy Rosary: Will be said in Church on the last Monday of the Month. The next one will be on Monday 28th August 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.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week –Flowers

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ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Thomas Christopher Kiernan, Martin Regan, Theresa Newbould, Winifred Lishman, Margaret Costello, Sister M Patrique O'Donnell, Thomas McAleer, Anne Smith, Richard Zima, Peggy Grayson, Brian Anthony Skelton, Dominic Johnson, Margaret Byrne, Lawrence Armstrong, George Fisher, Frank Sheekey, Joanne Hird, Thomas Seaton, Theresa Marie Hutchinson, Richard Nevin, Patricia Brittan, Bernard Mullen.

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

St. Patrick's: Marie Campbell, Thomas Murray, David Lumley, Theresa Askew, 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, James Stanyer, James Bramwell.

St Pius: James Bramwell, William Fairbairn, Mary Fortunato and William Young

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

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, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Ged Hester, Terry Curran, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Catelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reilly, Judith Hindmarsh, Geraldine Donnelly, Andrew Bates, Patrick Lynch, Jean Walls, Seamus Doran, 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, Jade Telford.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson.

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