

24th Sunday Of The Year - 17th September 2023



The Power of Forgiveness

In today's gospel Jesus asks us to forgive seventy-seven times, that is, our forgiveness should be unlimited.

Our Christian faith asks us to do some very difficult things, all of which go against our natural instincts. Jesus asks us to turn the other cheek, we are to put ourselves last and most difficult of all, we are to forgive those who do wrong against us.

Let's face it, the majority of us are more like St. Peter than Jesus. When he asks Jesus "how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" there is a hint that we like Peter might grudgingly forgive sometimes but hey, we're certainly not going to be a pushover. Jesus' answer forces Peter and all of us into a whole other ballpark. There are no limits to forgiveness: "*Not seven*" he says, "*but seventy-seven times*".

So why should we forgive? Because that is what God has done for us. God has offered us all a fresh start by forgiving us. Remember those amazing words of Absolution we hear when we go to Confession: "God, the father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins."

Today's gospel is a tough one. Forgiving others is perhaps one of the most difficult things Christians are asked to do. Yet it makes perfect sense. By forgiving we rid ourselves of the burden of bitterness and resentment. We experience a sense of freedom and relief. Forgiveness also works wonders for the person who is forgiven. He or she is free to walk again in friendship with God and with the person he or she has hurt.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Deacon Chris Callan

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

Deacon Shaun McGee

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: For St Patrick's, Our Lady and St Joseph's and St Pius began on Thursday 7th September at St Pius X, Moorside from 6.45pm until 8.30pm. Places are still available. 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.

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.

Partnership Confirmation Programme 2023/2024: Sign up meetings will take place on Saturday 23rd September at 7pm at All Saints Church Lanchester or Sunday 24th September at 7pm at St Patrick's Church Consett.

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 Mary's Convent Care Home: The Grandson of the late Bill and Chris Storey is trying to raise funds for the outside areas of St Mary's Convent in order to make the outdoor areas more accessible for the residents and will be doing a trek in the Himalayas in October. If you would like to sponsor him with a donation please go to WWW.gofundme.com and search for 'St Mary's Convent Residential Care Home' where all the details are available.

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.

Alpha Course at St Teresa's: On Monday 25th September at 7pm. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith in a relaxed and friendly setting. Each session will include food, a talk and group conversations. Alpha is open to anyone no matter what their background or faith experience, there is no charge and no demands – just come along and bring a friend! If you want to know more please email Helen at helenmargarethunt@gmail.com or lanchester.allsaints@rcdhn.org.uk for more information or check out the alpha website – www.alpha.org.uk To sign up please see the information at the back of Church.

"Calling all knitters!: Christmas will be upon us before we know it! This year, there is a choice between 3 knitting patterns: Christmas Trees; Christmas Bells and Christmas Stockings. Be as creative as you like! If we get enough, we can share completed items with our parishioners who are in hospital, or in local care homes. You can collect free knitting patterns from Wendy in the Parish Office. Many thanks". Maggie Quinn

Around The Diocese

Days of Reflection and Liturgical Formation Courses Autumn 2023:

DAYS OF REFLECTION: *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* 23rd 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 9th October | 2 sessions | St Aidan's, Benton

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

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear: **Joe Ronan** speaking about **Catholic Voices at St Mary's Church Hall, Cullercoats on Wednesday 27 September at 7.30pm.** Catholic Voices is a project which aims to improve the Church's representation in the media, above all in news programmes and debates. It trains speakers via its national speakers' training programme. In the last few years, it has also trained speakers to give talks in parishes about the Catholic Voices method and how to use it to talk about controversial issues involving the Church. Joe Ronan has been with Catholic Voices since 2013 and is Chair of Trustees for the charity.

St. Mary's News

Collection: This week – Mission Sunday Next week - SVP

Lately Deceased: Tom Page and Frank Armstrong. 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: 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.

Lions Club Town Raffle: Tickets will be on sale over the next few weeks £1 Ticket or £5 a book. Please could you take a few books for friends and family. Proceeds will go to parish funds.

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 – Mission Sunday Next week - People's Kitchen

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

Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers for the following Roles

Parish Council - we meet on a monthly basis to discuss events and services for St Patrick's.

Finance: we are looking to expand our finance committee which meets twice a year where we discuss the finances for the church and make decisions on purchases and maintenance that is required.

Counters - we are looking for counters to count the Sunday Collection ideally to set up a rota on a Monday morning.

Readers - to read on a Sunday morning training will be given and will be on a rota basis.

Church Hall - to help with social events making teas, coffees, waiting on tables and the bar.

300 Club August Winners:

£20. No.2 Marie Lightfoot £10. No.66 Michael Halkyard £10. No.71 Amanda McNally

Payments are now being taken for the next 12 months. 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.

St Patrick's Parish First Holy Communion Programme: Applications can be collected from School or the Presbytery from the 17th September. There will be an information meeting for parents on Monday 25th September at 7pm in St Patrick's Church. Application forms must be handed in at this meeting. First Holy Communion is offered to children who are school year 4 or above and are baptised Catholics

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week – Mission Sunday Next week - People's Kitchen

The collection for Catholic Education realised £130. Thank you for your generous support.

Volunteers: We have a shortage of Readers among those people who regularly attend the Saturday Night Brooms Vigil. We would be grateful if you would like to volunteer as a Reader. Training will be given if required. See Fr John in person or telephone 01207 502196.

We are also looking to expand our finance committee which meets twice a year where we discuss the finances for the church and make decisions on purchases and maintenance that is required.

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 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 the church. Thank you for your support.

St Pius News

Collection: This week – Mission Sunday Next week - Social and Welfare

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 25th September at 6pm.

Discovering the Bible Course: Will begin on Monday 11th September at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Statue of Our Lady: Anyone interested in having the Parish statue in their home for a period of time please indicate your interest by contacting Imelda Slane. 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 – Mission Sunday Next week - SVP

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: John Quinn, Samuel Charles Love, Catherine McGuckin, Edward Shannon, Amy Margaret Jones, Stuart Aitchison, Francis Connor, Teresa Morris, William Glancy, Catherine Akers, Lloyd Nixon, Christopher Dodd, Alice May Daly, Robert Sedgewick, Marian Golightly, Bridget Platt, John Luck, Joseph Malone, Robert bell, Margaret Copeland, Ethel Maud Munro, Canon Francis Kearney, Sylvia Walters, Pauline Maria Toner, William Norman Black, Mary Lisle, Thomas Edward Davis.

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: 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, Joseph Rennoldson, Joan Malpass, Mary Hutton, Dorothy Convery.

St Pius: Doreen Brown, Matthew Carter, Benjamin Townson.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Catherine Clark, Joseph Gill, Alby Allen, Ann Lucy, John Price.

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, Olive Robinson.

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, Bob Parkin, Muriel Steele.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson.

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

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.'

Prayer For Ukraine

O God in this time of violence. We call 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 care givers 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.