

## 28th Sunday Of The Year - 15th October 2023



### God's Invitation

We all receive invitations at some time or another - to weddings, to birthday parties, or even just a simple invitation for a drink at the local pub.

When we are young we have much more energy and any invitation sounds like a good offer. But when middle age and beyond strikes, a night in usually sounds much more attractive than a night out. It's perhaps a case of a night in front of the TV being preferable to a night on the tiles.

The trouble is when an unwanted invitation comes we tend to find an excuse if we don't want to attend. Sometimes our excuses can sound rather implausible. A more serious problem is that some of us are just as likely to make excuses when it comes to our life with God.

As human beings, God gives us the power and freedom to choose. We are free to abuse this freedom, and choose to say no to committing ourselves fully to God.

This is what this Sunday's parable is all about: how we respond to God's invitation. The good news is that God's generous invitation is open to all. The bad news about this parable is that it highlights our tendency to make excuses in response to God's invitation and a tendency to turn our backs or take him for granted.

Today's readings ask us to raise our sights and shake off that complacency and indifference. Beyond this present life, God intends a wonderful future for all of us. In this present life too God is inviting us to a deeper and more authentic way of living. He is inviting us to an intimate life with himself. He is inviting us into loving community with others.

God is waiting for a response to his invitation. Let's not turn him down.

**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 Is held every Thursday 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.

Alpha Course at St Teresa's: If you want to know more please email Helen at [helenmargarethunt@gmail.com](mailto:helenmargarethunt@gmail.com) or [lanchester.allsaints@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:lanchester.allsaints@rcdhn.org.uk) for more information or check out the alpha website – [www.alpha.org.uk](http://www.alpha.org.uk) To sign up please see the information at the back of Church.

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](http://WWW.gofundme.com) and search for 'St Mary's Convent Residential Care Home' where all the details are available.

"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:

*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.

Holy Island Camp: Holy Island Vinnies Camp is looking for new helpers to help in their kitchens on Holy Island. The Camp runs holidays for many of our Catholic Schools in the North East during the months of April to July and then September to November, but relies on volunteers to do caretaking duties and kitchen helpers to wash up, serve meals and help prepare light meals, salads and sandwiches etc for the groups staying on site. Commitment can be as little as a few days a year or more if you are able to and willing!

The Saving and Transforming Power of the Cross - An introduction to Passionist Spirituality  
Saturday 28th October 10am till 5.00pm: In advance of our celebration of the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the first Passionists at Minsteracres in 1949 we are hosting a day in which we will explore the founding principles of Passionist spirituality. Consisting of a mix formal presentations and time for reflection the day will end with the celebration of mass ( Vigil mass of Sunday). There is no charge for the day and we hope as many possible will be able to join us in exploration of the pillars of the Passionist charism and what it means for us as Christians today. Tea and coffee will be provided ( donations welcome ) please bring a packed lunch.

Please let the office know on 01434 673248 or email [info@minsteracres.org](mailto:info@minsteracres.org) if you would like to attend.

### **Partnership Social Events**

Raised on Songs and Stories: on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in the Demi from 12-2.30pm.  
More information on the Notice Board.

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 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.

The Men in Black: On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in The Kennedy Care Centre (St Mary's church hall).

Harrogate Christmas Shopping Trip Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023: We would like to invite Parishioners across the partnership to join us in a trip to Harrogate on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. It will be first come first served. The cost of the journey will be £15 per person and must be paid for when booking a place. Sign up forms are at the back of Church.

### **St Mary's News**

Collection: This week – SVP                      Next week - World Mission Sunday

Lately Deceased: Doreen Boyes. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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.

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 Loving Memory of Frank Bradley'

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.

Town Raffle: Thank you to all who have taken Town Raffle Ticket books. Can you please return counterfoils and money as soon as possible. Thank you.

Thank You: The recent Consett Lions concert for the 'Town Clock's' raised an amazing £1330 which will be split equally between St Mary's, Blackhill and Christ Church, Consett (£665 each). A big thank you from Consett Lions for all of your support in making the concert a big success.

First Holy Communion Programme: will begin soon. If you have a child in the Parish who would like to join the programme please contact Collette on 07955284076.

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.

### **St Patrick's News**

Collection: This week – Social & Welfare                      Next week - World Mission Sunday

Lately Deceased: Joan Richardson. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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

Volunteers: Thank you to all the volunteers who have come forward to help in the various roles throughout the Church. We are looking for even more volunteers to enable us to have a rota so please let Fr John know if you can help in any way.

300 Club: 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.

### **Our Lady and St Joseph's News**

Collection: This week – Peoples Kitchen                      Next week - World Mission Sunday

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. Thank you for your very generous support.

Cemetery Fund Donations: The final total for the cemetery fund was £1,070. Thank you for your generous support in helping maintain our church cemetery.

Volunteers: Thank you to all the volunteers who have come forward to help in the various roles throughout the Church. We are looking for even more volunteers to enable us to have a rota so please let Fr John know if you can help in any way.

### **St Pius News**

Collection: This week – Social & Welfare                      Next week - World Mission Sunday

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

Holy Rosary: Will be said in Church on the last Monday of the Month. Next one will be on 30th October.

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.

October 100 Club Winners:

£30 Ted Kerr (50)                      £20 Sheila Clifford (43)                      £10 Kathleen Clarke £10 (52)

Christmas Craft Day @ St Pius; Tuesday 24th October 10am to 3pm. For all our young people. Come and join us for a fun day creating preparing for Christmas: Tree Decorations, Advent Wreath, Card Making and more. Lunch and snacks provided.

### **Our Lady of the Rosary News**

Collection: This week – SVP                      Next week - World Mission Sunday

Lately Deceased: Doreen Boyes. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Readers: We are looking for volunteers to read at the Sunday Mass. Please contact Fr Tom.

First Holy Communion Programme: will begin soon. If you have a child in the Parish who would like to join the programme please contact Collette on 07955284076.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Cecilia Thirlwell, Ursula Bell, Thomas Campbell, Mary Hogg, Conor Robinson, Jane Smith, Ellen White, John William Barrie, James Ronald Johnson, Hannah Conney, Mary Campbell, Ada Malone, Ellen Shotton, Peter McGuckin, Mary Hogg, Morris Atkinson, George Teasdale Rutter, Joseph Dunne, Francis Grimes, John Williams, Michael Cant, Michael McNally, Raymond Allan, Maureen Fox, Martin Glancy, Peter Donnelly, Sister Brendan Madge Page), John Guthrie Aitchison, Gerald Kenneth Toole, Ernest Dennis Haswell.

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: Madge Davis, Richard Harrop, Nancy McCourt, Mary Hogg, John Andrew Boyle, Hannah Conney, Michael Slee, Elizabeth Burns, John Lee, Margaret Hughes, Dennis Smith, Annie Rowell, Jimmy Hagan, Kevin Curley, Kitty Westgarth, Bryan Woods, Sheila Gibson, Terry Carr, Jane Pratt, Terence Sewell, Maria Rodrigues, Horace George Burr, Marie Rafferty, Michael Byrne, Joseph McKenna, Mary Wilson, Philomena Lee, David Webb, Margaret Alice Bowman.

St Pius: Mary Hanson, Thomas Irving, Mary Jeffreys, Joseph McNally.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Violet Muldowney, Maria Connolly, Michael Richardson, Owen Clark, Madge Price, Joseph Christopher Fountain, Richard O'Connor, Rose Callaghan, Jack Shannon, Eleanor Parker, Sheila Gibson, Pauline Wilson, Austin Fail, Ann Marie Gill, Rosemary Naylor, Kathleen Teresa Janson-Smith, Olwen Dodd, Georgina Herdman, Marie Hughes, Graeme Jon Dimmick

## **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, Austin Lawrie.

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, 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.