

29th Sunday Of The Year - 22nd October 2023



Whose Head Is It Anyway?

You see it all the time. In public life we see notable figures getting in trouble when opponents or journalists try to trip them up about something. In doing so they want to use a discovery of fault or weakness as a weapon to try to blow up the position or argument of the person under attack. You know the kind of thing: a politician being asked if they know the cost of a loaf, a union official being asked how much they earn, a footballer with an opinion about who owns the club he plays for. There are many other examples and they happen in our private lives as well, how often do we try to find a personal weakness in another to justify our own position or excuse our faults.

The Pharisees, who see Jesus as a threat at many levels, try to trick him into hypocrisy and so uncover a flaw they can exploit. "Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" They think he is getting too big for his boots (or is it too significant for his sandals) and see this as a way of cutting him down to size. It is possibly the most unsubtle verbal trap they ever try to set for Jesus.

His reply, confirming that this is reasonable, the more well known translation is "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's", also gives us something much more important. He also affirms that our very first duty is to serve God, and to give God what is due. That is possibly the nub of challenge we live through every day: how do we do that, how do we navigate the needs of the world and yet first of all serve God. Our challenge is to live our faith in both our words and our acts, to avoid the type of hypocrisy the Pharisees were accusing Jesus of whilst being guilty of themselves.

"Do not have Jesus Christ on your lips, and the world in your hearts."

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 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:

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 if you would like to attend.

Partnership Social Events

Raised on Songs and Stories: on Wednesday 25th 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 7th 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.

Harrogate Christmas Shopping Trip Thursday 23rd November 2023: We would like to invite Parishioners across the partnership to join us in a trip to Harrogate on Thursday 23rd 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. LAST CHANCE ONLY A FEW SEATS AVAILABLE.

Partnership Christmas Lunch: Tuesday December 12th 12.30pm to be held at the Jolly Drivers, Leadgate £5 deposit per person on booking. 2 Courses £17.95 or 3 Courses £23.95. Menus are available (starter to be chosen when paying deposit) at the back of church along with envelopes which can be handed into the Parish Office at St Patrick's and St Mary's. Please Book Early Number of Places are Limited.

Partnership Pantomime Consett Empire – Jack and the Beanstalk: We have made a block group booking at the Consett Empire for the Pantomime “Jack and the Beanstalk” on Friday 29th December Matinee at 3pm. Tickets are £13 each and are on a first come first served basis. Envelopes are available at the back of church and the full money must be paid before the space is booked.

St Mary's News

Collection: This week – World Mission Sunday Next week - Clergy Training Fund

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.

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 07955 284076.

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 – World Mission Sunday Next week - Clergy Training Fund

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: LAST CHANCE 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.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 9th December from 1pm: We would be grateful for any items to make our annual Christmas Fayre a success. We are particularly looking for donations of wines and spirits for our bottle draw, toiletries and gifts for the tombola and good quality (complete) new or used toys and games. Donations can be left in the box in the church porch or handed in to the presbytery on a Monday, Thursday or Friday 9am – 4pm. Cakes and baked goods for the cake stall can be brought on the day. Thank you.

St Nicholas Candles for the Holy Souls: Available in Church £3 each

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week – World Mission Sunday Next week - Clergy Training Fund

Lately Deceased: Peter Charles McKeown. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Collections: The collection for The People's Kitchen raised £131. Thank you for your support.

The collection for CAFOD totalled £304. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

St Pius News

Collection: This week – World Mission Sunday Next week - Clergy Training Fund

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.

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 – World Mission Sunday Next week - Clergy Training Fund

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: Thomas Oliver Gleghorn, 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

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: Thomas Bushby Snr., William Creegan, Ethel Dickinson, Anne Fergus, Stuart Mark Foster, Margaret Southern.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Michael Richardson, Owen Clark, Madge Price, Joseph Christopher Fountain, Richard O'Connor, Rose Callaghan, Jack Shannon, Austin Fail, Ann Gill, Rosemary Naylor, Marie Hughes.

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.