

x3rd Sunday of the Year - 21st January 2024



Fishing for Christ

Fishing for Christ *“Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”* Just as Jesus called his first disciples over 2000 years ago, he continues to call us to follow him. As we reflect on this beautiful Gospel account, let us focus on one particular aspect – the fact that Jesus uses the image of being a *‘fisher’*. It is interesting to note, that as he is calling actual fishermen, he uses their own language.

There is a deep spiritual insight that can be gleaned from this, namely, that Christ uses what we bring to the table, to serve him and the Church. While fishing may seem unrelated to being an apostle, Jesus does not downplay their past experience. He invites them to bring all of the gifts and talents that they’ve received from God, but instead of using it for their own gain, to use it to gain souls for Christ.

So too as followers of Jesus, we can sometimes think that God can only use us if we’re already perfect disciples, or have degrees in theology, or extensive training in ministry. However, the Lord wants us to bring all of our experiences, even our personal and professional backgrounds, to serve him. If we have backgrounds in finance or accounting, we can use that to help assist various parish ministries. Likewise, if we have experience as a teacher, we can utilise those gifts through various catechist or RCIA groups. This is the heart of discipleship – to recognise that we all bring our own particular gifts that can be used to serve Christ. Let us reflect on our own gifts, and graciously heed the call to become *“fishers of men,”* each in our own way.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

Deacon Chris Callan

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon David Westgarth (Retired)

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.

Mass Intentions: Just to remind parishioners that Mass intentions need to be requested at least '3 months' beforehand. If not using the Mass envelopes provided could you please remember to name the church you would like the Mass said.

Lourdes Partnership Pilgrimage 2024: The Pilgrimage to Lourdes is full. Unfortunately we could not accommodate everyone who handed forms in but those people are on the reserve list. A meeting was held on Friday 19th January an update will be given in next weeks Newsletter.

Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2024: The annual pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Friday 16th to Monday 19th August 2024. The cost will be approximately £330.00 standard and £385 ensuite. There has been a radical change in the booking system with the deposits increasing considerably. I need to have confirmed numbers and deposits paid by the end of January so would those wishing to take part in the pilgrimage please contact me Jim McArdle on 501938 as soon as possible. A deposit of £150 standard and £180 ensuite is payable on booking.

Around The Diocese

Come And See: Priestly Vocation Discernment Evenings 2024 for men aged 18+ who think God might be calling them to serve, the next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 between 6-8pm to be held at St Joseph's Stanley. More information on the notice board.

"CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."

Little Sisters of the Poor - Job Vacancies: Exciting opportunities are now available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for care assistants and nurses. Hours available: Care Assistant: Shifts are 8am-3pm, 3pm-9pm Nurse: Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm. Excellent rates of pay. For more information please contact Lee-Marie Thornley on 07856256095 or email lee.marie@lsplondon.co.uk

YMT led Confirmation Retreat at the Emmaus Village -January 26 – 28 2024: There are still places for your Confirmation group to join other Confirmation candidates across the Diocese in exploring our faith, the Church, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In this YMT led Confirmation Retreat, there will be time for fun, faith, and food during these days of retreat. If you are a catechist and want to book your group, please contact nsalked@ymt.org before January 19, 2024.

Vacancies – Opportunities to work at the Emmaus Village: The Emmaus Village, home for the Youth Ministry Team, hosts all the residential retreats led by YMT for our Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools. We are looking for an Assistant Catering Coordinator and Kitchen

Technician, who will help our catering team deliver this valuable service to all the groups that come to the Emmaus Village. If you or someone you know wants to be part of the YMT team, please contact admin@ymt.org or click the link www.ymt.org/vacancies.

World Leprosy Day 2024: On Sunday 28th January 2024, we mark World Leprosy Day and are asking for your kind donations. The John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS) endeavours to continue and uphold the legacy of John Bradburne, 'Servant of God' who was a Franciscan layman, who cared for the leprosy patients living at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe for the last 10 years of his life until he was murdered. JBMS helps to provide essential items to the community at Mutemwa. Leprosy is a curable disease, but unfortunately the stigma and lack of education associated with the disease, means people do not get treated early enough to prevent the development of disabilities. Together with your kind support and prayers we continue our promise to uphold John Bradburne's legacy in supporting those living at Mutemwa with leprosy.

Youth Ministry Conference – February 3, 2024: This Youth Ministry and Practical Theology Conference is YMT's first conference since the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to gathering with youth ministers, catechists, clergy, teachers, staff and volunteer co-workers from across the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and beyond! The theme for the conference is "Investing in the Fearlessness of Youth", inspired by a quote from Pope Francis' letter, Christus Vivit (Chapter 7 no. 233). We hope you can join us for this Youth Ministry Conference. Booking is still open and you can either email nsalkeld@ymt.org or book online here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam. Online booking will apply booking fees. We are looking forward to welcoming keynote speaker, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson, Director of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, an international project based at St John's College, Durham, who will explore how we can engage young people in the Gospel when we live in a world of science. We are also pleased to welcome back David Wells, international speaker, best-selling author and friend of YMT, to guide us to reflect on our theme. For more information about the conference visit www.ymt.org/ymt-conference

St Mary's News

Collection: This week - SVP

Next week - Racial Justice

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

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.

Sanctuary Candle: This week the candle will burn In Loving Memory of Michael and Molly Glancy

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.

300 Club: Thank you to all who supported the 300 club in 2023. The subscriptions for 2024 are now due. Collecting after Masses over the next few weeks, or see Jimmy. New members are urgently needed, see Jimmy for a number. Thank you all.

Lets Celebrate - Shrove Tuesday: 13th February in JFK Centre doors open 3.30pm. Hot Dogs, Pancakes and a cold drink. Raffle and Tombola. Competition prizes on Air Hockey Table. Karaoke and Pancake Tossing! Doors open 3.30pm. Tickets £4 each or £12 per family of four.

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

Collections: Social and Welfare Next week - Racial Justice

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

Funeral Arrangements Patrick Page: Patrick's funeral will be held at Mountsett Crematorium on Tuesday 23rd January at 2pm.

Thank You: Please accept our grateful thanks for the cards and good wishes that we received on our recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary. A special thanks to Fr. John for a lovely Mass that we were able to see a recording of. Joan and John Willis.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: Social and Welfare Next week - Racial Justice

Thank you for your generosity, a total of £162.50 was raised for the White Flower Appeal (SPUC)

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.

St Pius News

Collections: Social and Welfare Next week - Racial Justice

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 29th January 2024 at 6pm

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

Children's Liturgy: is held on the first Sunday of every month.

January 100 Club Winners £30 Lisa Elliott (No 49), £20 Linda Dodd (No 62) £10 Helen Moore (No 11)

Volunteers needed: for Altar Flower Rota any help will be greatly received no experience is necessary. If you can help please speak to Christina Parkin.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week - SVP Next week - Racial Justice

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Arthur Austin Corr, Robert Orr, Elizabeth Kelly, Victor Anthony Breen, Dominik Parebski Margaret Rogan Edward Malpass Eileen Turner, William Austin Cheeseman, Celia Bell, Anne McGeary, Patricia Cassidy, Margaret Ann Corr, Jenny Quinn, Joseph McGuigan, Margaret McElhone, Eddie Clark, Isabelle McArdle, Joan Margaret Quinn, Mary (Millie) Meegan, Patrick Christopher Riggs.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Margaret Mary Nicholson, Elizabeth Bowery, Mark Bradley, Michael Healey, Terry Bowery, Maureen McKie, William Hannah, Michael Baker, Fr. James Burke

St. Patrick's: Joseph Hughes, Kathleen Winter, Veronica Sheekey, Alice Dyer, James McCourt, Michael Glancy, Paul Testo, Frederick Panting, Mary Wass, Joe Hegarty, Paul McCourt, Jennifer Enne, Louisa Maughan, Cathy Panting, Joseph Butler, Mary Elizabeth Ridley, Mary Whitfield, Margaret Carter, Margaret (McNally) Million, Colin Gibson, John O'Hanlon, Mary Curran, Anne McInnes, Winifred Callon, Barbara Ann Quinn, Margaret Thompson, Barbara Raw, Neda Rossi, Patrick Edward Smith.

St Pius: Doreen Atherton, Dennis Kennedy, Robert Orr, Pauline Pearson,

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Edward Grogan, Anthony Fountain, Joseph Liddel Snr. Gerard McCabe, Doreen Peveller, Thomas Williamson, Brian Gregerson.

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, Mary Guy, Joan Sewell, Mary Kilty.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reily, Judith Hindmarsh, Geraldine Donnelly, Andrew Bates, Patrick Lynch, Jean Walls, Sienna Jane McNestry, Austin McDonald

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Keith Elliott, Derek Hicks, Paul Hunt, 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.