

4th Sunday of the Year - 28th January 2024



The Voice of Authority

This weekend's readings are concerned with power of God's Word. In our First Reading, Moses predicts that God will send another prophet to succeed him—one like himself, who has the authority to speak on God's behalf, and to issue commands that God's people must obey. He also warns of severe punishment for any would-be prophet who misrepresents God's will. In the Second Reading, St. Paul gives some advice to the Corinthians about marriage. But, perhaps mindful of Moses' warning, he makes it clear that he is only giving his own opinion and not speaking for God. Then, finally, in our Gospel Reading, Jesus proves his own divine authority both through the power of his Gospel teaching and through casting out unclean spirits by forcing them to obey his commands.

The Bible tells us that God essentially brought the whole of creation into being through speaking, and that all things are subject to the power of his Word. Angels and human beings are the only exceptions because God chose to give them the gift of free will. This was necessary because he wanted us to share his love, and love requires freedom. Unfortunately, this also means that we can choose not to love in the way that God intends. And, every time we do this, it is a sin. Jesus came partly to give us an example of what it is like for a human being to choose God's love in every aspect of life. He also offers us grace to empower us in our own efforts to follow that example. But, if we want to be saved, we must consistently make the choice to respond to God's Word: to keep our hearts open to grace, and to follow the commandments of love as well as we can.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Deacon Chris Callan

Deacon Shaun McGee

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

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: We have had our first meeting for the Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Thank you for all who attended and confirmed their booking. We will let you know when the next meeting will be.

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.

Sunderland Empire Musical Six: From the West End to Broadway, the international smash hit musical Six is on its Tour and we have negotiated 30 seats at Sunderland Empire on Wednesday 3rd July at 5pm in the Dress Circle. The tickets have been discounted from £49 to £43. Following the Show the coach will take us to the coast for fish and chips or even a ride on the shows. Numbers are limited on a first come first served basis . If you are interested and would like to go please hand in to St Patrick's Parish Office the Envelope provided at the back of church with your ticket money included on or before the 22nd February 2024. Bus fare collected nearer the time will be approximately £7.50 per person. Contact Christina Parkin 01207 509541.

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 13th February 2pm at St Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too as there will be bingo and a raffle everyone is welcome.

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

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 .

Youth Ministry Conference – February 3rd, 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 – Racial Justice

White Flower Appeal: Many thanks for your contributions to this appeal which raised £225.28.

Lately Deceased: Mary Kilty. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Cande: Will burn In Loving Memory of Frank Bradley.

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.

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: This Week: Racial Justice

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

Lately Deceased: Vincent Sullivan. Please pray for him and his Family at this sad time.

Novena to the Holy Face: The Novena to the Holy Face of Jesus for 2024 begins this year on Sunday, February 4th. The Feast of The Holy Face of Jesus will be celebrated on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th, with 10am Mass at St. Patrick's, Consett. There will be an opportunity to receive an individual blessing with Holy Face Oil following this Mass, and also a Holy Face Stall will be available. All are welcome. [See poster for details]. Maggie Quinn [01207] 506425.

Holy Infant of Prague: Items associated with The Holy Infant of Prague Devotion will be on sale after 9.30am Mass on Sundays at St. Patrick's, Consett at the front of the church.

Lenten Soup Lunches: This year the soup lunches will be on each **Friday** in Lent following Stations of the Cross. Come into St Patrick's Hall for a bowl of delicious homemade soup, tea/coffee and a chat. All proceeds to go to CAFOD and St Patrick's Church.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This Week: Racial Justice

Collections: Thank you for your support, a total of £85 was raised for Social and Welfare.

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.

St Pius News

Collections: This 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.

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 – Racial Justice

White Flower Appeal: Many thanks for your contributions to this appeal which raised £119

Lately Deceased: Robert Jopling. Please pray for him and his family 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.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Melvin Gales, Edward Joyce, Joseph Bell, Carol Rose Jackson, Mary Page, Sr. Winifred Williams, William Dunigan, James Darroch, Patrick Burns, Peter McGeoghan, Elizabeth Fullen, Ann Cant, Owen McMahon, Michael Cullerton, Arthur Wren, Johnny Creegan, Agnes Creegan, Margaret Westlake, (Nancy) Ann Hannah, John Glancey, Philip Allan Dawson, James Rafferty, Mary Malone, John Page, Alan Kerridge, Lilian Kearney, James Edward Guest, Elizabeth Ann Mordue, Anthony Quinn, John Page, Bernadette Clifford, Margaret O'Neil, Julie Ann Murray, Edward Telford, Lucy Candlish.

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: Joe Bell, William Calford, Mary Donaghy, Nancy Hudson, Alan Kerridge, Catherine Reay, Ted Wilson

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Philip Jones, James McGuire, Susan Healey, Mary Patricia Hughes, Tom and Margaret McKie, Mary McGuire Francesca Griffin, George Wood Cunningham.

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.