

21st Sunday of the Year - 25th August 2024



We all get to choose

“This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?” is how our Gospel this Sunday begins. It is a reaction to the statement from Jesus that unless you eat of his flesh and drink of his blood then you cannot have eternal life. Whilst they like the idea of life in heaven the route to it is beyond their comprehension. It is an understandable reaction really.

Most of us have had a lifetime to come to an understanding about the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. Even then it can be a struggle to understand and accept, so we should have sympathy for those hearing this message for the very, very, first time.

Where we are very much in the same boat, across the two millennia that have passed, is that we too are faced with a choice. That choice is whether to accept or reject Jesus.

In St. John's Gospel these calls to choose appear many times. They are usually moments of self judgement when people weigh themselves in the balance and decide whether to believe in Jesus and have it in them to follow it through and change their own lives.

At the Marriage Feast at Cana the disciples believe, but then shortly afterwards at Passover the people in the Temple reject him; the Pharisee Nicodemus visits Jesus but wants to hedge his bets; then there is the Samaritan woman at the well who after encountering Jesus makes a wholehearted leap of faith. All make a choice.

So let us ask ourselves where we sit alongside these examples in scripture. Do we accept the good things but get unhappy when our own preferences are challenged? Do we sit on the fence, going through the motions but unwilling to really commit? Or do we grasp the Good News with both hands and make it alive through us?

It is that last option that Simon Peter takes. His journey from this point forward was not always easy, he wasn't always strong, but it does remind us to keep making the right choice whatever happens.

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.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact their parish priest Fr. Tom for St Mary's and OLOR and Fr John for St Patrick's, St Pius and The Brooms.

Fr Cornelius O'Connor - Memorial Mass: A Memorial Mass will be held at All Saints Lanchester on Friday 13th September at 7.00pm. With refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards. All are welcome.

Bible Group: Is held at St Pius every Monday at 6.30pm.

RCIA – Journey in Faith

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith? Or are you wanting to deepen your understanding of the Faith? Whether you are a practising Catholic, non-Catholic, or just curious about Jesus, the RCIA Journey in Faith course could be for you!

We are starting on Thursday 12th September at St Pius X, Moorside, where we will meet from 6.45pm until 8.30pm.

For St Patrick's, St Pius and Our lady and St Joseph's Anyone interested should contact the parish office at St Patrick's Consett on 01207 502196. We look forward to seeing you there.

For St Mary's Blackhill and Our Lady of the Rosary please contact Fr Tom at the parish office on 01207 502320.

Little Sisters of the Poor: As you will be aware from a recent 'Ad Clerum' we raise funds for the Sisters at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle. We do this by collecting & sorting used postage stamps (any period or country) foreign currency (notes & coins from any country or period), old, broken or unwanted pieces of gold & silver (even earring backs) & military medals which no longer have meaning for the families. Thank you.

Spirituality in Later Life: Commencing on Monday, September 9th and all consecutive Mondays in September there will be a DVD interactive course for those aged 60 and over entitled: "The Beloved Disciple", that will explore and celebrate Spirituality in Later Life. Each session will be in the upstairs of St Patrick's Hall from 2pm - 3.15pm. Refreshments will be available.

Whitby Day Trip 11th September: Those going on the Partnership Whitby trip from the Blackhill and Consett area please pay your £20 bus fare by 31st August. Monies can be dropped off at St. Patrick's Presbytery, Consett. Cheques may be paid to St. Joseph's church, Stanley.

York Day Trip 16th October: A Day trip to York is to be held on Wednesday 16th October more information to follow later.

Lourdes: To everyone travelling to Lourdes the Travel Packs have arrived if you would like to pick your pack up please call in to the office at St Patrick's on Monday, Thursday or Friday.

News From Around The Diocese

New Lay Leaders Course: Monday 30 September 7-9pm, Monday 7 October 7-9pm, Monday 14 October 7-9pm, Monday 21 October 7-9pm.

Saturday 2 Nov 10am-4pm (bring packed lunch)

Monday 4 Nov 7-9pm (to include a commissioning Service)

Peace Vigil for Palestine and Israel: Since January a small group from different faith backgrounds hold a vigil for peace every Saturday morning from 9.30am until 10.00am outside Hexham Abbey. You are very welcome to join us, even if it is just for 5 minutes.

St Mary's News

Collection: This week - SVP

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

Spuc's Annual pro-life Petition: this year focuses on the two-child benefit cap, which you might have heard about recently in the news. If you would like to sign the petition please pick up a card from the back of the church.

In Need of Support: If you are in need of support from the SVP 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.

Consett Lions Club Town Raffle: Please return your stubbs as soon as you can.

Breakfast Club: will resume on 1st September after Sunday morning Mass.

Saturday Night Social: 'The Whistle Testers': Thank you to all who supported us to make this a great night. £840 was raised for the JFK Centre funds. Thank you.

Chair Dance Class: in JFK Centre between 11am and 12 noon, if interested contact Isobel English or the parish office.

Welcome Thursday: Although we offer a healthy 3 course meal to all our guests it was not set up necessarily to feed those in need. Many of our guests are not in this category. We offer a meeting place for all age groups to come and spend time & make new friends in a comfortable friendly environment. For some of our guests it is the only time they leave their homes during the week and they look forward to coming. We can also arrange transport for anyone who needs it.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Welfare Fund

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: on Monday after Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion, until 12.30pm.

Lately Deceased: Dorothy Malone. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

St Patrick's Children's Liturgy: We are hoping to revive the children's liturgy during 9:15am Mass at St Patrick's on a monthly basis. If you would be interested in supporting or leading the liturgy please see Fr John. Thank you.

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.

Ushaw Flower Festival 2024: Once again St Patrick's Flower Team are participating in the festival which takes place on September 6th, 7th and 8th the theme is "A moment in Time" and lots of flower arrangers and florists will be filling the buildings of Ushaw with their interpretations. Morning, Afternoon or Evening tickets are available from ushaw.org. See the noticeboard for details of times and prices.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Welfare Fund

Recent Collections: Flowers - a total of £121 . Thank you for your support.

Thank You: The family of Richard Manley-Reeve wish to thank all who contributed very generously to the collection of £800 taken at Richard's funeral service. This money will be donated to the Durham Music Trust and Cat Protection.

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: This collection is for the upkeep of Brooms Cemetery and is now open until the end of September. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Pie and Pea Supper: in aid of Brooms Church, on Friday 13th September at 7.30pm in Leadgate Cricket Club. bingo and Raffle, Tickets £3.00.

St Pius News

Collection: This week - Welfare Fund

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 26th August 2024 at 6pm.

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

Children's Liturgy: is on holiday until September

Lions Raffle: Raffle tickets are on sale for £1 each with great prizes. St Pius will receive money back for every ticket sold.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week - SVP

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.

Spuc's Annual pro-life Petition: this year focuses on the two-child benefit cap, which you might have heard about recently in the news. If you would like to sign the petition please pick up a card from the back of the church.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Winifred Lishman, Margaret Costello, Sister M Patrique O'Donnell, Thomas McAleer, Anne Smith, Richard Zima, Peggy Grayson, Brian Anthony Skelton, Dominic Johnson, Margaret Byrne, Lawrence Armstrong, George Fisher, Frank Sheekey, Joanne Hird, Thomas Seaton, Theresa Marie Hutchinson, Richard Nevin, Patricia Brittan, Bernard Mullen, Jean Smith, Jane Johnson, George Batey, Gerard McElhone.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Dixon, Gerry Corr, Larry McKie, Ellen Clifford, David Barron, Vincent Robson.

St. Patrick's: Thomas Murray, David Lumley, Theresa Askew, John P Sheekey, Mary Fortunato, Sean Melody, Marie Therese Joyce, Aileen Marie Reilly, Larna Hobson, Gus McArdle, Andrew Hanson, Maureen Fox, Ronald Harris, Brian Murphy, Margaret Joan Furness, Oswald Johnson, Dennis McDonagh, Moira Dyer, Patricia Colburne, Kathleen Goldsmith, Rose McElhatton, James Stanyer, James Bramwell and Mary Anne Mulligan

St Pius: Hazel Cousins, Paddy Thorpe, Nicholas Townson.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Noel Clarke, Mary Williamson, Betty Dodds, Jimmy Hayes, Kirsty Dixon, Bernadette McKenna.

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, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver, Jimmy McGuigan, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Ged Hester, Terry Curran, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Katelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Margaret McDonald.

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, Joan O'Keefe, Joan Wilson, Maureen Rose.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Paul Hunt, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr, Jade Telford, Bob Parkin, Muriel Steele, Ethan O'Neil (12 yrs old).

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'*

A Prayer for Peace by Pope John Paul II

*Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence
among individuals and nations.*

*Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer
when people put their faith in weapons and war.*

*Hear my voice when I beg you to install into the hearts of all human beings
the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.*

*Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country
and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the
road of peace.*

*Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond
to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice,
to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.*

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace. Amen'