

## 31st Sunday of the Year - 3rd November 2024



### A Question of Priorities?

In this weekend's Gospel Reading, one of the scribes asks Jesus to identify the first (i.e., greatest) of the commandments. This was intended as a trap. As we see in our First Reading, Moses clearly identified the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." If Jesus had given any other answer, the Jewish leaders would have been able to dismiss him for not knowing his Scriptures. Of course, Jesus gave the correct answer. But the scribe then planned to attack him with some additional probing questions: "If you love God, why do you insult him by working on the Sabbath? Why don't you and your disciple fast? Why do you eat with unclean hands, and sit down to eat with known sinners? Aren't you usurping God when you forgive people's sins on your own authority and tell them that they don't need to offer the sacrifices that God's Law requires?"

But Jesus clearly anticipated the attack. He knew that the scribes and other Jewish leaders were very strong—at least in public—on the aspects of the law related to purity and reverence. So, before the scribe can say another word, he reminds everyone that there's a second great commandment too. God has commanded us to love each other. And we can't really keep the first commandment if we ignore that one. The Jewish leaders were presiding over a very unequal society, and not doing a very good job at all of showing love for other people. The scribe suddenly realises that he's on much weaker ground than he thought. So, he doesn't dare to ask his follow-up questions.

Unfortunately, many people these days seem to be making the opposite mistake compared to those Jewish leaders. They try to keep the second commandment and love other people. But they don't have much time for God. In truth, this isn't a simple question of which commandment should get priority. As Jesus says clearly, the two go hand-in-hand. We really need to keep them both.

***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.

Diocesan Parish Volunteer Census: The Diocese is currently carrying out a volunteer census in our parishes. This is to ensure we identify all our volunteers, to offer support and appropriate training and recognition for the important part all play in the life of our parish.

A volunteer is anyone who gives their time freely and regularly to assist anywhere within the Parish, School or Diocese.

If you volunteer within the Parish/School/ Diocese please complete one of the forms which will be available at the back of church or complete your details via the QR code.

*Volunteering is a grace from God... Volunteers are the strength of the Church.*

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!

November Charity: Fr John is going to grow a moustache for charity during the month of November and is asking for your sponsorship! The charity he is raising money for is called MOVEMBER. This charity funds ground-breaking projects to help men's health. Men are dying on average 4.5 years earlier than women, and for largely preventable reasons. A growing number of men – around 10.8M globally – are facing life with a prostate cancer diagnosis. Globally, testicular cancer is the most common cancer among younger men. And across the world, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day, with males accounting for 69% of all suicides. Envelopes for donations will be available at all our partnership churches.

Christmas Trip to Klondyke Garden Centre and Carlisle: On Wednesday 4th December.

Klondyke Garden Centre will have an array of Christmas items, as well as other items that will make perfect Christmas gifts. Carlisle offers the shops but also the historic Cathedral and Castle. The cost per person is £20.00 with the option of pick up points in Stanley, Dipton, Annfield Plain, Lanchester, Consett and Blackhill. To book your place, please contact St Joseph's office on 01207 299 012. Payment needs to be made by Sunday 24th November.

Calling all our Christmas Knitters! A poster and patterns are both available now at the back of St. Patrick's Church. Due to increased demand, we need to start early! Donations of white/brown/yellow or black wool would be gratefully received.

Sleeping Beauty Pantomime: (In conjunction with Paved with Gold Productions) St Patrick's Hall Consett Special Purchase Tickets Available for **Only £5** 23rd, 24th, 30th November and 1st December. First Come First Served. Available from St Patrick's Parish Office (Monday, Thursday and Friday).

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 5th November 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.

Partnership Christmas Lunch: Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm to be held at the Jolly Drivers, Leadgate £5 deposit per person on booking. 2 Courses £18.95 or 3 Courses £24.95. Menus are available at the back of the church along with envelopes starter is to be chosen when paying deposit and indication to be given for 2 or 3 course meal. Envelopes to be handed into the Parish Office at St Patrick's Consett, St Mary's Blackhill, All Saints Lanchester and St Joseph's Stanley. Please Book Early Number of Places are Limited.

### **News From Around The Diocese**

Oppose Assisted Suicide: Bishops are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October the House of Commons heard the first reading of a new bill on assisted suicide. The proposed legislation undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. We are a praying community. Please pray that our lawmakers will act wisely and will value human life. Please contact your local MP Liz Twist to express your feelings her contact details are

[liz.twist.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:liz.twist.mp@parliament.uk) further information can be obtained from [info@righttolife.org.uk](mailto:info@righttolife.org.uk)

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint the following vacancies: Deputy Director of Education – Full-time, term-time. Closing date: 6 November. Finance Manager – Full-time. Closing date: 8 November. Both roles are based in the Diocesan Offices of Newcastle. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

The Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle: are having a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 12pm to 3pm. Lots of stalls, home baking, Santa's Grotto, and Arts & Crafts. All are welcome.

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

Collections: This week – Kennedy Care Centre      Next Week - Clergy Training Fund

Lately Deceased: Margaret McDonald and Pat Kelly. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

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

First Holy Communion: In preparation for the '*First Holy Communion's* a weekly programme will be beginning soon, if you have a child who wishes to make their first Holy Communion, please contact Collette

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.

Volunteer Form: Please remember to fill in your form and return to office, or fill in online.

Comboni Missionaries: would like to thank parishioners for your kind donation of £484.01 collected at the recent appeal.

The Breakfast Club: will be open this Sunday after Mass and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November after Mass, Hope to see you all.

Christmas Afternoon Tea: will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Chair Dance Class: will be held in JFK Centre on Mondays between 11am and 12 noon and is a great form of exercise for over 60's and anyone with a disability. Everyone is welcome.

The Whistle Testers: will be performing in the JFK Centre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Doors open at 6.30pm, Bar, Raffle and Bingo.

Derwent Valley Flower Club: Creative Christmas Demonstration in the JFK Centre on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 2pm. Admission £8 (includes refreshments)  
Musical Evening: at JFK Centre Saturday 7th December 2024. Doors open 7pm. Featuring Mathew Coates, See notice board.

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

Collections: This week – Clergy Training Fund      Next week – Clergy Training Fund

St Patrick's Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy takes place at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of each month. This is for any children of primary school age, if you or your child may be interested in attending the liturgy, please come along (parents are very welcome to come and accompany their child). The next children's liturgy will take place on Sunday 3rd November in the Side Office of the Presbytery. Thank you.

300 Club Payments: Please don't forget to make your £12 Payment for the next 12 months.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 24th November after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

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

Collections: This week – Clergy Training Fund      Next week – Clergy Training Fund

Thank you: The family of Bob Parkin would like to thank everyone for the collection of £457 for Dementia UK.

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: This week – Clergy Training Fund      Next week – Clergy Training Fund

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 25th November 2024 at 6pm.

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

Children's Liturgy: If you would like to volunteer to help or lead the Liturgy please see Lisa Hicks.

Cleaning of Church: We are looking for volunteers to go on a rota to clean the church. Please see Mary Davey for more information.

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

Collections: This week – Kennedy Care Centre      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.

First Holy Communion: In preparation for the '*First Holy Communion's*' a weekly programme will be beginning soon, if you have a child who wishes to make their first Holy Communion, please contact Collette on 07955284076.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Mary Page, Edward McKie, Elsie Shannon, Ann Dodd, Christina Corr, Bridget Alderson, Alan Willis, Anne Lavery, Susan Bell, Rosetta May Gully, James Peter Anderson, Eileen Clare Watson, Michael McVeigh, Peter Mathew Cassidy, Joan Veronica Lewthwaite, (Baby) Luke John McCann, Anthony Grugan, Toby Rea, John McDonald, Fr. James Donnelly, Patrick Quinn.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Anne Graham (nee Barron), Ted McKie, Annie Kelly, Lyndsay Morton, Ray Watson, Eileen Mary Carr (nee Nicholson), Joseph McKie, Mary Davison

St. Patrick's: Dominic McGurk, Catherine Connelly, Hugh Malone, Catherine Donaghy, Richard Forbes, Terry Burns, Mary Burnage, Mary Theresa Hughes, Joseph Raw, Flora Nimmons, Tommy O'Neill, Mary Donaghy, Alan Foley, Gerard Slavin, Moira Reed, Brian Rogan, James Fail, Thomas Kerr, Ellen Parker, Nancy Collins, John Harpin, Stephen Fenwick, John Haggon, Bill Kennedy, Betty Mitcheson, Jeanne Marie Philips, Frances Ronald Lovett, Margaret McArdle.

St Pius: Michael Agnew, Leonard Crawley, Stuart Foster, Sheila Gibson, Catherine Hall, Nancy McCourt, William McCurley, Margaret Murphy, Flora Nimmons, Margaret Southern, James Walker, Joan Wray.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Ged Doughan, Sydney Fountain, Norman Henderson, Laura Mallon, Graeme 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, 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, Barbara Bennison, Eileen Dunstan.

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, Marg Conroy, Joan Willis.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Paul Hunt, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr, Jade Telford, 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'*