

## The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 04 November</b> <i>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</i>	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Teresa Coad and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 05 November</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
<b>Monday 06 November</b> Monday of Ordinary Time 31	NO MASS	
<b>Tuesday 07 November</b> <i>St Willibrord, Bishop</i>	12:15pm 6:30pm	Funeral Mass for <b>Teresa Parkin</b> Mass: <b>Teresa Coad</b>
<b>Wednesday 08 November</b> Wednesday of Ordinary Time 31	9:30am	Mass: <b>Marie Carey</b>
<b>Thursday 09 November</b> <i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	11:45am	Funeral Mass for <b>Joan Holmes</b>
<b>Friday 10 November</b> <i>St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor</i>	7:00am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 11 November</b> <i>St Martin of Tours, Bishop</i>	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Michael, Catherine and John Evans and pro populo</b>



### St Patrick's R.C. Church

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## 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

05 November, 2017

### "The greatest among you must be your servant."

AS I HAVE often said, we can easily become familiar with certain Gospel stories that we lose the sense of how radical the words of Jesus were to those who were present when they were uttered nearly two thousand years ago. The sentence that forms the title of this weekend's column is one such example.

We must remember how the society in which Jesus lived was very hierarchical. Though hierarchy has not exactly disappeared from modern western societies like our own, individuals today can aspire to higher social status and often achieve it through hard work and education, something which was extremely difficult, if not impossible, in ancient societies. In such societies a person usually occupied their social position till death.

Being "upwardly mobile", as we would say today, is a natural direction in which many want to move. Moving "up" in society means the allure of not only more material wealth but also more power and influence and more "lifestyle choices". A desire to move "up" is not necessarily bad however, since material wealth, power and influence can be used for good purposes as well as bad.

But Jesus, it seems, is advocating "downward mobility". This should hardly surprise us for we are well accustomed to seeing Jesus turning accepted logic on its head! We have only to look at the beatitudes to see a prime example of this. This is where the shock value is evident: Jesus is saying that those who occupy the highest echelons of society ought to seek to undertake the tasks of those at the lowest levels, the servants. And Jesus practises what he preaches. Think of Maundy Thursday and how at that Mass we recall Jesus' great act of humility in washing the feet of his disciples, the work of slaves.

Jesus is advocating, through example, "servant leadership". This style of leadership was undoubtedly foreign to those hearing his message nearly two thousand years ago and sadly, is all too rare today. To put it simply, this is the style of leadership encapsulated by the phrase: "I wouldn't ask anything of those under my authority that I wouldn't be prepared to do myself." Even this is not the full story, however. As ever, Jesus takes his principle to the extreme: to be a servant-leader is to lead by example, to actually "muck in" and do what those under your authority are being asked to do, not simply say that you would be prepared to undertake those tasks. This is the reason Jesus is critical of the scribes and Pharisees, pointing out how their style of leadership is concerned only with being admired by others rather than being prepared to truly lead by example. Their leadership imposes burdens rather than lightens them. What is asked of them and of us is humility.

Let our prayer today be for the gift of humility, acknowledging that no matter what our position in society, or in the Church, we will all one day stand naked before God in judgement.

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*

*Fr Robert*



### The Thirty-first Sunday

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin.

#### We pray for our beloved deceased, including....



Remember those who have gone before us

Teresa PARKIN (Rec. Dec.)  
Joan HOLMES (Rec. Dec.)  
Dorothy DOWDLE (Rec. Dec.)  
Teresa COAD

*Please remember in your prayers people who are sick and housebound in the parish....*

*Linda Carter, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Doreen Carroll, Margaret Pouton, Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris and Jim Patterson.*



#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 04 November

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Pauline & Ambrose Burnside  
Judith Bulmer

#### Readers

Ann Canavan  
Angela Tosley

#### Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths  
Carol Bainbridge

#### Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 11 November

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Gordon & Angela Tosley  
Angela Harmston

#### Readers

Margaret Purdom  
Claire Lavery

#### Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths  
Helen Riddles

#### Welcomers

Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

#### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £223      Loose Plate: £196

**Total: £419**

Mass Attendance: 137

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



## What's going on...?

**RIP: Joan HOLMES and Teresa PARKIN:** Sad news last week of the deaths of Joan and Teresa. Please keep their families in your prayers. The funeral details are on the back of the bulletin as usual. In summary, Teresa Parkin's funeral on **Tuesday at 12:15pm** and Joan Holmes' funeral on **Thursday at 11:45am**.

**Dorothy DOWDLE:** Pauline Burnside would like to express her sincere thanks to Father Robert for all of his care and support of her mother, Dorothy Dowdle, during her illness, and of the whole family, following Dorothy's recent death. Thanks to all those who have expressed their condolences, through words, cards, flowers and their presence at the funeral service on Monday. The family would also like to thank those who gave particular support during the lovely celebration of Dorothy's life. Father Robert, Malcolm, Bill, Arthur, Kevin, John, Irene, Greg and Jennie and the flower team - your efforts were very much appreciated. The whole family have been greatly comforted by these acts of kindness and sympathy.

**First Communion Candidates:** Once again, we welcome our six First Communion candidates and their families to Mass. This weekend the children will be recalling the importance of their baptism. Please continue to keep these children and their families in your prayers, praying in particular for the child whose name you picked a few weeks ago. It would be a lovely gesture to make yourself known to that child and their family—why not do that this weekend?

**Social Night:** The Social Committee would like to thank all those who attended the social night held on 27 October. I would personally like to thank the committee for their hard work in organising such an enjoyable evening. Well done! There are still some unclaimed raffle prizes for the following tickets: **Green ticket 606, 627, 731, 761; Yellow ticket 148, 283; and Blue ticket 69.** Please see Fr Robert or one of the Social Committee members if you have a winning ticket!

**Clergy Training Fund:** In place of the usual homily last weekend we heard a message from Bishop Séamus in relation to **this weekend's** special collection in aid of the **Clergy Training Fund**. This collection will remain open until **26 November**. Envelopes are available from the table at the back of the church should you wish to gift aid your donation. Also available are some reports outlining the contributions made by the various parishes of the diocese last year. Last year Langley Moor contributed a total of **£218.20**.

**Church Decorations and Material for Viewing:** Please note that any changes, even minor ones, to the decorations in the church, and the placement of any reading material, including pamphlets, must not be undertaken without first consulting Fr Robert. This will help avoid any tension which can often arise from people seeking to decorate areas of the church to their personal tastes and/or promote religious devotions and causes which may not accord with Church teaching. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

**St Cuthbert's Hospice Raffle:** At the rear of the church you will find a couple of books of raffle tickets in support of St Cuthbert's Hospice. Tickets are £1.00 each.

**Ushaw College Events:** Thanks to everyone for supporting our wonderful summer programme. The exhibitions in the chapel and beautifully restored museum are a great success adding even more interest for visitors. We now have our permanent Chaplain here, Canon Bob Spence, and he celebrates Mass here every Friday at 12:30pm, open to everyone.

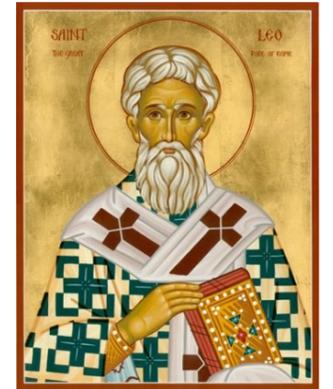
Forthcoming events include Remembrance at Ushaw on **Saturday 11 November** at 4:00pm; Lanchester Brass Band on **Saturday 11 November** at 7:30pm and An Afternoon with the War Poets on **Thursday 23 November** at 2:00pm. Refreshments available Wednesdays to Saturdays – all are welcome!

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### Pope St Leo the Great - 10 November

Leo was born in Tuscany around the year 400 and became Pope in 440. He was a true shepherd and father of souls. He constantly strove to keep the faith whole and strenuously defended the unity of the Church. He repelled the invasions of the barbarians or alleviated their effects, famously persuading Attila the Hun not to march on Rome in 452 and preventing the invading Vandals from massacring the population in 455. He left many doctrinal and spiritual writings behind which are still widely read today. He died in 461.

(Information taken from *Universalis*)



### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for November:

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

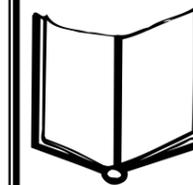
*"In all settings you find yourselves, God's love invites you to bring the Good News, making of your own lives a gift to him and to others."*



### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### **BIBLE STUDIES**

The Churches Together prayer group will meet on the **Tuesday of every third week** in the winter months in St Patrick's Presbytery, **9:30am to 10:00am**.



Also, it is St Patrick's turn to host the **Advent Course** which begins on **Friday, 24 November**. It will run for four Fridays from **2:00pm - 4:00pm**.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement to Live By

Our statement this week was, "I try to be fair and just." We discussed the need for social justice and talked about the small ways we can help bring this about.

### Visit by Father Robert

Father Robert visited pupils in Class 1 to answer their questions around dedication and service to others, in relation to his role as a priest. Pupils have explored other vocations to support their work in R.E. this term.

### First Sacraments

Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist met again this weekend. During this, their second session, the children explored the sacrament of Baptism. They join us for Mass this evening and take a special part in the celebration, during the Profession of Faith. Please keep these children in your prayers - Cassidy, Christina, Harris, Imogen, Jim and Sara.

### Masses and Liturgies

**Wednesday 08 November** at 2:30pm:  
Class 1 - Mass in the school hall

**Thursday 16 November** at 9:30am: Class 2 - Mass in church (rescheduled from 09 November)

**Wednesday 22 November** at 2:30pm: Class 2 - Mass in the school hall

Everyone is welcome!



## The Kids' Bulletin

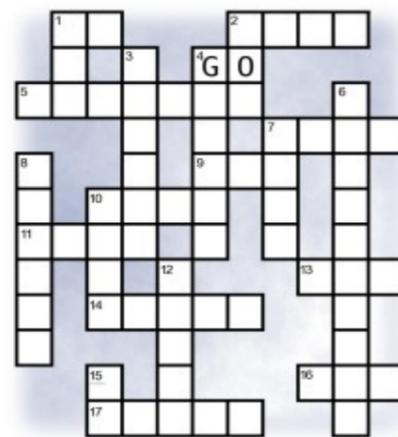
### St. Paul's Letter

#### Cross-Word

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks in today's reading from the letter to the Thessalonians and then fill in the puzzle.

A=Across  
D=Down

PROCLAIMED  
BELOVED  
TO MOTHER  
GOD GOSPEL  
THE GENTLE  
TOO HUMAN  
TOIL AMONG  
DAY NIGHT  
HER WORK  
GIVE WORD  
WITH WELL



Brothers and sisters: We were \_\_\_\_\_ (4D) \_\_\_\_\_ (12D) you, as a nursing \_\_\_\_\_ (8D) cares for \_\_\_\_\_ (16A) children. \_\_\_\_\_ (10D) such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only \_\_\_\_\_ (1D) gospel of God, but our very selves as \_\_\_\_\_ (10A), so dearly \_\_\_\_\_ (5A) had you become \_\_\_\_\_ (1A) us. You recall, brothers and sisters, our \_\_\_\_\_ (11A) and drudgery. Working \_\_\_\_\_ (17A) and \_\_\_\_\_ (13A) in order not to burden any of you, we \_\_\_\_\_ (6D) to you the \_\_\_\_\_ (3D) of God.

And for this reason we \_\_\_\_\_ (9A) \_\_\_\_\_ (2A) thanks to \_\_\_\_\_ (2D) unceasingly, that, in receiving the \_\_\_\_\_ (7D) of God from hearing us, you received not a \_\_\_\_\_ (14A) word, but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at \_\_\_\_\_ (7A) \_\_\_\_\_ (15D) you who believe.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

**...that despite the belief of many Catholics to the contrary, the existence of hell and purgatory are still part of the doctrine of the Church?**

With regard to purgatory, the Church teaches that "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven."

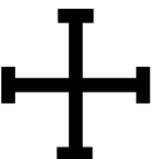
*Catechism of the Catholic Church (n.1030)*



## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Temporal punishments are suffered by some in this life only, by some after death, by some both here and hereafter, but all of them before that last and strictest judgment. But not all who suffer temporal punishments after death will come to eternal punishments, which are to follow after that judgment."

**Saint Augustine of Hippo** (354-430)  
Father and Doctor of the Church  
*The City of God*



**DON'T FORGET...**that after Mass **this weekend** we will be gathering in the school hall for our monthly fellowship, a time simply to get to know each other better over some drinks and snacks. We had a terrific turn up last time, so let's keep up the momentum!

