

The week ahead...

Saturday 12 August Saturday of Ordinary Time 18	5:00pm	Mass: Pauline Pepper and pro populo
Sunday 13 August 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 14 August <i>St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 15 August <i>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Holyday of Obligation	9:30am 6:30pm	Mass: Private Intention Mass: Margo Kelly (Rec Dec.)
Wednesday 16 August Wednesday of Ordinary Time 19	9:30am	Mass: Pat Curran
Thursday 17 August Thursday of Ordinary Time 19	9:30am	Mass: Kathleen Caisley
Friday 18 August Friday of Ordinary Time 19	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 19 August Saturday of Ordinary Time 19	5:00pm	Mass: Ray, Bridie & Bernadette Winnard and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 August, 2017

“Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.”

OUR GOSPEL this weekend, relating to us the story of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee and walking on the water, follows on immediately from the miracle of the loaves and fishes, the Gospel text we would have heard last weekend had not the Feast of the Transfiguration interrupted our normal reading schedule. There is no need for me to summarise the miracle of the loaves and fishes as it is so well known, appearing in the four Gospels a total of six times – the most often mentioned of all of Jesus' miracles. Reading directly from the Bible this weekend's Gospel, referencing the miracle of the loaves and fishes, begins with the words “Directly after this [miracle] Jesus made the disciples get into the boat...” Following the time that Jesus and the disciples spent together (along with thousands of others!) for the miracle of the loaves and fishes, they now separate. Jesus sends the crowds away and goes “up into the hills” to pray to his heavenly Father, whilst the disciples travel across to the other side of the lake. It is there that the disciples, during the turmoil of a storm on the lake, witness Jesus walking towards them on the water.

One of the struggles we have with some of the more famous incidents from scripture is that we can easily be distracted and miss something meaningful. This weekend's gospel is a clear example of this phenomenon. The incident of Jesus walking on the water is so well known that “walking on water” has become a popular phrase, used to highlight the extraordinary talents of a person; someone who is particularly gifted and has attracted the admiration of so many can be said to be one who “can walk on water.” Their abilities make them god-like in the eyes of others. On the flipside, of course, it can be used as a term of derision for those who simply believe themselves to be especially important, powerful or gifted. Either way, the familiarity of the phrase can blind us to the meaning that is contained in the text. In this weekend's gospel the miracle of Jesus walking on the water is a vehicle used to highlight the importance of faith.

The boat in the gospel is a representation of the Church. Picture the scene: the disciples are there in the boat, battling a storm, struggling to keep afloat. Jesus is nowhere to be seen. In the first few centuries of the Christian era, this experience of the Church being beset by hostile forces was not an unfamiliar one, and indeed it is not unfamiliar in this day and age. But the key point is that though the disciples were separated from Jesus physically, he was still watching over them and caring for them. He knew where they were and the struggles they were experiencing. His words, which form the title of this little reflection, were of comfort and peace.

But Peter was still not convinced. He wants to test if it is Jesus who is coming towards the boat. He walks on the water himself but as soon as he feels the wind rise up once more, he sinks. It is interesting to note that though Peter had doubts about the identity of the figure walking on the lake initially, as soon as he begins to sink he has no trouble identifying the figure as Jesus and cries out, “Lord! Save me!”

It is up to us to do our best to cultivate an ongoing relationship with Jesus at all times in our life. May we not only seek to find him when we are being buffeted by the storms of life and are sinking, but acknowledge his constant loving presence, watching over us, encouraging us and telling us that we need not fear.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert



MINISTRIES

Saturday 12 August

Eucharistic Ministers

Irene & John Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers

Maria Griffiths
Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy

(In recess during the summer holidays)

Welcomers

Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

MINISTRIES

Saturday 19 August

Eucharistic Ministers

Helen Musham, Jane Smith
Wilf Lavery

Readers

Marie Pailey
Judith Bulmer

Children's Liturgy

(In recess during the summer holidays)

Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

The Nineteenth 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....



Imelda GRAHAM (Recently Deceased)
John HOWARTH (Recently Deceased)
Joseph CONDRON
Marie MORAN
Teresa MORAN

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

Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Dorothy Dowdle, Margaret Pouton, Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris, Jim Patterson and Linda Carter.



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £276 Loose Plate: £203

Total: £479

Mass Attendance: 135

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



