

The week ahead...

Saturday 15 July <i>St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Jack & Sheila Wilkinson and pro populo
Sunday 16 July 15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 17 July Monday of Ordinary Time 15	NO MASS	
Tuesday 18 July Tuesday of Ordinary Time 15	6:30pm	Mass: Pat Curran
Wednesday 19 July Wednesday of Ordinary Time 15	9:30am	Mass: Sheila Atkinson
Thursday 20 July Thursday of Ordinary Time 15	9:30am	Mass: Pat Openshaw
Friday 21 July Friday of Ordinary Time 15	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 22 July <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Sally Thompson and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ

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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time 16 July, 2017

“Listen, anyone who has ears!”

ONE OF THE more joyful tasks of clergy is to prepare couples for marriage. This will often involve a combination of sending couples to a pre-marriage course run by married couples as well as some preparation on a more personal level by the celebrant. Regardless of how the preparation is undertaken a key topic for any couple preparing for life together is that of communication.

Of course, healthy communication is essential in any relationship if that relationship is to be enduring and fruitful. This is no less the case in our relationship with God. The problem is that for many people of faith communication with God is more about talking than listening. We share our needs, desires and deepest secrets with God, praise and thank God, plead with and appeal to God, but are less inclined to listen to the voice of God, be it when God responds to us or is a voice out of the blue.

Yet, note the final words of Jesus in today's Gospel (shorter version): “Listen, anyone who has ears!” Taken literally (always a dangerous thing to do!) the words of Jesus might sound ridiculous – after all, everyone has ears! Jesus is calling on those of us who are his disciples to listen actively to his words, to actually hear him, which will then involve some sort of a response on our part. How many of us adopt the attitude of believing that we've only been listened to properly if the person we're speaking to does as we wish? Who likes to hear the words of another when those words ask something difficult and demanding of us, or are words of dissent? How willing are we truly to listen to others, most particularly our God?

Yet that is what is being asked of us: to truly hear Jesus. This will mean listening without prejudice, with an open mind, understanding what we hear, accepting and embracing it (even the difficult stuff!) and then allowing it all to pour forth into loving actions. When this happens we know that we are the rich soil that Jesus speaks of in the parable of the sower that is presented to us this weekend. Having preconceived notions of who God is and what God would ask of us is to be something other than rich soil, likewise those who make no effort to understand the voice of God or those who fail to embrace and act upon God's voice out of laziness or fear.

Of course, this way of thinking is not limited to individuals. We must always think of biblical principles in a corporate sense, particularly as a parish. As we seek to implement the Forward Together in Hope process through our Finchale Partnership Group the first step is to stop and listen to God and to each other in order to build a vision of who God is calling us to be as a Christian presence in Langley Moor. Then, and only then, can we start to implement a plan which will build up our community as a communion of love and loving action in our local area.

And it all begins with a desire to listen...

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert



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.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £234 Loose Plate: £148

Total: £382

Mass Attendance: 115

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

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

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



The fifteenth Sunday



MINISTRIES

Saturday 15 July

Eucharistic Ministers

Jane Smith, Helen Musham, Wilf Lavery

Readers

Judith Bulmer
Marie Pailey

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers

Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

MINISTRIES

Saturday 22 July

Eucharistic Ministers

Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers

Angela Tosley
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

Special Collections

The retiring collection for **The Apostleship of the Sea** which we took up last weekend raised a total of **£187.60**. The funds go towards supporting some of the most exploited workers who work on ships which transport the goods we consume. Last weekend's retiring collection is our last special collection for a few weeks. As always, thank you for your generosity!

What's going on...?

Finchale Partnership: Event at Ushaw College: The nine parishes of the Finchale Partnership are holding our first partnership event at Ushaw **next Sunday 23rd July**. It is a chance for us to get to know each other and to pray together. The afternoon will start at 2:00pm and you are invited to bring a picnic, to join in games and activities for families, and to enjoy the grounds and the buildings at Ushaw. There will be the chance to see several exhibitions in the college, including Secret Faith, a new exhibition of artefacts made by Catholics during the 16th-19th centuries, which could be concealed as Catholicism was illegal. You can also join a guided tour (£5.00 per person) at 3:30pm, but please sign up on the sheet at the back of church, as there are limited places on the tours. The afternoon will conclude with Vespers (Evening Prayer) in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at 5:00pm. Don't miss out on the fun! **Please note:** You **do not** have to sign up to anything in order to come along and enjoy the afternoon - you only need to sign up on the sheet if you wish to join one of the tours of Ushaw.

Ordination: Please pray for Peter Stoddart who will be ordained to the priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, next Saturday, 22 July, at 11:00am.

A Parish Prayer: Included in the Partnership Guidelines of *Forward Together in Hope* is a suggestion that partnership parishes make a list of the patron saints of churches and use it at the end of Mass and at meetings and prayer groups. In considering how to take this forward, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) have suggested that we incorporate

the litany within a parish prayer. To that end, the PPC has drafted a prayer for consideration by our parishioners which will be included as a bulletin insert next weekend. The prayer is based around St Patrick's Breastplate also known as St Patrick's Hymn. The PPC would like to hear your views on the draft prayer and would welcome suggested amendments or additions, or indeed an alternative prayer. Your comments and observations can be left in the box located at the rear of the church.

Mental Health Peer Support Group: For those with mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression. Now running in Newcastle at Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle, NE1 7BJ every Thursday evening, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. This PeerTalk project is underpinned by the Methodist Church and offers a safe space to share without being judged. Be heard, respected and accepted, and receive peer support to help you work through mental health concerns.

Day of Reflection at Minsteracres: An ecumenical away-day on Saturday, 29 July. Details from Rev Rosemary Cox. Phone her on (0191) 373 1359 or rosemaryjcox@aol.com.

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Housebound: Do you know someone who lives in the parish but cannot get to Mass and is in need of the sacraments? If you know someone in this situation who is in need of pastoral care, please pass their details on to Fr Robert.

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was 'I try to be more accepting of others.'

School's Art Competition

Many congratulations to Weronika, one of our Year 5 pupils, who was selected as the overall winner for the Schools' Art Competition in the Years 5 & 6 category by the Chairman of Durham County Council and his consort.

There were also class winners from each Durham school involved in the competition.

The winners for each year class were:

Class 1 – 1st Weronika, 2nd Emily, 3rd Maddy

Class 2 – 1st Tiana, 2nd Ethan, 3rd Vanessa

Class 3 – 1st Carys, 2nd Ella, 3rd Victoria

Class 4 – 1st Max, 2nd Zachary, 3rd Jamie

All winners received book tokens and Weronika will be presented with a trophy.

Music Concert

Thank you to those who came along to our music performance on Thursday afternoon. Pupils from Class 2 (who have received tuition in playing the guitar this year), the School Choir and our Year 5 guitarists entertained us for half an hour and refreshments were served afterwards.

Next Week

Everyone is welcome to the following events, taking place next week:

Wednesday 19 July – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly at 2:30pm.

Thursday 20 July – End of Year Mass in St. Patrick's Church at 9:30am.

End of School Year

School closes for the summer break on Friday, 21 July and re-opens on Tuesday, 05 September.



The Kids' Bulletin

Isaiah 55 Unscramble

Unscramble the words to finish today's first reading!

Thus says the _____: [DRLO]

Just as from the heavens

the _____ [NIRA] and _____ [OWNS]

come down

and do not return there

till they have watered the _____, [HRATE]

making it fertile and fruitful,

giving _____ [EDSE] to the one who sows

and _____ [EBDRA] to the one who eats,

so shall my word be

that goes forth from my _____; [TOUMH]

my _____ [DOWR] shall not return to me void,

but shall do my will,

achieving the end for which I _____ [NTSE] it.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

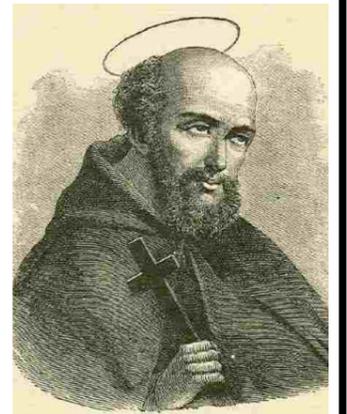
St Laurence of Brindisi - 21 July

Born in 1559 in Brindisi, joined the Capuchin Friars, and studied at the University of Padua, where he learned a number of languages and acquired a deep knowledge of the Bible.

His principal vocation was preaching. He preached all over Europe, not just to Catholics but to Protestants and to Jews. He wrote many sermons and commentaries.

His administrative talents meant that he also held a number of high administrative offices in the Capuchin order. He was also entrusted with many important diplomatic missions. On one of these, he not only persuaded the German princes to help defend Hungary from the invading Turks, but also led their troops into battle, armed only with a crucifix. He was engaged in another delicate mission, to plead the cause of the oppressed people of Naples to King Philip III of Spain, when he died in Lisbon.

(Information taken from *Universalis*)



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Peter and Gemma, parents of
Phoebe Daly Hope

and Phoebe's godparents,
Shaun, Lee and Kerry,
on her baptism here at
St Patrick's last Sunday.



I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope's Mission Statement for July: "That through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, our brothers and sisters who have distanced themselves from the faith may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life."

Annual Day Retreat: A quiet day retreat for all Christians in DH7 will take place at **Minsteracres** on **Saturday, 29 July**. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided. There will be a charge for the day.

Prayer Group: Will meet the third Tuesday of each month 9:30am - 10:00am in **St John's Church, Meadowfield**. Next meeting is on **18 July**.

DID YOU KNOW...?

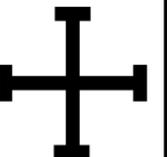
...that on some occasions there are two alternative versions of the Gospel given for proclamation at Mass?

We have such a case before us this weekend in the Parable of the Sower. The version you will hear proclaimed, and which is reproduced in the missalette, is just nine verses long (Mt 13:1-9), as opposed to the alternative which is twenty-three verses in length (Mt 13:1-23). Having alternative versions of the Gospel allows the celebrant to preach on a key aspect of the Gospel without having to proclaim a longer version which may do nothing to enhance the preached message.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"When the time for silence comes, I ask you to take up your position for prayer (and sitting is usually best for most of us) and then, having asked the help of the Holy Spirit, to be content to wait patiently, expectantly, lovingly, longingly. Try to realise that this is all you can do for yourself. God must do the rest. See yourself as the parched ground looking upwards patiently for the rain to fall. You can only wait."

Br Roger Schütz of Taizé (1915-2005)
Founder of the ecumenical Taizé
community in France



DON'T FORGET....those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights. With so much media coverage of recent terror attacks here in the UK, we can easily forget those throughout the world who suffer each day under the thumb of oppression and violence and who have no means to respond due to a denial of human rights.