

The week ahead...

Saturday 16 September SS Cornelius (Pope) & St Cyprian, (Bishop), Martyrs	5:00pm	Mass: John Howarth and <i>pro populo</i>
Sunday 17 September 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 18 September Monday of Ordinary Time 24	NO MASS	
Tuesday 19 September Tuesday of Ordinary Time 24	NO MASS	
Wednesday 20 September SS Andrew Kim, Paul Chong Hasang & Companions (The Korean Martyrs)	9:30am	Communion Service
Thursday 21 September St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	NO MASS	
Friday 22 September Friday of Ordinary Time 24	NO MASS	
Saturday 23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest	5:00pm	Mass: Bryan Cheesey and <i>pro populo</i>



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 September, 2017

“And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to...”

IT WOULD BE a strange thing indeed for a person of faith not to wonder what heaven is like. After all, we hope to spend eternity there! Fortunately, we have a loving relationship with someone who has intimate knowledge of heaven – Jesus.

The problem is however, that Jesus does not always give us the information we are expecting. This should come as no surprise! One has only to examine his responses to the Pharisees and other leaders to know that Jesus was never one to give the type of response that was desired of him. Mind you, in dealing with the Pharisees Jesus was dealing with those who were out to engineer his demise so it is hardly surprising that he avoided giving straightforward responses and so give the Pharisees ammunition to bring about his downfall.

We must bear in mind too that Jesus was not just trying to avert a confrontation with the authorities until his time was due - he was dealing with matters that are far more complex than we as humans can possibly know. Though we, as Christians, are by no means trying to trick Jesus like the Pharisees, Jesus' teaching on “what the kingdom of heaven may be compared to” seems unnecessarily abstruse to us. Why?

Simply because we probably want to know the wrong things about heaven! As human beings we are more interested in the “physical” aspects of heaven: What does it look like? Where is it? Who will be there? Will there be animals and plants there? Food and drink? Does heaven have boundaries? And so on....

Jesus, in his gentle way, corrects us with his teaching. His focus is not on the “physical” aspects of heaven (bearing in mind that there is no physical nature to heaven anyway as it is actually a “state of being”) but rather its true nature. And so we have Jesus telling us this weekend that the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a merciful king who forgives a servant an insurmountable debt. We are familiar with this parable, of course, so there is no need to repeat its main theme here, but it is important to point out that there doesn't appear to be anything particularly “heavenly” about this parable. There's no mention of angels, saints, even God! It could be, in fact, a description of a manner of behaving right here on earth, in the present age.

And surely that's the point! So often we want to understand heaven as a perfect place that exists beyond us and that we cannot possibly encounter here on earth – something we dream of and hope for. This is the problem when we understand heaven in this way, as a physical place. If we understand it rather as a state of being then we can see the connection between the teaching of Jesus and our own responsibilities as his disciples. We are called to make heaven present, if only in an imperfect form, here and now through living out the teachings of Jesus. Whenever we act charitably, with compassion, justice, generosity, selflessness and so on, we are truly making heaven present, because the state of being that exists at that moment is what heaven is made of.

And if we seek to make it present throughout our lives, perhaps we won't be so shocked if, through God's grace, we find ourselves experiencing its eternal joys after our death.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



The Twenty-fourth 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

Marie CAREY
John HOWARTH
Agnes HOWARTH
Frank McGOAY

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

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



MINISTRIES

Saturday 16 September

Eucharistic Ministers

John & Irene Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers

Angela Harmston
Maria Griffiths

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Helen Riddles

Welcomers

Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

MINISTRIES

Saturday 23 September

Eucharistic Ministers

Jane Smith, Helen Musham
Wilf Lavery

Readers

Judith Bulmer
Marie Pailey

Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies
Helen Riddles

Welcomers

Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £213 Loose Plate: £156
Total: £369

Mass Attendance: 128

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Catholic Education Collection: Thank you for your generosity in last weekend's special collection for **Catholic Education**. A total of £117.05 was collected. This weekend we will take up the special collection for **Home Mission Sunday** which supports the work of evangelisation across England and Wales.

Marie Carey RIP: Sad news this week of the death of Marie Carey who died on Tuesday. Marie was resident for a few years at Rushyfield in Brandon. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here at St Patrick's on **Monday, 25 September at 10:30am**. Please pray for the repose of Marie's soul and remember her family too, some of whom are parishioners here, of course.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor RIP: We also received news recently of the death of Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor who was the tenth Archbishop of Westminster and who died on 01 September at the age of 85. You will have received a memorial prayer card with the bulletin this weekend.

Gift Aid Statements: These are now available for collection at the back of the church.

Holy Shroud Exhibit, Consett: Between 29 September and 06 October, St Patrick's Church in Consett is hosting an interactive

exhibition, The Holy Shroud, curated by Pam Moon. This exhibition is open to people of all faiths and none. One of the purposes of the exhibition is to tell the story of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Exhibition includes a full-size copy of the Shroud of Turin, original Roman nails, a replica scourge and Roman spear. There are also several information boards about the Shroud as depicted in history and in art and details on the latest scientific research. There will be DVDs shown about the Shroud, a quiz for children, refreshments and a small stall. Admission is free, donations welcome to cover costs. Opening times: 9:00am – 4:00pm daily, plus two evening openings until 7:00pm. For more information contact Maggie Quinn on (01207) 506 425.

Fr Anthony Donaghue RIP: Fr Anthony died on 09 September at the age of 68. His Requiem Mass will be held on **Monday, 18 September at 12:00noon** at Our Lady and St Columba's, Wallsend. Fr Anthony served in several parishes including St Joseph's, Gateshead and the parish of Wallsend.

Apostleship of the Sea (AoS): Please come and join in the celebration of Holy Mass at 12:05pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle on **Friday, 22 September**. It is an opportunity to pray for seafarers and the work of the AoS in the ports of your diocese. A reception will follow the Mass. For more information please contact Salvina Bartholomeusz at salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

Opening Mass for St Patrick's School: Many thanks to all those who assisted to make this Mass a special one on Thursday as we celebrated the beginning of the school year and prayed for God's blessings upon students and staff in the year ahead.

The Kids' Bulletin

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17, 2017

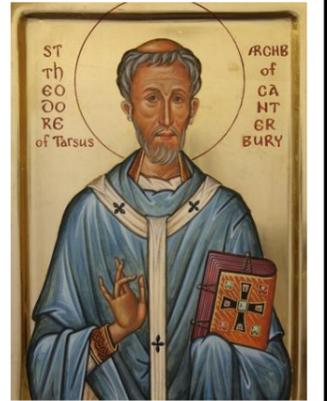
What did the king in today's parable do to the servant who owed him much but asked for forgiveness?
Use the numbers to sort the letters and find out!

9 E O E M 12
8 V H A I R 5
10 H F G 6
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12

SAINT OF THE WEEK

SS Theodore of Tarsus - 19 September

Born in Tarsus, modern Turkey, in 601. A Greek by birth, Theodore became a monk in Italy. He was not ordained a priest until at the age of 65 he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by Pope Vitalian. He arrived in England in 669 and spent the rest of his life reorganising and reforming the life of the Church throughout the country, holding visitations and synods, establishing new dioceses and a great school at Canterbury, and reconciling divisions between the Celtic and Roman ecclesiastical traditions. He died at Canterbury on 19 September 690. He is remembered for his scholarship and for bringing unity and organisation to a divided Church.



(Information taken from Universalis)

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for September:

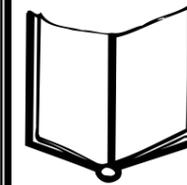
That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen: "The Lord wants to work one of the greatest miracles we can experience; he wants to turn your hands into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation. He wants your hands to continue building the world of today."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

BIBLE STUDY

The Friday afternoon Bible Study Group is holding eight sessions beginning on 15 September and running through to 03 November here at **St Patrick's Presbytery**, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. The topic for these studies is **Women in the Old Testament**. All are welcome! If you've never been a part of such a group, why not start now? Remember the words of the great St Jerome: *Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ.....*



DID YOU KNOW...?

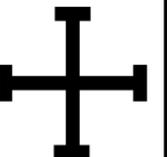
...that the Pope has recently given bishops more freedom to translate liturgical texts locally?

Pope Francis has decentralised authority over how the texts used in the Catholic Church's liturgies are translated from Latin into local languages, moving most responsibility for the matter from the Vatican to national bishops' conferences. Historically, Rome has had control over liturgical text translations which has created a lot of debate and controversy. Crucially, this decision has been formalised by being made a part of the Code of Canon Law.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"All our merely natural activities will be accepted, if they are offered to God, even the humblest, and all of them, even the noblest, will be sinful if they are not. Christianity does not simply replace our natural life and substitute a new one; it is rather a new organisation which exploits, to its own supernatural ends, these natural materials."

C S Lewis (1898 –1963)
Christian Apologist and Author
Learning in War-Time



PLEASE PRAY FOR....those involved in the ongoing daily struggle for survival against overwhelming odds, be it those who live in those parts of the world considered unworthy of media attention who must struggle for adequate food, shelter and healthcare, or those amongst us who battle addictions and mental illnesses heroically.

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement to live by was, 'I can say one good thing about myself.' We shared a reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians, about the unique gifts each one of us has been given. We then talked about how we should use these gifts to help each other, at home, at school and in our community.

Mass to Celebrate the New School Year

Thank you to all those who joined us in the celebration of Mass on Thursday morning, to mark the beginning of a new school year. Particular thanks to Father Robert, for celebrating the Mass; to Bill Wilkinson for the music and to Wilf Lavery for his assistance. Thanks also to Nicole, Edward, Weronika, Isobella and Grace for reading; to the school choir for their beautiful singing and to Edward for serving on the altar.

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

This week, all of our junior pupils begin a 10-week programme, aimed at encouraging healthy eating and an active lifestyle. The NHS provide and deliver this programme, aimed at tackling childhood obesity.

Fire Drill

A fire drill was conducted this week and the school was evacuated in less than two minutes. The children were commended on their conduct during this drill – especially our youngest members, who are still so new to school.

Beautiful Durham Competition

Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council will present Weronika Weronika with a trophy this week, after she was voted the overall winner of the Beautiful Durham Competition in her age category. Well done, Weronika!

Deepest Sympathy

Sincere condolences from the school community, following the recent death of Marie Carey. Marie's daughter, Pauline Crooks, gave many years of dedicated service to our school, as a Lunchtime Supervisor. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pauline and all the family at this time.

