

The week ahead...

Saturday 22 July <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Sally Thompson and pro populo
Sunday 23 July 16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 24 July <i>The Martyrs of the Diocese</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 25 July <i>St James, Apostle</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Parkin Family members
Wednesday 26 July <i>SS Joachim & Anne</i> <i>Parents of the BVM</i>	9:30am	Mass: Bernard Mortimer
Thursday 27 July Thursday of Ordinary Time 16	9:30am	Mass: Jenny Viles
Friday 28 July Friday of Ordinary Time 16	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 29 July <i>St Martha</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Joseph Byrne and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 23 July, 2017

Weeds Among The Wheat

LAST WEEKEND we were presented with the parable of the sower, seed falling onto various types of ground producing equally varied results. This weekend we are presented with another parable by Jesus as he attempts to paint a picture of the kingdom of heaven: the parable of the wheat and the darnel. Like so many parables, this one has a very agrarian theme which would have struck home to those who heard it at the time. According to Wikipedia 'darnel' is a weed which looks very similar to wheat (often referred to as 'false wheat') and lives as a parasite amongst normal wheat. It can cause sickness and even death if it is consumed. We hear in the Gospel passage how someone plants this weed among the wheat in an enemy's field, presumably hoping to cause him harm.

In attempting to convey a sense of the kingdom of heaven Jesus is not referring to the after-life (which is how we so often think of heaven) but rather the manner in which we should be living here and now, in the early twenty-first century. In short, the kingdom of heaven exists wherever and whenever we work co-operatively with Jesus by living and loving as he did. The parable presented to us today emphasises the great truth that whilst we strive to bring about the kingdom of heaven (the wheat) we live in a world alongside much which is not of this kingdom (the darnel).

Of course, a weed cannot change into something useful and productive, like wheat: a weed is ever a weed. It can however, spread its seed, multiply and perhaps choke another plant and be quite destructive. We, of course, are not weeds but can replicate weeds' destructive properties through spreading 'bad seed', that is, influencing others with bad example, driving others into sin and not assisting them to see a more fulfilling manner of living. Equally, we can model positive behaviour and thus assist others in their Christian journey, giving them at the very least a glimpse of the kingdom. In short, we can choose what sort of influence we have on others and our choices will reflect where we stand in our relationship with Jesus.

At the conclusion of today's Gospel we see a focus on the end of time, the return of Jesus. We hear, rather like the sheep and the goats later in Matthew's Gospel, how there will be a separation of the wheat and the darnel with the wheat being placed into the barn and the darnel being discarded. The two will be allowed to grow together but ultimately they will be separated and dealt with accordingly. In the world in which we live, God will not interfere with our free will but there will ultimately be judgment made on how we have lived out the Gospel with the graces God has bestowed up on us. It is a timely reminder to take stock of how we travelling on our pilgrimage and make any necessary amendments to our manner of living so we, and those we have influenced positively with our loving actions, will know in fullness the kingdom of heaven we have striven so hard to bring to birth during our earthly pilgrimage.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert



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

MINISTRIES

Saturday 29 July

Eucharistic Ministers

Angela & Gordon Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers

Claire Lavery
Margaret Purdom

Children's Liturgy

(In recess during the summer holidays)

Welcomers

Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

The Sixteenth 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....



We remember those who have gone before us

Sally THOMPSON

Derek ADAIR

Lee Kim YEUNG-SEEK

Sheila ATKINSON

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

Mary Spears, 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 and Marie Carey.



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £212 Loose Plate: £202

Total: £414

Mass Attendance: 143

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Finchale Partnership: Event at Ushaw College: Please join us for our first partnership event at Ushaw **this Sunday 23rd July**. It is a chance for us to get to know each other and to pray together. The afternoon starts 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 light snacks and drinks available, and 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, when Catholicism was illegal. If you would like to join one of the tours (the General Tour, Hidden Ushaw or the Stained Glass), the cost is £5.00. The afternoon will conclude with Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at 5:00pm. When you arrive at Ushaw, a good place to start is the main entrance hall, where there will be information about what is happening where, where to meet for tours and the arrangements for Vespers.

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 is included as a bulletin insert this 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.

Blessings: Having been afforded the privilege of celebrating the renewal of wedding vows of Phil and Jan Lumley last Sunday on the occasion of their fortieth anniversary, I was reflecting on the fact that priests are rarely asked to do this, which is a great shame! Many couples will celebrate a party with their family on significant anniversaries but what a great witness to faith it is when that party is preceded by a short but significant service in church, whether it was the church the couple were married in or not! What about a blessing of your home? The Church has blessing liturgies for so many occasions that I can't list them here but why not consider how you might express your faith and give thanks to God by utilising the services of your friendly Parish Priest in this regard? You have only to ask!

The Kids' Bulletin

Sort Out the Pictures: The Weeds and the Wheat

What happened in today's parable?
Put the numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes
to show the order in which the story went.



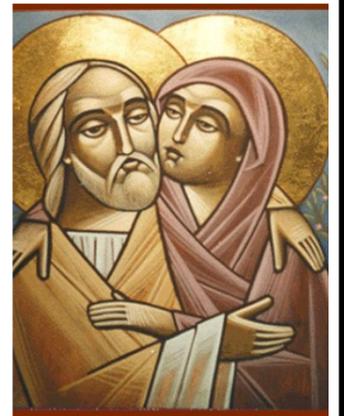
SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saints Joachim and Anne - 26 July

An ancient tradition, already known in the 2nd century, gives these names to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The cult of St Anne became popular in the 6th century in the East, and in the 10th century in the West, where she is the patron saint of Brittany; Joachim was added a long time later—too often the fate of fathers!

Although the information about Mary's parents is found in an early apocryphal (non-Biblical) writing that gives many miraculous and highly-coloured stories about the early life of the Virgin Mary, there is no reason to suppose that such a straightforward fact as her parents' names should be wrong, since there is nothing to be gained from falsifying it. It does not occur in the Gospels simply because the most reliable evangelists (the only ones whom we have allowed into the Bible) felt they had more important things to talk about. Though the Holy Spirit gave Mary the strength to say "yes" to God's invitation to be the mother of Christ, it was her parents' training that gave her the wisdom to make that choice.

(Information taken from *Universalis*)



SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I am grateful for my school, my family and my friends.'

Mad about Maths

On Tuesday, the children enjoyed a range of games and fundraising activities with a maths focus. At the end of the school day, families joined us for a maths quiz and refreshments were on sale. Funds raised amounted to £480 and will be used to purchase maths resources for the school.

Leavers

Our Year 6 pupils took the lead in an assembly on Wednesday afternoon, during which they shared their memories of their time at St. Patrick's and their hopes for the future.

A Mass to mark the end of the school year took place on Thursday morning. Thank you to Father Robert for celebrating the Mass, to Bill Wilkinson for the music and to Wilf Lavery for the preparations. Thanks also to Anabel, Lucia and Brooklyn for reading, to Edward for serving on the altar and to all who joined us.

Goodbye and very best wishes to all those who leave us at the end of this year – Robert Aldersons, Holly Barnes, Jayron Boayes, Curtis Coulthard-Stone, Alexia Donnelly, Joseph Debono, Lucia Debono, Grace Hardman, Madison Hill, Dominic Leighton, Brooklyn Marshall, Preston Oakes, Katie Pinkney, Morgan Short, John Wilson, Anabel Weston, Mrs Bryson, Miss Fisher and Mr Knowld.

Free Ice Cream!

Thank you to Tony Winn of Valwin Ices for providing all the children with a free ice cream, at the close of school on Friday.

End of the School Year

School closed on Friday for the summer break and will re-open on Tuesday 5th September.

Thank you to all our parishioners for your encouragement and support over the past year. Particular thanks to Father Robert, Richard Openshaw, Malcolm Wass, Wilf Lavery and Bill Wilkinson, for working so co-operatively with the school. Thanks also to Jennie Staff and Mary Rowe for continuing to visit the school each week to listen to the children read.

Thank you - I hope I haven't missed anyone!



CONGRATULATIONS!

to

Phil & Jan LUMLEY

who renewed their
wedding vows on the
occasion of their
40th anniversary here at
St Patrick's last Sunday.



God is love? let us
love one another as
he has loved us.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that parables, such as those we hear regularly in the Gospels, are not restricted to the New Testament, even though those told by Jesus are the most famous?

According to Wikipedia, the word *parable* means "comparison, illustration, analogy" and were used often by the Greek rhetoricians to illustrate the point they were striving to make. Two examples in the Hebrew scriptures are found in 2 Samuel at 12:1-4 and 14:6-7. The more famous of these is 12:1-4 when the prophet Nathan highlights King David's sin of bringing about the death of Uriah in battle so that David can satisfy his lust for Uriah's beautiful wife, Bathsheba.

PLEASE PRAY FOR....all of our school children and staff members as they take a well-deserved break for the summer holidays. Pray that all of those who are travelling will do so safely and return refreshed, renewed and invigorated with family and friendship bonds strengthened.

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

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. Further information from Rosemary Cox on (0191) 373 1359 or you can email her at rosemaryjcox@aol.com.

Prayer Group: Will meet on **Tuesday, 22 August** from 9:30am - 10:15am in **St John's Church** at Meadowfield. Please note the change from the usual scheduled third Tuesday for **this month only** because of the Feast of the Assumption celebrated on 15 August.

Bible Group: Next meeting will be in September.

Craft Groups (Tues & Thurs): These take place at the usual times. Please see noticeboard for details.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"We may be content to remain what we call 'ordinary people': but God is determined to carry out quite a different plan. To shrink back from that plan is not humility: it is laziness and cowardice. To submit to it is not conceit or megalomania; it is obedience."

C S Lewis (1898-1963)

Christian Apologist

Mere Christianity

