

The week ahead...

Saturday 23 September <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Bryan Cheeseey and pro populo
Sunday 24 September 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 25 September Monday of Ordinary Time 25	10:30am	Funeral Mass for Marie CAREY
Tuesday 26 September Tuesday of Ordinary Time 25	6:30pm	Mass: Andrea Ottey
Wednesday 27 September <i>St Vincent de Paul, Priest</i>	9:30am	Mass: "J & J's" Golden Wedding Anniversary
Thursday 28 September Thursday of Ordinary Time 25	9:30am	Mass: Michael Marr
Friday 29 September <i>SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels</i>	7:00am 10:15am	Mass: Private Intention Funeral Mass for Teresa COAD
Saturday 30 September <i>St Jerome, Priest, Doctor</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Joan Moran and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 September, 2017

The Ways of God

THOSE OF YOU who have children or grandchildren or work with young children will know they have an innate sense of justice and will certainly let you know when it has not been upheld! If you do one thing for one child then the others must also receive some similar benefit and a failure to act justly will certainly result in a reprimand! As we mature these instances of what were perceived as injustices as children are ignored as our sense of generosity and outreach grows. Nonetheless, a sense of justice still dwells within us. All this is by way of identifying justice as a key element in our Gospel passage this weekend.

We are presented with a parable by Jesus in which he attempts to illustrate something of the nature of the kingdom God (or "kingdom of heaven" as it is referred to by the Evangelist Matthew). Indeed, as he does on many occasions, Jesus begins his parable with the words, "The kingdom of heaven is like...". We hear in the parable how people are employed to undertake the same job for varying lengths of time, some for as little as one hour, some for a whole day, yet, at the end of the day when the workers come to collect their pay, all receive the same wage of one denarius. But without a close and contemplative reading, the intention of Jesus in telling the parable can be lost. Indeed it might seem to be only about justice, or, in a Catholic context, what the Church refers to as distributive justice.

The outraged reaction of those who had been working all day is not foreign to our modern sensibilities and we can understand their response. Quite naturally it offends our sense of justice, especially in our modern western understanding, familiar as most of us are with workplace agreements and awards which help ensure people are fairly paid for their employment. We must refer back to the opening words of Jesus in order to make sense of what is happening here. Jesus is not talking about wages, hours of labour or anything of the kind. He is talking about the ways of God.

And God is generous. Clearly, the parable uses the image of labouring in a vineyard and the wages paid to the workers to illustrate heavenly rewards for all who labour in the vineyard here on earth. The point is that God does not reward for "length of service" as often happens in earthly workplaces but grants heavenly rewards for a change of heart and the works that flow from conversion. Be a person faithful from birth till their death at old age or a recent convert who lives a faithful life for just a few short years, God's judgement is based on fidelity and its expression in actions, not mere lip service or claims to length of service. Though this might seem hard to swallow for many people, we will know that we have had a change of heart when we begin to see things God's way and not our own and embrace that vision in all we say and do.

May we simply allow God to be God.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert



The Twenty-fifth 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"

Teresa COAD, Rec Deceased
Marie CAREY, Rec. Deceased
John HOWARTH
Agnes HOWARTH
Frank McGOAY

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

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



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

Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

MINISTRIES

Saturday 30 September

Eucharistic Ministers

Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers

Angela Tosley
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Carol Bainbridge

Welcomers

Halina Holman
Janet Harrigan

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £201 Loose Plate: £186

Total: £387

Mass Attendance: 158

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Thank you! Thank you to Fr Brian for his generosity in giving of his time and talent over the past few weeks during my absence. It has been much appreciated and I'm sure that all of you have greatly enjoyed catching up with Fr Brian again as I'm sure he has enjoyed seeing old faces in a familiar setting once again! Also, a big thank you to Fr Mark Carroll for celebrating Mass here last weekend.

Teresa Coad RIP: The sudden death of **Teresa Coad** has shocked our community and we offer our prayers and condolences to Kevin and the family. The Mass of Christian Burial for Teresa will be celebrated here this **Friday, 29 September** at **10:15am**.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting: The PPC meeting scheduled for this coming Wednesday has been postponed. I am looking at holding it at the usual time on **Wednesday, 11 October**, subject to this being a convenient time for PPC members. Confirmation in the bulletin next weekend. I would appreciate if PPC members would inform me if this proposed date is **not** convenient.

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

Home Mission Society Collection: Thank you for your generosity in last weekend's special collection for the **Home Mission Society** which supports the work of evangelisation across England and Wales. A total of £128.70 was collected. Our next special collection is the **Family Fast Day** and will take place on **07 October**, the fast day itself being the day before on the Friday. More information next week. Go to cafod.org.uk/harvest for more information in the meantime.

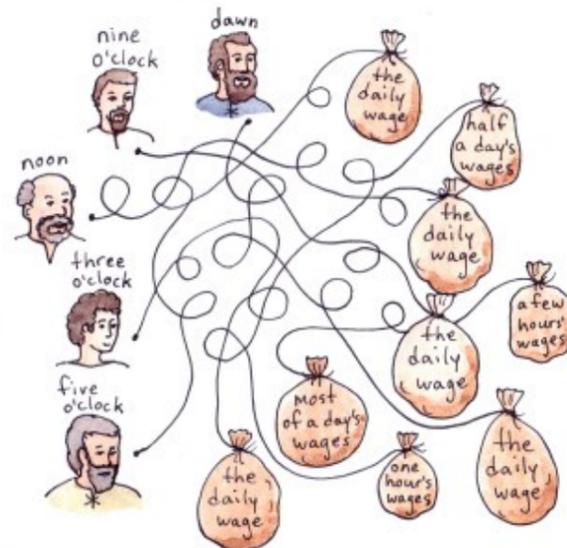
The Finchale Partnership: The Partnership Development Group met for the second time on 13th September. Following the success of our first partnership event at Ushaw, we have been discussing the strengths of each parish, and the areas where we need support. We have also been joined by representatives from the primary and secondary schools. We are beginning to get to know each other better but we still have a lot of work to do to agree the priorities across our nine parishes. The Diocese is asking us to look at a range of subjects, from finance and property to liturgy and outreach, and we will need to involve more people in taking things forward once the plans become clearer. In the meantime, we are planning a partnership newsletter to keep everyone informed, and you can keep up to date with information about the partnership on our webpages, currently hosted at www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk/the-finchale-partnership, where you will also find the name of your parish representative on the group and the full minutes of the meeting.

Youth Sunday Preparation: An afternoon to prepare for Youth Sunday will take place at St. Joseph's Academy, Hebburn on **Sunday 08 October, 3:00pm to 5:15pm**. This year's theme is 'YES' inviting us to reflect on how Mary, as a young person, had the faith and courage to say 'Yes' to what God was calling her to do. Each church is invited to be represented by adults and young people (Year 9 and above) and there will be an opportunity to plan together and to meet other groups in the same partnership. Music and other resources will be available. Booking forms are in parishes or available from the Youth Ministry Team on 01207 592244 or admin@ymt.org.



The Kids' Bulletin

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 24, 2017



In the parable in today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the story of a man with a vineyard who went out to hire men at different times of the day.

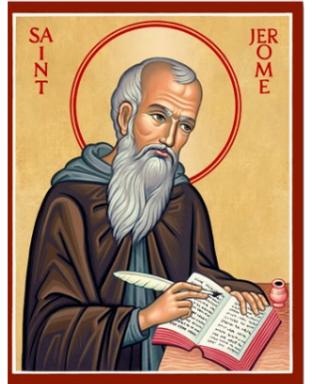
*At the end of the day,
how much did each man get paid?
Follow the wiggly lines to see!*

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Jerome - 30 September

Jerome was born in Strido, in Dalmatia, in 340. He studied in Rome and was baptised there. He was attracted by the ascetic life and travelled to the East, where he was (unwillingly) ordained a priest. He was recalled to Rome to act as secretary to Pope Damasus, but in the Pope's death he returned to the East, to Bethlehem, where (with the aid of St Paula and others) he founded a monastery, a hospice, and a school, and settled down to the most important work of his life, the translation of the Bible into Latin, a translation which, with some revisions, is still in use today. He wrote many works of his own, including letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture. When a time of troubles came upon the world, through barbarian invasions, and to the Church, through internal dissension, he helped the refugees and those in need. He died at Bethlehem in 420.

(Information taken from Universalis)



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for September:

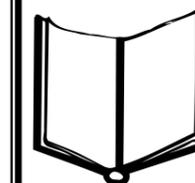
That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen: "The Lord wants to work one of the greatest miracles we can experience; he wants to turn your hands into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation. He wants your hands to continue building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

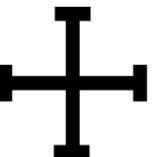
...that **CAFOD**, who organise the **Harvest Feast Day (on Friday, 06 October this year)**, is the **official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales?**

CAFOD is a part of Caritas International which is a group of 160 Catholic agencies from around the world, all of whom work through local parishes in order to reach the people that many other aid agencies cannot. CAFOD help people help themselves, face the toughest challenges confronting people today, speak out for justice and work in communities when crises hit. Go to cafod.org.uk for more information.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"The important thing is to begin again, humbly and courageously, after every fall...The important thing is not to waste any time in standing up and beginning anew. At the great judgement the Lord may say to someone: 'How horrible! You fell a million times!' but all is salvaged if that person can say: 'Yes, Lord, it really is frightful! But your grace helped me get back on my feet quickly a million and one times!'"

Dom Hélder Câmara (1909-1999)
Brazilian Archbishop
Hoping Against All Hope



SCHOOL NEWS

Statement To Live By

This week's statement was, 'I can say how I feel.' The gospel story of Lazarus was read and we discussed the benefit of sharing how we feel with others.

Starting School Liturgy - Friday 29th September

A liturgy will be held in school, on Friday 29th September, starting at 2:30pm. The liturgy will be led by our Reception pupils and refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Harvest Assembly - Friday 6th October

At 2:30 p.m. on Friday 6th October, there will be a Harvest Assembly in the school hall, followed by refreshments and a raffle of hampers. All funds raised will go to CAFOD. Everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Leonard's Ceilidh - Friday 6th October

A Ceilidh will be held at Bowburn Community Centre, between 7:00pm and 10:00pm, on Friday 6th October. Tickets are priced at £5 and are available from St. Leonard's School (0191 384 8575).

Baptism

Two of our pupils, Harris and Graye, were welcomed into the Church this afternoon, when they received the Sacrament of Baptism. Our warmest congratulations to both children. We also congratulate their parents, Mr & Mrs Armstrong, whose marriage was blessed, on the occasion of their 10th wedding anniversary.

Deepest Sympathy

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Teresa Coad this week, the mother of one of our school governors. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kevin and all the family at this time.



DON'T FORGET.... We will be gathering after Mass on the first Saturday of each month for an opportunity to deepen our unity by getting to know one another better. Again, this is not about fundraising or an opportunity for speeches: just for a chat, a cuppa and a snack! Our next gathering will be after Mass in two weeks' time on **Saturday, 07 October**. Come along!