

The week ahead...

Saturday 29 July <i>St Martha</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Joseph Byrne and pro populo
Sunday 30 July 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 31 July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 01 August <i>St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Joe Condron
Wednesday 02 August Wednesday of Ordinary Time 17	9:30am	Mass: Pat Curran
Thursday 03 August <i>St Oswald, King, Martyr</i>	9:30am	Mass: Pat Openshaw
Friday 04 August <i>St John Vianney, Priest</i>	7:00am	Mass: Silver Jubilee of Fr Anthony Jackson
Saturday 05 August Saturday of Ordinary Time 17	5:00pm	Mass: Kathleen Caisley and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church

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

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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 30 July, 2017

"The kingdom of heaven is like..."

OVER THESE PAST two weekends we have heard Jesus relate to the crowds several parables which attempt to convey what the kingdom of God is like. In the longer versions of last weekend's and this weekend's Gospel passages, we find a total of six parables about what Matthew, writing for a predominantly Jewish audience, has Jesus referring to as "the kingdom of heaven." We hear two of them this weekend, one comparing the kingdom of heaven to someone finding treasure hidden in a field and the other likening it to a merchant finding a fine pearl. These two parables use similar imagery and paint for us a picture of the extent to which those who are seeking God's kingdom will go once they have found it. They value it so much they will divest themselves of everything they previously valued in order not to lose this kingdom.

There is a subtle difference between these two parables: in the first the person stumbles upon the treasure in the field whereas in the second the merchant is seeking the pearl that he or she ultimately finds. I believe that for people of faith the kingdom is more often than not "stumbled upon" rather than sought. This might mean for many of us having an unexpected, but very welcome, experience of intimacy with God which we neither engineered nor planned. This experience might happen during an encounter with another person, during a moment of quiet reflection, whilst we are going about our everyday duties or perhaps when we are in an overtly religious setting. Once we have had such an experience we never forget it and, if we allow it to, it can lend a whole new perspective to our existence. A light is shone upon the ordinary to reveal that all is, in fact, extraordinary, because every facet of existence is imbued with God's very essence. In short, an experience of intimacy with God means our life will never be quite the same again: we will continue to seek after this God we have encountered for the rest of our lives.

We can see then that the two short parables we have before us this weekend, stumbling upon the treasure and purposely seeking a treasure (the pearl), are, intentionally or otherwise, placed in an order which is very real for most of us. Quite without knowing how it happened we have a very real experience of intimacy with God which leaves us reeling, not knowing what hit us, in all probability unable to articulate the encounter but knowing it was concerned with inexplicable love and goodness. Put simply, we have stumbled upon the treasure and will now do all we can to continue to seek it out, to develop this relationship, much as the merchant seeks out the pearl in the second short parable.

We are reminded however that there is a price to pay for this. We will never truly know God as God knows us and wants us to know him, unless we are prepared to give up all that bars us from true intimacy with God. It may be that we are clinging for dear life to something worldly as a means of security, "just in case". God whispers to us in so many ways "Let go, and trust in me."

We slowly let what we are gripping slide from our grasp, see the face of God, the treasure we had been constantly seeking since that unexpected encounter, and wonder what held us back for so long...

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



MINISTRIES

Saturday 29 July

Eucharistic Ministers

Angela & Gordon Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers

Claire Lavery
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy

(In recess during the summer holidays)

Welcomers

Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

MINISTRIES

Saturday 05 August

Eucharistic Ministers

Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers

Greg Mearman
Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy

(In recess during the summer holidays)

Welcomers

Pat Middleton
Mary Kitching

The Seventeenth 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....



John HOWARTH (Recently Deceased)

Robert David Alan STOKOE

John Thomas ROSS

Albert STAFF

Kenneth Bernard COLLINS

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

Marie Carey, 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 and Sylvia Kelly.



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £204 Loose Plate: £168

Total: £372

Mass Attendance: 134

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Mill Hill Mission and Thank You Appeal: This will take place at next weekend's Mass when we welcome Fr Dermot Byrne MHM to our parish. This appeal is **not** for money but for parishioners to become members and take a Red Mission Box. Thank you to all parishioners who already support this wonderful Association through the Red Boxes. If you have not yet thought of doing so, perhaps this thank you and appeal might persuade you to think about doing so. Please see the poster in the porch area for more details.

"The Red Box is a focus of prayer and direct giving for all Catholics in over 200,000 homes across England and Wales."

John Howarth RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of John, husband of Veronica and father to Laura, who died last Sunday, 23 July. The Requiem Mass for John will be celebrated at **St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor on Monday, 31 July at 9:15am.**

Finchale Partnership: Event at Ushaw College: Thank you to all those who came along to this Partnership event. Despite the inclement weather the day was a great success with about 168 parishioners from across the partnership turning up. Thank you to Ushaw College and their volunteers for their hospitality. I want to especially thank Mrs Burnside and two parents from our school, Joanne Lidster and Rebecca Ellis for giving so freely of their time to staff the tombola stall which raised **£66.50** for the Finchale Partnership funds.

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 was included as a bulletin insert last 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, via an email or verbally.

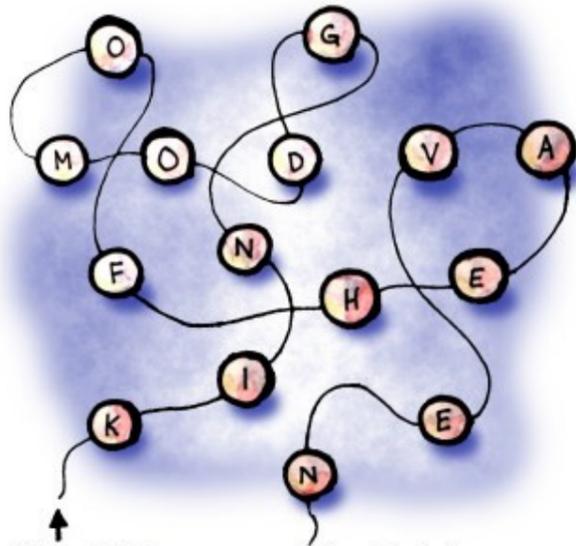
Blessings: Having recently been afforded the privilege of celebrating the renewal of wedding vows of Phil and Jan Lumley on the occasion of their fortieth anniversary, I was reflecting on the fact that priests are rarely asked to do this, which is a great shame! Many couples will celebrate a party with 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!

Fr Ejaz Report: You will find on the noticeboard at the rear of the church the latest report on Fr Ejaz's mission for the quarter ended 30 June, 2017.

Holy Island Trip: St Cuthbert's in Durham is running an excursion to Holy Island on **Saturday, 12 August** as part of Churches Together in Elvet and Shincliffe. Still some places left. Cost £10 for adults, £8 for children. Contact Andy Doyle: andydoyle1066@sky.com or by phone on (0191) 378 3660 or 0798 543 4185.

The Kids' Bulletin

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 30th, 2017



What did Jesus say was like a buried treasure or a pearl of great price?

Use the letters on the string of pearls to fill in the blanks and find out!

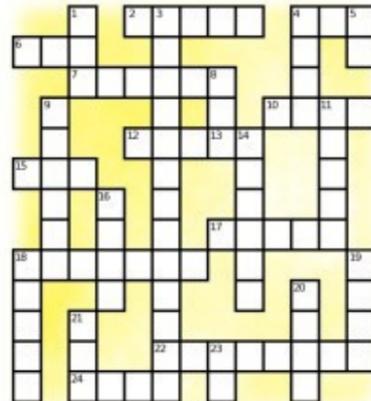
The _____

King Solomon's Dream Cross-Word

God _____ (19d) to the young _____ (24a) Solomon in a dream, " _____ (21d) _____ (23d) for whatever you want me to _____ (16d) you."
Solomon knew that he was only a young _____ (8d) and couldn't rule God's people without His help. So he said _____ (5d) God, "O _____ (20d), I am a _____ (10a) youth, not knowing _____ (1d) to _____ (4a). I _____ (18d) you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be _____ (22a) or counted. Give your _____ (18a), therefore, an _____ (3d) _____ (17a) to _____ (2a) your people and to distinguish _____ (11d) from _____ (12a). For _____ (6a) is _____ (4d) to _____ (14d) this vast _____ (9d) of yours?"
_____ (15a) was pleased with Solomon's request and told him that He would grant him _____ (7a) greater than anyone else had ever had or would have.

Use the words from this list to fill in the blanks and figure out the cross-word.

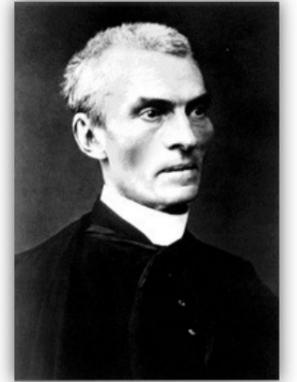
UNDERSTANDING
ME NUMBERED
TO SERVANT
ASK WISDOM
ACT GOVERN
GIVE WRONG
SAID PEOPLE
GOD JUDGE
WHO HEART
MAN RIGHT
KING SERVE
HOW LORD
ABLE MERE



SAINT OF THE WEEK

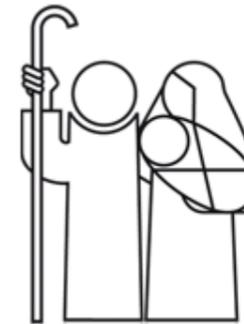
St Peter Julian Eymard - 02 August

Born at La Mure, France, in 1811, during the anti-clerical aftermath of the French Revolution. In spite of illness and parental opposition he completed his studies for the priesthood, and was ordained at Grenoble in 1834. After spending five years in parochial work, he joined the Marist Fathers at Lyons, with whom he stayed until 1856. He went on to found a new religious society - the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament - whose special duty would be to foster devotion to the Eucharist. Other organisations for sisters and lay members soon followed. During his apostolate he was supported and inspired by his friend and fellow-priest, St John Vianney. Peter died in 1868 and was canonised in 1962 by Pope John XXIII.



(Information taken from *Diocesan Ordo 2017*)

MILL HILL MISSIONARIES



ST. JOSEPHS
MISSIONARY
SOCIETY

*"To love and
to serve"*

Please see top of page 2 for more details on the Mill Hill Mission and Thank You Appeal!

~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for August: That through their creativity, artists of our time may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

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.

DID YOU KNOW...?

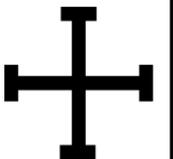
...that some feast days in the liturgical calendar take precedence even over the regular Sunday celebrations?

We have such a situation before us next Sunday, 06 August, which is always the Feast of the Transfiguration. Because this is a feast of high importance, it takes precedence over the normal Sunday celebration whenever 06 August is a Sunday. Some other feasts also fall into this category, though the feast days of most saints (other than Mary, Joseph, Peter and Paul) are usually omitted on such occasions or occasionally moved to the nearest weekday.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Though there are tragedies and disasters around us, none the less we are being called again and again to make our contribution to the values of the Kingdom of God in our society. It is a constant striving that the forces of good should prevail against the forces of evil, but the first battle to be won is always within; to overcome what is not of God within myself in order to enable him to take me over completely and to be an effective instrument."

Cardinal Basil Hume (1923-1999)
The Mystery of Love



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.