

The week ahead...

Saturday 01 October <i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Pat Openshaw and pro populo
Sunday 02 October 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 03 October Monday of Ordinary Time 27		
Tuesday 04 October <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Andrea Otty (née Bunting)
Wednesday 05 October Wednesday of Ordinary Time 27	9:30am	Mass: Sally Thompson
Thursday 06 October Thursday of Ordinary Time 27	9:30am	Mass: Eileen Allison
Friday 07 October <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 08 October Saturday of Ordinary Time 27	5:00pm	Mass: Lily Robson & Tony Caiger and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

02 October, 2016

"We have done no more than our duty."

THE WORD "duty" speaks to many of us as the act of undertaking a mundane or distasteful task in order to fulfil an obligation imposed on us by a higher authority. It is hardly something we look forward to and likely something we view as having to be done before we can move on to doing something we really enjoy. We see this more enjoyable task as a reward for having 'done our duty'.

As always it is helpful to put this weekend's Gospel passage which speaks of duty into context so that we can understand what Jesus is saying to us.

Jesus has just finished telling the apostles about some of the demands of following him, illustrating the point with the example of repeated forgiveness: 'If your brother wrongs you seven times a day and seven times comes back to you and says, "I am sorry", you must forgive him.' (Lk 17:4). The disciples' response is not to immediately accept this teaching but to respond to its demands with the words that open the Gospel this weekend: "Increase our faith." They realise that only by deepening their faith can they truly understand what is being demanded of them as disciples of Jesus. It is incumbent upon us too, to deepen our faith, no matter how small it may be, for the same reasons. The demands of discipleship that Jesus outlines to the apostles are the very same demands placed upon us.

Perhaps the word "demand" is a little strong however and serves only to instil in us a negative attitude to Christian faith. A better word might be "response". Often when we look at a difficult undertaking from a different perspective it seems less daunting and more achievable. If we view our Christian living simply as a series of duties or demands then living as a Christian can seem stale, uninspiring and, quite frankly, a bore – something which can only be endured with the prospect of heaven at the end of it all. If on the other hand, we view Christian living as a perpetual response to God's love, then we will find that though life is not easy, we will be more fulfilled, happier, feel that we have purpose in all we do and stronger in our faith. The idea of simply hanging around enduring an existence, waiting for death and the possibility of heaven will no longer be uppermost in our mind because we will have at the very least a glimpse of heaven here and now.

In the Gospel parable we have a profound illustration of this very point. The servant does not earn the favour or praise of the master for he is doing only what is expected of him, that for which he was employed. We cannot earn God's praise and should not try to do so. Rather, let us see all that we do, most especially our more mundane "duties", as a response to the favour that God has already bestowed upon us in making himself known to us in Christ Jesus. Then we will know the fullness of life that Jesus wants for each of us.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



Ministries for this week Saturday 01 October

Eucharistic Ministers:
Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers:
Angela Harmston
Maria Griffiths

Children's Liturgy:
Jane Smith
Helen Musham

Welcomers:
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

Ministries for next week Saturday 08 October

Eucharistic Ministers:
Angela & Gordon Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers:
Judith Bulmer
Marie Pailey

Children's Liturgy:
Maria Griffiths
Carol Bainbridge

Welcomers:
Mary Kitching
Pat Middleton

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £197 Loose Plate: £188

Total: £385

Mass Attendance: 138

DIocese of Hexham and Newcastle
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

Have you an item for the parish bulletin? Please contact Judith Bulmer on 0191 378 3544 or 07980 481 858 or send an email to her at judithbulmer@rocketmail.com.

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

Michael Foody, Pat Curran, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Marie Wilson, Dorothy Dowdle, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Betty Allison, Michael Kane, Pat Harrison, Obwyn Morris and Tom Tracey.

A note on appeals: Our next special appeal for CAFOD is scheduled for 08 October. This coming Friday, 07 October, is **Family Fast Day**, a day in which we reflect on "How we may live simply, that others may simply live." Check the posters in the church entrance and take an envelope home.

Emailed Bulletin – If you would like to have the parish bulletin emailed to you each week please email Judith (details opposite) and you will be added to the mailing list. Parish Council minutes are also available electronically.

What's going on...?

Thank you: Joan Cheesey and family thanks everyone for their kindness and prayers throughout Bryan's illness and also for the many cards and flowers received since his death. Thank you too for the Masses being offered for Bryan - your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. God bless.

Forward Together in Hope: The Parish Council discussed FTiH at our meeting last Wednesday. It was agreed that the best way to move forward with this is to have a meeting, open to everyone, here in the presbytery on **Wednesday, 19 October at 7:00pm**. This is the day before the larger deanery meeting takes place at St Robert of Newminster Church, Washington, on **Thursday, 20 October from 7:00pm - 9:00pm**. Please let me know if you will be attending either of these meetings so that I can register you, especially for the Washington meeting. More details to come.

Flies: Please note that we are dealing with the current fly problem and believe it is under control.

St Patrick's Social Committee - Social Night: There will be a social night at The Royal British Legion, Meadowfield on Friday, 14 October, at 7:30pm. The entertainment will be provided by Marty Scott, there will be a raffle and bingo during the evening. All money raised will be used to fund the Christmas Party for senior citizens in the local community. Tickets priced £2.50 will be on sale tonight and for the next couple of weeks, and raffle tickets are also on sale. Any donations towards raffle prizes will be most gratefully received.

Youth Sunday Preparation: An afternoon to prepare for Youth Sunday will take place at St. Joseph's School, Hebburn on **Sunday 09 October, 3:00pm to 5:15pm**. This year's Youth Sunday, which falls on the Feast of Christ the King in November, is also the Closing of the Year of Mercy. A variety of resources will be available to explore the theme '**HE IS MERCY**'. All adults and young people (Year 9 and above) are invited - please see the parish priest if you would like to go along. Further details are available from the Youth Ministry Team on 01207 592244 or admin@vmt.org.

Churches Together in DH7 Craft Fair, Monday 24 October: 10:00am - 4:00pm: St Andrews Church are hosting the fair for all of the churches in our area. Each church has a stall available for them to display their crafts. If any parishioner would like to donate a craft item please sign the list on the 'Churches Together Section' displayed on the notice board in the Church Porch or see Stella Foody in the narthex after Mass tonight or after Mass on a weekday morning. 'Crafters' will receive more details next week. Many thanks!

Saint Cuthbert's Crook Art Show: On Saturday/Sunday, 01 and 02 October, the sixth annual **Art Show** at St Cuthbert's Centre Church Hill, Crook, is being held. Over 100 pictures from 30 local artists in a distinctive and welcoming setting. Saturday and Sunday exhibition and cafe open from 11:00am until 4:00pm. Free entry with fabulous refreshments. Friday preview 7:00pm. Admission £3.00.

Meadowfield and Langley Moor Over 60's - outing to

York: There are some vacancies for the outing on Tuesday, 11 October. The cost of the outing is £8.00. Please contact Shirley Aberdeen on 378 1000 for further information.

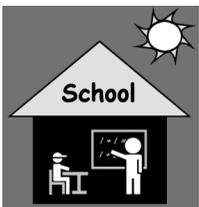
SCHOOL NEWS

Parish Family Picnic

A number of families from our school attended the picnic organised by the Parish Social Committee last weekend. Many thanks to all those who helped to put the event together. It was an enjoyable afternoon and a lovely opportunity for parishioners and members of the school community to come together.

Mass at St. Leonard's

Mrs Burnside joined our former Year 6 pupils and their families at St. Leonard's this week in order to celebrate a Mass marking their transfer there this academic year. It was nice to see a number of these pupils had joined the St. Leonard's Choir and were supporting the Mass with their singing.

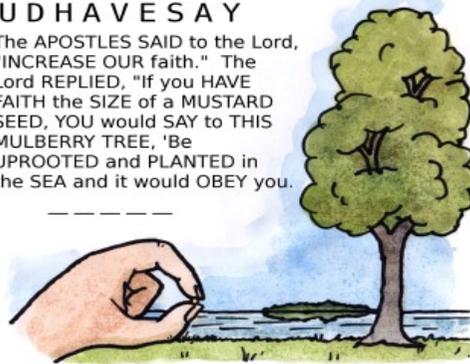


Mustard Seed Word-Find

M U S T A R D F A
U P R O O T E D R
L I N C R E A S E
B P S E E D P A P
E L O B E Y O I L
R A T H I S S D I
R N I F A I T H E
Y T O U R Z L S D
O E T T R E E H
U D H A V E S A Y

Here is part of today's Gospel reading. See if you can find all the words written in CAPITALS. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

The APOSTLES SAID to the Lord, "INCREASE OUR faith." The Lord REPLIED, "If you HAVE FAITH the SIZE of a MUSTARD SEED, YOU would SAY to THIS MULBERRY TREE, 'Be UPROOTED and PLANTED in the SEA and it would OBEY you.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Francis of Assisi - 04 October

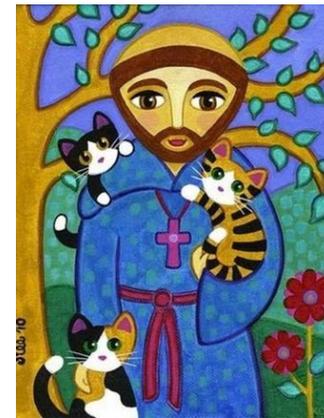
Francis, born in 1181, was the son of a prosperous cloth merchant in Assisi. When his father objected to having his goods sold without his consent to pay for the restoration of a church, the bishop commanded Francis to repay the money. He did. He also renounced his father and gave back everything he had ever been given, even his garments. He began a life of perfect evangelical poverty, living by begging and even then only accepting the worst food that people had to give. He preached to all the love of God and the love of the created world; because, having renounced everything, he celebrated everything he received, or saw, or heard, as a gift. A rich man sold everything and joined him in living next to a leper colony; a canon from a neighbouring church gave up his position and joined them also. They looked into the Gospel and saw the story of the rich young man whom Jesus told to sell everything; they saw Jesus telling his disciples to take nothing with them on their journey; they saw Jesus saying that his followers must also carry his cross. And on that basis they founded an order. Francis went to Rome himself and persuaded the Pope to sanction it, though it must have seemed at once impractical and subversive, to set thousands of holy men wandering penniless round the towns and villages of Europe.

Because Francis was wearing an old brown garment begged from a peasant, tied round the middle with string, that became the Franciscan habit. Ten years later 5000 men were wearing it; a hundred years later Dante was buried in it because it was more glorious than cloth of gold.

Francis is known for having started the practice of setting up a crib in church to celebrate the Nativity.

He died in 1226.

(Text taken from Universalis)



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that silence is a crucial part of the Eucharistic celebration?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM 45) marks certain times that silence ought to be observed:

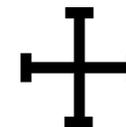
- at the act of penitence and again after the invitation to pray;
- at the conclusion of a reading or the homily;
- after communion.

Even before the celebration begins, silence is encouraged throughout the church so that everyone can dispose themselves appropriately for the sacred celebration.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

'Mary is the star who guides us toward her Son Jesus, and she gives us the hope that we need. Mary's "yes" was thus the gate through which God was able to enter the world, to become man. Thus, Mary participates in a real and profound way in the mystery of the incarnation, which is the mystery of our salvation.'

Pope Benedict XVI
From *Holy Days* (2012)



THANK YOU... to our Social Committee members, Judith, Angela, Shirley, Irene and Carol for their hard work in organising and running the parish's inaugural Parish Family Picnic last Sunday. Also to Greg and Joe for sharing their musical gifts with us and to Mrs Burnside for her work in ensuring that all the essential administrative tasks were undertaken for the picnic to take place at the school. Thank you to all those who came along to get to know one another better!