

The week ahead...

Saturday 03 September <i>St Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Thomas and Michael Carey and pro populo
Sunday 04 September 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 05 September Monday Of Ordinary Time 23		
Tuesday 06 September Tuesday of Ordinary Time 23		
Wednesday 07 September Wednesday of Ordinary Time 23	9:30am	Service of the Word with Communion
Thursday 08 September <i>Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	No Mass	
Friday 09 September Friday of Ordinary Time 23	No Mass	
Saturday 10 September Saturday of Ordinary Time 23	5:00pm	Mass: Glenda Fisher and George Sewell and pro populo



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23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

04 September, 2016

"None of you can be my disciple unless..."

IT SEEMS as if Jesus is at it again: the old, nice Jesus has gone on leave and has installed in his place an impostor who is sprouting language that seems totally at odds with the usual message of our Saviour. This weekend we hear Jesus make a statement that appears to strike at the very heart of the institution we understand God ordained to underline social unity: the family. Jesus states that a person cannot be his disciple "without hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and their own life too..."

Again, we have to examine the statement at a deeper level than a mere cursory reading and ask ourselves: is there any ambiguity in the message of Jesus? Can he be saying one thing and then something contrary at another point in time? Or is it just possible that Jesus is speaking not of hatred as we understand it but in a different way?

Of course there is no ambiguity in the message of Jesus; he is not prone to contradicting himself! Jesus' message of love and conversion of heart is consistent at all times and so we know that the word "hate" we hear this weekend is being used differently by Jesus than the manner we normally use it. In fact, Jesus is referring to *preference* when he speaks of hating those closest to us, meaning that we have to love him (Jesus) above and beyond anyone here on earth, even those we love the most. Jesus is making the point that doing the will of God is the most important consideration of all and that God's will can only be discerned when one makes the total and radical choice of putting Christ above all else.

And so the point is clear: there is a cost to discipleship. To live out the words of the Gospel this weekend does not mean that we have to shun the love that others have for us or that we have for others. We don't have to break relationships with other people but what we must do is ensure we love others in a manner which is in accordance with our faith. We are called to live our lives in a radical manner as modelled for us by Jesus, the one who loved perfectly. Jesus' love meant at times having to make difficult choices, having to reprimand those close to him and having to embrace the suffering of the Cross, surely the most perfect demonstration of love, love for us.

Each day we are given an opportunity to put Christ above all else. It may be an opportunity presented to us at home, school, work, university or in the company of a perfect stranger. It may be a relatively easy choice on occasions or a choice which seems to cost us little. Yet it may be the most difficult choice that we have ever had to make and involve immense suffering. No matter when or where such opportunities arise, let us pray for the courage to put Christ first at all times and thus show the world where our priorities lie as Christian disciples.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert

Discipleship

Ministries for this week Saturday 03 September

Eucharistic Ministers:
Gordon & Angela Tosley
Angela Harmston

Readers:
Judith Bulmer
Marie Pailey

Children's Liturgy:
No Children's Liturgy until school resumes

Welcomers:
Janet Harrigan
Judith Bulmer

Ministries for next week Saturday 10 September

Eucharistic Ministers:
Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers:
Ann Canavan
Angela Tosley

Children's Liturgy:
TBC

Welcomers:
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £ Loose Plate: £

Total: £

Mass Attendance: XXX

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....

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, Ohwyn Morris and Tom Tracey.

A note on appeals: Our next two diocesan appeals will be happening over the next two weekends. The **Catholic Education Appeal** will take place next weekend (**10 September**) and the **Home Mission Sunday Appeal** will take place on **17 September**. Thank you for your support!

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...?

Parish Family Picnic: There will be a Parish Family Picnic on Sunday 25 September, from 2:00 – 5:00pm. If the weather is fine this will be on the school field; if not, then we will picnic in the school hall. Please bring your own picnic, blanket and chairs. A glass of wine, cups of tea and coffee and juice for children will be provided. There will be live music during the afternoon, a raffle and bottle tombola, and a treasure hunt if we are outdoors or a quiz if we are indoors. If you would like to join us for the afternoon **please sign the sheet in the porch at the back of church**. If anyone would like to donate bottles of any kind for the tombola or prizes for the raffle, all donations will be gratefully received - please see Irene, Angela or Judith. We look forward to seeing you there!

Noticeboards: The noticeboards at the entrance to the church are always worthwhile viewing for news and events. Plenty of activity is happening around the diocese - so much that it cannot always find space here in the bulletin! Also, if you have something to place on the noticeboard, please do not place it there without seeing me first. This will ensure that we use the noticeboard space most effectively.

Ushaw Moor Catholic Club: The Catholic Club is available for birthday parties and wedding anniversaries as well as receptions after weddings and funerals. For more information, phone 07519 672 570 and, if need be, leave a message.

Ushaw College: During the summer the college is open every Saturday from 12:00noon until 5:00pm.

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Housebound: Do you know someone who lives in the parish but cannot get to Mass and is in need of the sacraments? It is our responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters who cannot gather with us each week. If you know someone in this situation who is in need of pastoral care, please pass their details on to Fr Robert or Wilf Lavery.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Peter Claver - 09 September

St Peter Claver was born 26 June 1581 in Catalonia, Spain, and studied at the University of Barcelona. He became a Jesuit. While he was studying philosophy in Majorca, the door-keeper of the college, Alfonso Rodriguez (who was also canonised a saint), saw that his true vocation was to evangelise the New World, and encouraged him to fulfil that vocation.

He arrived in Cartagena, in what is now Colombia, in 1610, and after his ordination six years later he became "the slave of the Negroes forever", labouring on their behalf for 33 years, attending to both their spiritual and material needs. The slave trade was repeatedly condemned by the Popes; but it was too profitable to be stopped and on the whole the local church hierarchy kept quiet about it.

Peter brought fresh food to the slave-ships as they arrived, instructed the slaves and baptised them in the faith, followed their progress and kept track of them even when they were sent to the mines and plantations, defending them as well as he could from oppressive slave-owners. He organised teams of catechists who spoke the many languages of the slaves. He worked in hospitals also, looking after lepers among others, and in prisons.

Naturally he made himself unpopular by his work. Opposition came from both within the Church and outside it, but there were always exceptions. For instance, while many fashionable ladies refused to enter his city churches because they had been profaned by the presence of the blacks, a few became his strong and lifelong supporters.

At the end of his life he fell ill with a degenerative disease and for four years he was treated neglectfully and brutally by the servant whose task it was to look after him. He did not complain but accepted his sufferings as a penance for his sins.

He died 07 September 1654.

Text taken from www.universalis.com



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the word 'disciple' that we hear in the Gospel this weekend comes from the word meaning 'learner'?

For us Christians, the word *disciple* has become synonymous with a follower of Christ, that we forget that it had other meanings before the time of Christ. In Latin, the word for pupil is 'discipulus' and, as in modern times, referred to someone who was in the process of learning from a master. It seems only natural therefore, that we approach our own discipleship as willing and eager pupils seeking to learn all we can from the ultimate master, Jesus. We do this best when we seek to know him intimately through the opportunities that are offered to us each day.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"We do know that no one can be saved except through Christ; we do not know that only those who know Him can be saved through Him."

C S Lewis (1898-1963)

Christian Apologist

Mere Christianity



PLEASE PRAY FOR... those who work tirelessly at jobs that are "invisible" and who receive little or no thanks and low levels of remuneration. Pray for those who work in service jobs, many of whom are refugees and immigrants seeking a better and more prosperous way of life than what they knew in their homeland.