

The week ahead...

Saturday 15 October <i>St Teresa of Avila, Virgin, Doctor</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Teresa and Walter Drane and pro populo
Sunday 16 October 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 17 October <i>St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr</i>		
Tuesday 18 October <i>St Luke, Evangelist</i>	6:30pm	Mass: Arthur Crooks
Wednesday 19 October Wednesday of Ordinary Time 29	9:30am	Mass: Eileen Allison
Thursday 20 October Thursday of Ordinary Time 29	9:30am	Mass: Parkin Family members
Friday 21 October Friday of Ordinary Time 29	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 22 October Saturday of Ordinary Time 29	5:00pm	Mass: James and Mary Reynolds and pro populo



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

Priest in Charge: Fr Robert Riedling Ph: (0191) 378 4486

Mob: 07904 833 785

Email: langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk

St Patrick's RC Primary School: Ph: (0191) 378 0552

Hospital Chaplain: Ph: (0191) 526 5131

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 October, 2016

"Pray continually and never lose heart."

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF, it seems, for the widow in the Gospel presented to us this weekend. Despite the bad character of the judge in the story, he eventually gives in and administers justice to the widow, primarily to get her off his back. Hardly the loftiest of motives but the widow is satisfied with the result. As we hear, Jesus tells this parable to demonstrate the need all of us have to "pray continually and never lose heart." Even some of the greatest saints experienced extended periods of spiritual aridity but their sainthood was affirmed by their trust in a God that never abandons us.

The advantage for us is that we are not dealing with a judge of dubious character but with our Creator who loves us and has in mind only our good. People who live comfortably (as most of us do) often don't see a need for prayer, or even for God, but those who are powerless and who acknowledge their littleness are often acutely aware of the need for prayer and the spiritual side of their life.

But how do we "pray continually"? Who has the time? Surely this is really only for those members of contemplative religious communities who devote themselves especially to prayer? The answer is a firm 'no'! Jesus' words are addressed to all who want to deepen their relationship with God. It is not a practice restricted to a small subset of religious people.

Perhaps the phrase "pray continually" seems unachievable because we have a narrow definition of prayer. I'm sure many people envisage prayer as being strictly a kneeling, palms-pressed-together experience involving familiar prayers learnt in childhood or some brief mutterings petitioning or thanking God for something. Whilst such prayer is by no means wasted, it is clear that for the vast majority of people who have to work and who lead busy lives, continual prayer in this manner is impossible.

So, what sort of prayer-style facilitates the sort of prayer-life Jesus encourages in us? If we understand prayer to be a conversation with God, a sharing of our thoughts and feelings, both talking to God and listening to God, then we can see that it is possible to pray continually. As we go about our daily tasks, be they ever so mundane, we can, with practice (persistence!), bring God to mind repeatedly, thanking God for small things, petitioning him, praying that all that we do can be done for God's glory, even the most tedious of tasks. As we go about our daily routine we can also make a special effort to foster some silent space so that we can be receptive to God speaking to us; a conversation is after all, equally about listening as much as it is about speaking.

Hopefully we come to understand that praying continually is less about formal prayer than it is about a demeanour, an attitude, and an acknowledgement, ever-present, that God walks with us always, wanting to converse with us, listen to us, simply engage with us in a loving manner beyond our comprehension, but perceived well enough by us to understand our utter dependence on our loving Creator and Redeemer.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



Ministries for this week Saturday 15 October

Eucharistic Ministers
Andrew Aberdeen
Malcolm & Teresa Wass

Readers
Angela Tosley
Ann Canavan

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Carol Bainbridge

Welcomers
Janet Harrigan
Pat Middleton

Ministries for next week Saturday 22 October

Eucharistic Ministers
Irene & John Carey
Judith Bulmer

Readers
Claire Lavery
Margaret Purdom

Children's Liturgy
Anne Davies
Angela Harmston

Welcomers
Halina Holman
Pat Middleton

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £139 Loose Plate: £229

Total: £368

Mass Attendance: 155

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, Olwyn Morris and Tom Tracey.

A note on appeals: Thank you for your generosity in supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal last weekend. £200.00 was raised. Our next special appeal takes place next weekend for **Catholic Mission**. Check out material on the website at missio.org.uk to find out more.

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...?

Forward Together in Hope (FTiH): The Parish Council discussed FTiH at our recent meeting. 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 Fr Robert know if you will be attending either of these meetings so that you can be registered, especially for the Washington meeting. More details to come.

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!

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.

Torchlight Procession in the month of the Holy Rosary: Friday, 21 October, 7:00pm at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor), Westmorland Road, Newcastle, NE4 7QA. All welcome. Call on (0191) 273 1279 if you intend to bring a group.

Simon Bates Foundation Charity Concert: Saturday, 22 October, 7:00pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle., featuring the Felling Male Voice Choir and others. Tickets £10.00 or £5.00 for those under 16 years of age. Ph 07969 107 791 or go to info@simonbatesfoundation.com. See flyer on noticeboard.

Vocation Discernment for those thinking about priesthood: Evenings of prayer and reflection throughout the year. Next gathering will be Wednesday, 19 October, 6:30pm—8:30pm, St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. For those aged 16 and over. Meal provided. For further details contact Fr David Smith on (0191) 267 6063 or stjohnvianneywestdenton@gmail.com.

Day of Formation for Laity: "Transformative Encounters with Jesus: Becoming a Missionary in a Year of Mercy". Led by Rev Eamonn Mulcahy. Saturday, 29 October at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Gateshead. From 10:30am—4:00pm. Need to book. See flyer on noticeboard for more details.

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.

SCHOOL NEWS

Harvest Hampers

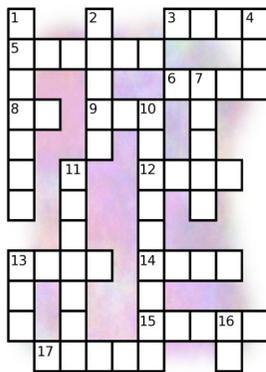
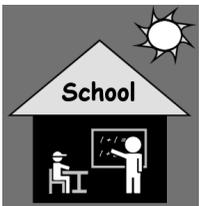
The children have been bringing in contributions towards class hampers. These hampers will be raffled during our Harvest Assembly which takes place at 9:15am on Friday morning of next week. Everyone is welcome to attend. Funds raised will be given to CAFOD to support their work in underdeveloped parts of the world.

Poppy Appeal

Poppy themed merchandise will be on sale in school from next week as we raise funds for The Royal British Legion, the charity that helps support the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

Preparation for First Sacraments

This week, Father Robert met with the parents of children beginning to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers over the next few months.



the parable of the unjust judge

Here's a puzzle about the story in today's Gospel reading.



Across:

3. Jesus said, "There was a judge..."
5. The judge was _____ (not fair)
6. The judge wanted the widow to go _____.
8. We should pray _____ God.
9. Who will always listen when we pray?
12. The judge was _____ to listen; God is fast.
13. The unjust judge did not _____ God.
14. What we do when we are talking to God.
15. The widow needed help against her _____.
17. Who told the story about the widow and judge?

Down:

1. Fairness.
2. What sort of person did the widow ask for help?
4. We pray to God _____ and night.
7. The parable is about a _____ and a judge.
10. Who did Jesus tell the story to?
11. Another name for the stories Jesus told.
13. God will do what is good _____ us.
16. The judge thought, "She will wear _____ out."



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Ignatius of Antioch - 17 October

Ignatius of Antioch (d.107) was the second bishop of Antioch after Evodius, who himself succeeded St Peter. Ignatius was arrested (some writers believe that he must have been denounced by a fellow Christian), condemned to death, and transported to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts in the arena. In one of his letters he describes the soldiers who were escorting him as being like "ten leopards, who when they are kindly treated only behave worse."

In the course of his journey he wrote seven letters to various churches, in which he dealt wisely and deeply with Christ, the organisation of the Church, and the Christian life. They are important documents for the early history of the Church, and they also reveal a deeply holy man who accepts his fate and begs the Christians in Rome not to try to deprive him of the crown of martyrdom.

In his letter to the Romans which he wrote on his way to Rome and his martyrdom, Ignatius writes: "I would rather that you coaxed the beasts to become my tomb and to leave no scrap of me behind," and "Let me be the food of beasts that I may come to God. I am his wheat, and I shall be ground by the teeth of beasts, that I may become Christ's pure bread."

Ignatius was indeed martyred by beasts in Rome in 107 and his feast was already being celebrated on this day in fourth-century Antioch.



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that October is traditionally regarded as a month with special emphasis given to the Rosary?

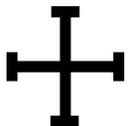
The month of October includes the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated on 07 October. Pope Leo XIII personally started the practice of devoting October to the Rosary devotion. In a letter of 01 September, 1883, mindful of the Rosary's power to strengthen faith and foster a life of virtue, he outlined the triumphs of the Rosary in past times and admonished the faithful to dedicate the month of October to the Blessed Virgin through the daily recitation of her Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to obtain through her intercession the grace that God would console and defend the Church in her sufferings.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

'Humanity renounced the search for a great light, Truth itself, in order to be content with smaller lights which illumine the fleeting moment yet prove incapable of showing the way. Yet in the absence of light everything becomes confused; it is impossible to tell good from evil, or the road to our destination from other roads which take us in endless circles, going nowhere.'

Pope Francis

Lumen Fidei (2013), n.3



PRAY FOR... those children who this week begin their journey towards First Eucharist. Pray not only for these children, that they will appreciate the importance of Eucharist in their lives, but for their parents and catechists who have the awesome task of conveying the faith to these precious young people.