

## The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 16 July</b> Saturday of Ordinary Time 15	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Frank Wilson and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 17 July</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time		
<b>Monday 18 July</b> Monday of Ordinary Time 16		
<b>Tuesday 19 July</b> Tuesday of Ordinary Time 16		
<b>Wednesday 20 July</b> Wednesday of Ordinary Time 16	9:30am	<b>Service of the Word with Communion</b>
<b>Thursday 21 July</b> Thursday of Ordinary Time 16	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Friday 22 July</b> <i>St Mary Magdalen</i>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Saturday 23 July</b> <i>St Bridget of Sweden, Religious</i>	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Jack Wilkinson and pro populo</b>



## St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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### 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 July, 2016

#### "It is Mary who has chosen the better part..."

HOSPITALITY is a key theme of our First Reading and Gospel this weekend. We read in the Book of Genesis of the meeting between Abraham and the Lord, in the guise of "three men", at the Oak of Mamre. It is an interesting scene in that whilst we hear that Abraham sees "them" (the three men) he runs to the entrance of the tent and addresses the three as "my lord" (that is, as a single entity). His immediate response to encountering God is to offer hospitality: "...taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid it all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree."

It is no surprise that hospitality is so entrenched in the culture of the Middle East because of the very fact that much of the land is so inhospitable: very hot during the day and freezing at night to say nothing of the scarcity of water. A traveller moving across the desert, especially in ancient times, would easily have succumbed to the elements if he did not have access to the hospitality of others during his journey, most especially food, drink and shelter. Though efficient modern transport may have eliminated much of the need for hospitality as a matter of life and death, the culture is entrenched and continues to this day.

And this is evident not only in the reading from Genesis this weekend but also in the Gospel, the famous story of Mary and Martha. As we well know, when Jesus arrives at their home, Martha busies herself with serving Jesus whilst Mary sits at the feet of Jesus and listens to him. Jesus responds to Martha's complaint about Mary not assisting her by stating that "Mary...has chosen the better part."

This is not to say, of course, that Jesus is unappreciative of Martha's efforts or is saying that offering hospitality is wrong – quite the contrary. To offer hospitality to another is an act of love worthy of Christ himself. When we offer hospitality to another, we are dignifying them and showing that we believe that they are no less important than us. Jesus is trying to help us understand that all that we do outside of formally religious activities such as prayer, needs to have its very basis in listening to his voice, otherwise we lose sight of why we do the things we do, such as offering hospitality. If we have no engagement with the divine then our daily activities, be they work or leisure, become meaningless, routine chores, and our faith starts to falter. When we understand that our daily activities have meaning because we have grounded them in our relationship with Jesus, then life itself takes on a different appearance and feel. It becomes joyous!

May we give rein to our "Mary" side in listening at the feet of Jesus each day and then allow our "Martha" side to flourish as we show the face of Christ to others in our daily work.

*Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,*

*Fr Robert*



#### Ministries for this week Saturday 16 July

**Eucharistic Ministers:**  
Wilf Lavery, Jane Smith and Helen Musham

**Readers:**  
Pat Middleton  
Greg Mearman

**Children's Liturgy:**  
Angela Harmston  
Anne Davies

**Welcomers:**  
Halina Holman  
Pat Middleton

#### Ministries for next week Saturday 23 July

**Eucharistic Ministers:**  
Judith Bulmer  
Pauline & Ambrose Burnside

**Readers:**  
Maria Griffiths  
Angela Harmston

**Children's Liturgy:**  
No Children's Liturgy until school returns in September

**Welcomers:**  
Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

#### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £230 Loose Plate: £159

**Total: £389**

**Mass Attendance: 151**

**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](mailto: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, Sally Thompson and Tom Tracey.*

**Last weekend's appeal for the Apostleship of the Sea** raised a total of **£218.52**. This appeal assists the crucial pastoral work of the chaplains who work in ports to cater to the needs of seafarers, most of whom spend long periods away. Many thanks for your generosity!

**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:** A copy of the report from the diocese for our parish is now available on the noticeboard for you to peruse. If you would like a copy emailed to you please let me know. Alternatively, I am happy to organise a hard copy for those who prefer it. This is an important document which will assist in determining the manner in which our parish moves forward.

**Church Cleaners:** We are in DESPERATE need of volunteers to clean the church on a regular basis. If you appreciate being able to come to a clean church each week, this will not be the case in the future unless YOU can make it happen! Please approach Fr Robert if you are willing to help on a regular basis (at least monthly, please!) Thank you.

**Lost Property:** Over the past couple of months I have collected a couple of pairs of gloves and two pairs of glasses in cases as well as an empty spectacles case. They are currently in the sacristy. Please collect as soon as possible if they belong to you. If they are not claimed soon I will see about giving them to charity at the end of July. Thank you.

**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.

**Weekday Mass Intentions:** I will be returning home to Australia for a few weeks from mid-August to mid-September. During this time all weekday Masses will be replaced by services of the Word with communion. Saturday evening Mass will still be celebrated. This means that weekday Mass intentions cannot be offered during this time, though persons can, of course, be prayed for during these weekday services in the bidding prayers. Applies from 19 August to 14 September (inclusive).

**Foster Caring:** Our diocesan fostering agency, 'Fostering North East', desperately needs more foster carers to help provide stable, loving homes for children in our region. If you are interested in finding out more about fostering then come and meet the friendly team for an informal chat at the Farmers' Market in Market Square, Durham on Thursday, 21 July between 10:30am - 2:00pm. If you can't come then but want to find out more please visit [www.fosteringnortheast.org.uk](http://www.fosteringnortheast.org.uk) or ring Fostering North East Operations Manager, Joann Gibson, on (0191) 228 0111.

**Ushaw College:** During the summer the college is open every Saturday from 12 noon until 5:00pm. In addition to that we have sung Vespers this Sunday at 4:00pm and then, next Saturday, opportunities to look around the great library at 2:00pm or 3:30pm. This tour costs £4.00 and you do need to book on [www.ushaw.org](http://www.ushaw.org) or phone 334 5119.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Thank You

We would like to thank Mary Rowe and Jenny Staff who have helped in school during this year. Thank you to Bill Wilkinson for his support in playing the organ during key celebrations this year, including our Leavers' Mass which took place on Tuesday 12th July. Sincere thanks to all our parishioners who have made the children and staff so welcome when they have joined with you to celebrate mass.

A big thank you to Father Robert for his interest in the school and for leading regular masses and liturgies since arriving in December. His visits and interest are most appreciated by staff and pupils alike.

### Goodbye

Goodbye and best wishes to our Year 6 children - Ellie, Erin, Kirsten, Alex, Ashton, Dylan, Beth, Kajetan, Mija, Karl, William, Alfie, Millie, Jak and Mia. We wish them all well in all they go on to do.

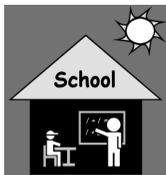
Mr Kahlon, Mrs Ingleby, Mrs Hayward, and Mrs O'Keeffe leave us this academic year. We wish them every success for the future. They will be greatly missed and we thank them for all their hard work and support.

Mrs Turnbull begins her maternity leave this summer and we wish her and her family well.

### Close of School

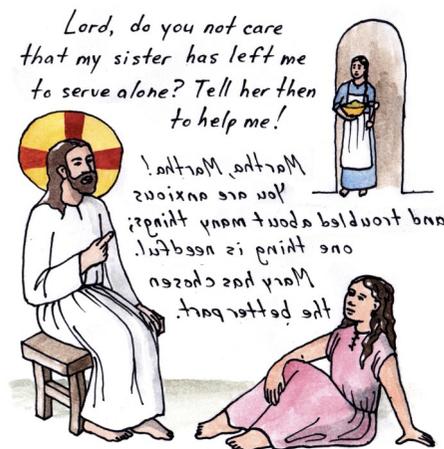
School closed on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July and re-opens for teaching purposes on **Wednesday 7th September**.

We wish all our families a safe, holy and happy holiday.



## The Kids' Bulletin

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday 17th, 2016



Martha was so busy in the kitchen but her sister wasn't helping! What did Jesus say to her when she complained to Him? Look in the mirror to find out!

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

### St Bridget of Sweden - 23 July

Saint Bridget, born 1303, was the daughter of Birger Petersson and his wife, Ingeborg. Bridget's family was pious; her father went to confession every Friday and made long and arduous pilgrimages as far away as the Holy Land. Bridget's mother died, leaving Bridget and a brother and sister. As was usual during the Middle Ages, Bridget was married when she was 13 years old to a young man, Ulf Gudmarsson, with whom she had eight children, four daughters and four sons, all of them survived infancy: very rare at that time.

After her years of service at Court, Bridget and Ulf made the long pilgrimage to Santiago di Compostela. On the return journey Ulf became dangerously ill. Bridget feared for his death and sat all night by his bed praying, and then a bishop appeared to her, promised that Ulf would recover and 'God had great things for her to do.' He told her that he was Denis, Patron of France. Ulf recovered but died in 1344.

Bridget arranged her affairs among her children and various charities and prayed for guidance. God gave her the task of founding a new religious order, mainly for women. He showed her how her abbey church was to be built, gave directions concerning the clothing and prayers of the nuns, 60 in all, who needed priests as chaplains: 13 priests, 4 deacons and 8 lay brothers. These two communities were to be ruled by an abbess.

Christ then appeared to her and asked her to go to Rome and wait there until she got the pope to return from France to Rome. She was to be there during the Holy Year 1350. Bridget left Sweden at the end of 1349 never to return. For the rest of her life she saw visions concerning the reform of the Church, messages to kings and popes and many other persons in high places, directing them to work for the Church. Although she had longed to become a nun, she never even saw the monastery in Vadstena. In fact, nothing she set out to do was ever realised.

Bridget was canonised in 1391. She is the patroness of Sweden and one of the six patron saints of Europe.

Taken from [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)



## DID YOU KNOW...?

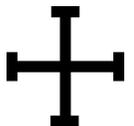
...that the scene depicted in today's First Reading from Genesis is the subject of one of the most famous icons of all time?

The icon was painted by Andrei Rublev in the fifteenth century and is titled "The Trinity" or "The Hospitality of Abraham". It depicts the three angels, representing God as trinity, seated at a table at the oak of Mamre. The lines of their bodies form a circle, thus depicting the unity of the Trinity. The icon is housed in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow. We have a copy hanging above the radiator in the front meeting room of the presbytery which you are welcome to view if you wish.

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"A Europe which would exchange the values of tolerance and universal respect for ethical indifference and scepticism about essential values would be opening itself to immense risks and sooner or later would see the most fearful spectres of its past reappear in new forms."

**Pope St John Paul II (1920-2005)**  
Apostolic Letter proclaiming  
Bridget of Sweden (and others)  
a patroness of Europe  
(01 October 1999)



**PLEASE NOTE.... I will be away this week on a short trip to Rome and so our regular weekday Masses on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday have been cancelled. Wednesday's 9:30am Mass will be replaced with a service of the Word with Communion. Thank you for your understanding.**