

The week ahead...

Saturday 20 August <i>St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Ray, Bridie and Bernadette Winnard and pro populo
Sunday 21 August 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Monday 22 August <i>Queenship of Mary</i>		
Tuesday 23 August Tuesday of Ordinary Time 21		
Wednesday 24 August <i>St Bartholomew, Apostle</i>	9:30am	Service of the Word with Communion
Thursday 25 August Thursday of Ordinary Time 21	No Mass	
Friday 26 August Friday of Ordinary Time 21	No Mass	
Saturday 27 August <i>St Monica</i>	5:00pm	Mass: Carl Barton and pro populo

Ministries for this week
Saturday 20 August

Eucharistic Ministers:
Wilf Lavery, Jane Smith,
Helen Musham

Readers:
Greg Mearman
Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy:
No Children's Liturgy until
school resumes in Sept.

Welcomers:
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

Ministries for next week
Saturday 27 August

Eucharistic Ministers:
Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
Judith Bulmer

Readers:
Maria Griffiths
Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy:
No Children's Liturgy until
school resumes in Sept.

Welcomers:
Pat Middleton
Halina Holman

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION
Gift Aid: £261 Loose Plate: £179
Total: £440

Mass Attendance: 135

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, Olwyn Morris and Tom Tracey.

A note on appeals: We have had quite a few diocesan appeals of late for various very worthy causes and I thank you for your generous support. Thank you too for your support for Fr Ejaz of Pakistan this weekend. More details next weekend regarding upcoming diocesan appeals.

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.



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

21 August, 2016

"Sir, will there be only few saved?"

THIS QUESTION, asked of Jesus by an unknown bystander, is a valid question and one which creates anxiety in a lot of people of faith. Of course, we all want to be 'saved' but this is a very loaded term. Is there any guarantee that I am 'saved'? And anyway, just what does it mean to be 'saved'?

For many Catholics, the impression might be that salvation is achieved by 'doing the right thing'. 'Doing the right thing' may mean ensuring I attend Mass each Sunday, that I attend Reconciliation regularly, pray and say the Rosary daily, read scripture regularly, and that I follow the Church's teachings and so on. No practising Catholic would argue that these are not important but if I do all these things is there any guarantee that I am saved? Is it really about 'following the rules'?

Such a way of thinking is not surprising because this is how much of society operates. For example, a couple of years ago I renewed my driver's licence back in Sydney and, without wishing to boast, was given a fifty per cent discount on my renewal fee because I had not been fined in the past few years. I was rewarded for obeying the law, for following the rules. (I must confess, though, that it was probably at times more a case of not getting caught doing the wrong thing!)

No one would argue that it is not good for a Catholic to do all those things mentioned above. Of course they are important but they must be seen as a means to an end and the end is a personal and meaningful relationship with Jesus. Hear what Jesus says in this weekend's Gospel to those who ask to enter heaven but are refused entrance: "I do not know where you come from." Essentially he is saying "I do not know you." Of course, Jesus knows us intimately, better than we will ever know ourselves, but he wants us to know him too, to have a relationship with him because he has so much to offer us.

Imagine being deeply in love with another person and have that person tell you that they love you but express that love by just 'going through the motions' in the relationship. You would surely have serious doubts about the nature of their love and it is unlikely the relationship would last.

This is the sort of thing Jesus is referring to in the Gospel today. 'Going through the motions' is not the basis of an intimate relationship with Jesus. An intimate relationship with Jesus comes about through living as he did. We know intimacy with Jesus when we live a life of service for others, when we make sacrifices for those in need without a thought for our own well-being, when we love as Jesus loved. When we do all these things we know what it is to be saved because we will know true fulfilment and happiness. Living this way, we won't concern ourselves about whether or not we will go to heaven at the end of our earthly life, whether or not we are 'saved', because we will have encountered heaven here on earth and so have confidence in what awaits us beyond our earthly existence.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



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!

Pakistan Orphan Society: Fr Ejaz recently sent a letter of gratitude to Fr Brian addressed to his dear friends from Langley Moor and Willington. Fr Brian will take the opportunity this evening at the end of Mass to read the letter to you and give you more information on the completion of the orphanage and the progress of the children. We will display photographs of the new building and letters from some of the children. There will be a collection this evening to continue our support for the wonderful work Fr Ejaz has undertaken. He deserves our support. In addition, the "brown envelopes" are available at the back of church for those who kindly donate to the appeal each month.

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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Monica - 27 August

Saint Monica, also known as Monica of Hippo, is St Augustine of Hippo's mother. She was born in 331 in Tagaste, which is in present-day Algeria.

When she was very young, she was married off to the Roman pagan Patricius. While Monica's prayers and Christian deeds bothered Patricius, he is said to have respected her beliefs. Three children were born to Monica and Patricius: Augustine, Navigius, and Perpetua. Unfortunately, Monica was unable to baptise her children and when Augustine fell ill, Monica pleaded with Patricius to allow their son to be baptised. Patricius allowed it, but when Augustine was healthy again, he withdrew his permission.

For years Monica prayed for her husband and mother-in-law, until finally, one year before Patricius' death, she successfully converted them.

As time passed, Perpetua and Navigius entered the religious life, but unfortunately Augustine became lazy and uncouth. This greatly worried Monica, so when Patricius died, she sent the 17-year-old Augustine to Carthage for schooling.

While in Carthage, Augustine became a Manichaean, which was a major religion that saw the world as light and darkness, and when one died, they were removed from the world of matter and returned to the world of light, which is where life comes from.

After Augustine got his education and returned home, he shared his views with Monica, who drove him from her table. Though it is not recorded how much time passed, Monica had a vision that convinced her to reconcile with her wayward son.

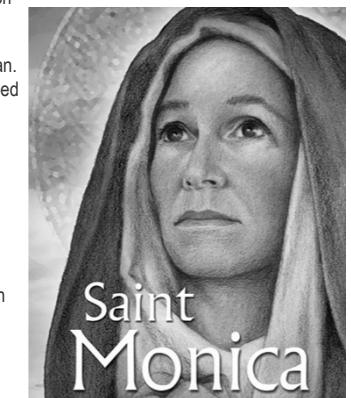
Monica went to a bishop, who told her, "the child of those tears shall never perish."

Inspired, Monica followed Augustine to Rome, where she learned he had left for Milan. She continued her pursuit and eventually came upon the Bishop Ambrose, who helped her convert Augustine to Christianity following his seventeen-year resistance.

After a period of six months, Augustine was baptised in the church of St John the Baptist at Milan. The pair were led to believe they should spread the Word of God to Africa, but in the Roman city of Civitavecchia, Monica passed away.

Augustine recorded the words she imparted upon him when she realised death was near. "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled."

She died in 387 and was buried at Ostia, and her body was removed during the sixth century to a hidden crypt in the church of Santa Aurea in Ostia.



Saint
Monica

Text taken from www.catholic.org

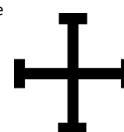
DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Church places huge emphasis on the importance of God's word in the celebration of every Mass?

We might sometimes forget that the celebration of God's word occupies about half of the time we spend at Mass and so it should not be overlooked or undervalued. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states that "all must listen with reverence to the readings of God's word for they make up an element of greatest importance in the liturgy... a living commentary on the word, that is, the homily... fosters a fuller understanding and effectiveness of the word." (GIRM 29)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"On the Cross, Jesus is united with every person who suffers from hunger in a world which, on the other hand, permits itself the luxury of throwing away tons of food every day; on the Cross, Jesus is united to the many mothers and fathers who suffer as they see their children become victims of drug-induced euphoria; on the Cross, Jesus is united with those who are persecuted for their religion, for their beliefs, or simply for the colour of their skin; on the Cross, Jesus is united with so many young people who have lost faith in political institutions, because they see in them only selfishness and corruption; he unites himself with those young people who have lost faith in the Church, or even in God, because of the counter-witness of Christians and ministers of the Gospel."



Pope Francis in 2013

PLEASE PRAY FOR... Fr Ejaz and all his work and the work undertaken by the Catholic Church in Pakistan for orphans and others who are disadvantaged and on the margins of society. Bear in mind the dangers inherent in merely being a Christian in Pakistan.