

## The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 16 June</b> Vigil Mass for 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>Teresa Coad and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 17 June</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 18 June</b> Monday of Ordinary Time 11	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 19 June</b> Tuesday of Ordinary Time 11	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mass: <b>Harold &amp; Walter Tonge</b>
<b>Wednesday 20 June</b> Wednesday of Ordinary Time 11	<b>9:30am</b>	Mass: <b>Winnie Mortimer</b>
<b>Thursday 21 June</b> <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Friday 22 June</b> <i>SS John Fisher, Bishop and St Thomas More, Martyrs</i>	<b>7:00am</b>	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 23 June</b> Vigil Mass for The Nativity of St John the Baptist	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>Moran family and pro populo</b>

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

17 June, 2018

### “He would not speak to them except in parables...”

LAST WEEKEND marked the return to Sundays in Ordinary Time. This run of Sundays will continue almost unbroken through to the feast of Christ the King in late November, the only exception being next Sunday which is the Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist. As Ordinary Time is restored, so we have returned to reading through Mark, the shortest of the Gospels.

Today we hear Jesus tell two parables about the kingdom of God. Parables are short stories which attempt to convey a meaning, rather like an extended metaphor. They were a favourite method of Jesus to speak about faith matters and we hear at the end of the Gospel this weekend that he spoke to his disciples almost exclusively in parables. Not only that, we learn that he told many parables which, unfortunately for us, were not recorded.

The favouring of parables by Jesus is understandable. Stories are a very powerful way of communicating. I'm certain that every one of us in this parish who has left our youth behind many years ago will still be able to record a favourite book, story or film from the distant past. We might not remember the details of too many conversations from the tens of thousands we have had but we can all recall the particulars of a loved story and never tire of hearing it. Stories resonate particularly with children: who, as a parent or grandparent, has not been hounded by a child to read a much-loved story repeatedly, even though the child has heard it dozens of times already? Jesus clearly had great wisdom in choosing to communicate the divine via the medium of the parable.

And this is the point: Jesus was attempting to convey to his disciples (and that includes us) something which is otherwise impossible to grasp – the nature of the kingdom of God. The power of the parable is evident for us to see this weekend. Jesus uses images which would have been very familiar to those hearing him at the time (seeds and the land) and which are not foreign to us, even in a high-tech world two thousand years on. We can spend a lot of time examining the details of the two parables Jesus presents to us this weekend, but even a cursory reading brings forth a key meaning: the kingdom of God involves growth, growth which cannot be stopped or reversed, no matter how hard people may try to do so.

Over the centuries, many have tried to obliterate the work of God here on earth, whether it be trying to annihilate the Church and religious faith, or simply trying to undo good works. Despite making some headway from time to time, ultimately the perpetrators of such evil have failed. And why? Because of the efforts of many good people to build the kingdom of God rather than destroy it or, at the very least, adopt an attitude of indifference to God's kingdom and its destruction by evil forces. It is these people, doing God's work, who have ensured that the seed has produced good fruit. But the battle is never over; we can never be complacent.

How will you ensure that God's kingdom grows just that little bit more in your sphere of influence in the week ahead?

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*  
Fr Robert



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 16 June

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Angela & Gordon Tosley  
Angela Harmston

#### Readers

Pat Middleton  
Margaret Purdom

#### Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies  
Joanne Lidster

#### Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

#### Music

Greg Mearman & Choir

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 23 June

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Teresa & Malcolm Wass  
Andrew Aberdeen

#### Readers

Claire Lavery  
Angela Tosley

#### Children's Liturgy

Anne Davies  
Angela Harmston

#### Welcomers

Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

#### Music

TBA

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin. Items for publication need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday.**

#### We pray for our beloved deceased, including....

Teresa COAD

Winnie MORTIMER (Rec. Dec.)

Alice PARK

Gemma REYNOLDS

Maureen ROSS



*Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....*

*Sylvia Kelly, Mary Spears,  
Rose Crick, Doreen Carroll,  
Margaret Pouton,  
Tom Taylorson,  
Jack Tobin and  
Pat Harrison*



#### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £225    Loose Plate: £195

**TOTAL: £420**

Mass Attendance: 159

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**Day for Life Retiring Collection:** The next retiring collection will be taken up **this weekend** for the **Day For Life**. This year's Day for Life will remember all those who are suffering or have survived human trafficking and modern slavery. Day for Life is celebrated yearly by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, and England and Wales. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The proceeds of the Day for Life collection to be held in parishes is used for the promotion of the dignity of the human person. Money collected for Day for Life will be used to fund projects that support work in this area by organisations which further this objective. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

**Lay Training Fund:** Thank you for your donations to the **Lay Training Fund** last weekend. A total of **£186.40** was received.

**Brandon Food Bank:** Many thanks for your generous donations in the past. We welcome your continued support especially with items in short supply, ie. longlife milk, fruit squash, tea, coffee, tinned fish, meat and fruit. Thank you!

**Flower Festival at Ushaw:** The flower festival is open until Sunday afternoon, and many of the parishes from our partnership have been involved in creating displays. There are some photos on the partnership webpages hosted at <http://www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk/archives/category/partnership>.

**Finchale Partnership:** The minutes of the May meeting of the Partnership Development Group are now available on the noticeboard and at the partnership webpages hosted at <http://www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk/the-finchale-partnership/partnership-development-group-information>.

**Diocesan Festival:** The sixth Diocesan Festival takes place on **23-24 June** at the Emmaus Youth Village in Consett. See the noticeboard for more details. There will be inspiring speakers for adults as well as activities for young people and children. The theme is **Encounter**.

**"Pray For Peace":** An event for women and children being held at St Mary's Chapel, Jesmond, on **Saturday, 30 June**. This is a joint Christian/Muslim event involving interfaith prayers for peace. See the noticeboard for more details.

**Partnership Matters:** The June/July edition of the bi-monthly *Partnership Matters* news update is now available on the front page of the diocesan website ([www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)) and on the parish noticeboard. It includes activities and ideas shared from across the partnerships.

**Why the Church Should Change Her Mind on Priesthood, Sex and Gender:** You are invited to hear **Terry Wright**, Emeritus Professor of English Literature at Newcastle University and author of twelve books on various aspects of Religion and Literature, speak on this important subject in the Church Hall at **The Holy Name Parish Church**, North Jesmond Avenue, Newcastle NE2 3JX, on **Wednesday 04 July at 7:00pm**.

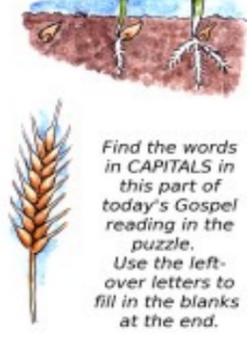
**Feast of St Aloysius Gonzaga:** Thursday 21st June is the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Aloysius Gonzaga. The Junior House Chapel at Ushaw was dedicated to the young saint and his feast was celebrated as a playday. Mass will be celebrated in St Joseph's Chapel, Ushaw, on Thursday 21 June at 12:30pm. The replica statue of Our Lady of Help which was originally in St Aloysius Chapel will be with us in St Joseph's as we celebrate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass.

## The Kids' Bulletin

### A Kingdom of God Word-Find

"The KINGDOM of GOD is as if a MAN should SCATTER seed upon the GROUND, and should SLEEP and RISE NIGHT and DAY, and the SEED should SPROUT and GROW, he KNOWS not how. The EARTH PRODUCES of itself, first the BLADE, then the ear, then the full GRAIN in the ear. But when the grain is RIPE, at once he puts in the SICKLE, BECAUSE the HARVEST has come."

S S E E D B L A D E  
L C G O D G R I P E  
E A R T H K N O W S  
E T A R R I S E O I  
P T I W I N N O H C  
U E N N I G H T A K  
G R O U N D R H R L  
R E S P R O U T V E  
O D A Y A M R T E M  
W P R O D U C E S A  
B E C A U S E S T N



Find the words in CAPITALS in this part of today's Gospel reading in the puzzle. Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

The Church helps our love for God to

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I know how to help others when they are in trouble'. We talked about the importance of fulfilling our responsibilities towards each other, in order to live as Jesus taught us.

### New Reception

On Tuesday evening, we held an information evening for the parents of pupils starting Reception in September. This was an opportunity for the parents to meet staff, governors and each other.

### First Mass in Chapel

At 2:45pm, on Tuesday 19 June, Year 5 and 6 pupils will celebrate Mass in our new chapel. Father Robert will lead the celebration. We recently took receipt of some new benches, which will be used by our pupils during this Mass.

### Mini Olympics

On Friday, all junior pupils attended a 'Mini Olympics' day, at the Riverside, Chester-Le-Street.

### Dairy Dates

**Wednesday, 27 June** @ 2:45pm - Class 2 (Years 3 & 4) Mass - in the school chapel

**Wednesday, 04 July** @ 1:30pm - Sports' Afternoon - on the school field

**Thursday, 05 July** @ 9:30am - Classes 1 and 2 (Years 3, 4, 5, & 6) will attend Mass in church

**Tuesday, 10 July** @ 10:00am - Year 6 will attend a Leavers' Mass at St. Godric's Church in Durham, with pupils from other schools in the St. Leonard's cluster

**Tuesday, 10 July** @ 2:45pm - Infant Liturgy (Reception, Years 1 & 2) - in the school chapel

**Wednesday, 11 July** @ 2:30pm - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - in the school hall

**Thursday, 12 July** @ 9:30am - Infants (Reception, Years 1 & 2) will attend Mass in church

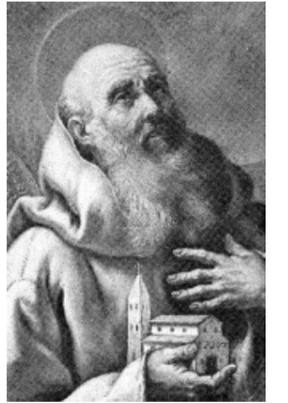
**Thursday, 19 July** @ 9:30am - Whole school will attend Mass, for the close of the school year, in church



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Romuald - 19 June

Born around the year 951 into an aristocratic family in Ravenna, northern Italy, he joined a Benedictine monastery. He made himself unpopular there by trying to get the lax monks to mend their ways and so, with the permission of his abbot, became a wandering hermit. In a constant fight against the degenerate monasteries of his day, he founded hermitages and monasteries where a life of prayerful solitude could be truly lived. The monastery at Camaldoli, which he founded and where he remained as abbot for a number of years, became the first house of an order of hermits which still exists (the Camaldolese Order). Romuald took to his wanderings once more, and died in a monastery he himself had founded at Val di Castro - as he wished, alone in his cell around the year 1027.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for June

That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.

*"I encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster hope and trust today."*



### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### PRAYER GROUP & QUIET DAY

Next Prayer Group meets at St Patrick's, Langley Moor (Presbytery), Tuesday, 19 June, from 9:30am. Refreshments beforehand.

The annual Quiet Day retreat is scheduled for Saturday, 04 August at Minsteracres Retreat Centre, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Cost is £18.00. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee available.



### DID YOU KNOW...?

...that parables such as those we hear Jesus speak in the Gospel this weekend, are very short stories with a double meaning?

Parables are meant to be instructive and convey a lesson for those who hear them. Parables are different to fables in that fables use animals, plants as characters to convey their meaning whereas parables use human characters. We hear in the Gospel today that Jesus used many other parables which unfortunately were not recorded for our benefit.

**Parable**  
An earthly story with a heavenly meaning

### "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"We are praising God at this moment when we are gathered together in the church; when anyone leaves to go home, in a sense he ceases to praise God. But provided he does not cease living a good life, he praises God continually."

St Augustine of Hippo (354- 430)  
Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
On the Psalms



**PLEASE PRAY...** for the following intentions throughout Ordinary Time: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; human life; seafarers. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....

