

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 08 September</b> Vigil Mass 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Malcolm &amp; Harry Stoker</b> and <i>pro populo</i>
<b>Sunday 09 September</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 10 September</b> Weekday of Ordinary Time 23	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 11 September</b> Weekday of Ordinary Time 23	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Wednesday 12 September</b> Weekday of Ordinary Time 23	9:30am	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>Thursday 13 September</b> <i>St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Friday 14 September</b> <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Saturday 15 September</b> Vigil Mass for 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: <b>John Kennedy</b> and <i>pro populo</i>



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## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 09 September, 2018

### "Ephphatha, be opened!"

YOU WILL REMEMBER last week's Gospel in which Jesus was critical of those who pay only lip-service to their proclaimed faith rather than living it from their hearts. He emphasised the manner in which many people focus on following laws and regulations and believe that in living these faithfully they are showing love for God. Jesus dismissed such an approach to a life of faith as being unauthentic, underlining the fact that "what comes out of a man makes him unclean" rather than what goes in. For Jesus, the focus is love of God and neighbour; human regulations mean nothing if they don't lead a person to this manner of living.

This weekend we witness Jesus on the move. Interestingly, Jesus takes a convoluted route from Tyre to Galilee, moving mainly in Gentile territory through the Decapolis ("ten cities") on the eastern side of the Jordan River. This may be an indication that he is rejecting his own people for their attitude to their faith and so chooses to move amongst the Gentiles who are less arrogant and more open to his message.

At some point Jesus heals a deaf and mute man who is brought to him. It is an interesting encounter because of Jesus' intimate actions in this healing, touching the man's ears with his hands and touching his tongue with spittle. Jesus speaks in his native language of Aramaic and the man "spoke clearly". From a Catholic perspective, Jesus' actions are very sacramental. Indeed, this healing miracle of Jesus is reflected in the rite of baptism for children, towards the end of the ceremony. The minister touches the ears and lips of the one being baptised, saying:

*The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.*

At this point in the baptism ritual, I always mention that now the child has been baptised, we pray that he or she will, throughout their life, hear God's word at all times and in all places, and proclaim that word, not just in speech, but more importantly in action. It is, of course, the prime responsibility of the parents and godparents to assist the child in growing in the faith so that they will hear God and respond to what they hear. But no matter how well the parents and godparents do their job in this regard, it is ultimately up to the individual Christian to do all he or she can to nourish and grow in the faith throughout their life. How many people could each of us identify who was "raised in the faith" but fell away from it for one reason or another as the influence of parents and godparents became weaker? We ought to ask ourselves repeatedly whether we are attuned to God's voice and what our response is, no matter what our stage in life's journey.

After all, hearing and responding to God in love is the very reason for which we were created.

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*  
Fr Robert



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 08 September**

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Irene & John Carey  
Kevin Boyle

**Readers**  
Ann Canavan  
Margaret Purdom

**Children's Liturgy**  
Maria Griffiths  
Michelle Dennis

**Welcomers**  
Paul & Anne Kelly

**Music**  
Greg Mearman & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 15 September**

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

**Readers**  
Brendan Payne  
Pat Middleton

**Children's Liturgy**  
Maria Griffiths  
Helen Riddles

**Welcomers**  
Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

**Music**  
Greg Mearman & Choir

**23<sup>rd</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....**

Malcolm & Harry STOKER  
Robert William MOONEY  
Bryan CHEESEY  
Ada KITCHING  
Lily ROBSON

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

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



**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**

Gift Aid: £255    Loose Plate: £216

**TOTAL: £471**

Mass Attendance: 151

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**Fr Brian Murphy:** We welcome back Fr Brian over the next two Saturday evenings during my annual leave. I know you will make him welcome as always. Also, at the end of Mass this weekend, **Celia Hetherington** will speak about Fr Ejaz's mission and how you can continue to assist his wonderful work in the difficult environment of Pakistan. I know you will welcome her warmly as well.

**Hymn Request Forms:** Don't forget that you can now nominate a favourite hymn for the choir to lead us in at Mass. Forms are available at the rear of the church.

**Rosary Group:** A reminder that a group of parishioners meet regularly after the 9:30am Mass on Thursday to pray the Rosary. Feel free to join them!

**Apostleship of the Sea:** Apostleship of the Sea invites you to a Mass in honour of our patron Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea. Come pray for the work of Apostleship of the Sea and for seafarers

on **Wednesday 19 September** at 12:00noon in St Bede's Church, 10 Westoe Rd, South Shields NE33 4LZ. Bishop Séamus Cunningham will celebrate Mass, followed by a reception. All invited. Please RSVP by email to [salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](mailto:salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk).

**Home Mission Sunday Collection:** As you are aware, it has been a while since we have taken up a special collection because of the summer break. Now that the holidays are drawing to a close we are due to have some special collections for various purposes. The next of these will be **next weekend, 15 September, for Home Mission Sunday.** Some materials will be available for you next weekend. This collection supports the work of evangelisation throughout the dioceses of England and Wales. Please be as generous as you can.

**Ushaw Prayer Group:** The contemplative prayer group at Ushaw will resume its meetings on the first and third Fridays of the month, the next being on **21 September.** Meetings, lasting about an hour, will start at 1:45pm, following Mass at 12:30pm and a light lunch in the Refectory. All are welcome!

**Young People's Discipleship Training - IN PURSUIT:** Following a period of research and exploration YMT are launching a Discipleship Program beginning with a Residential weekend at the Youth Village on 29 and 30 September. Applications are invited from young people 16 – 21 years who wish to deepen, grow in faith and learn to lead. This will be an interactive, relevant programme for young people in our diocese. Supported by the Partnerships young people will have the opportunity share with others, listen to informed speakers and apply a real sense of discipleship in practical ways. Contact details: Youth Ministry Trust - Phillip Salkeld - [inpursuit@ymt.org](mailto:inpursuit@ymt.org) - 01207 592244 - Facebook page: IN Pursuit - [www.hnyouthtoolkit.org.uk/inpursuit](http://www.hnyouthtoolkit.org.uk/inpursuit).

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Egwin - 10 September

The foundation of the abbey dedicated to Our Lady at Evesham is attributed to an early eighth-century Bishop of Worcester called Egwin. Very little is known about him since the earliest account of his life, written in Latin c.1020, is almost entirely composed of fables. However it does contain some local material which may reflect older traditions; among these is the account of the appearance of Our Lady to a swineherd at a place on the Avon where Egwin built the church in her honour. This would be the earliest record of the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in England. Since 1952 Evesham has become the place of an annual pilgrimage to Our Lady; the Catholic Church there is dedicated to St Mary and St Egwin.



(Information taken from *Universalis*)

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Welcome Mass

Thank you to all those who came along to the celebration of Mass on Tuesday morning, to mark the beginning of the new school year. Particular thanks to Father Robert, for leading us in the celebration, to Bill Wilkinson, for providing the music and to Nicole, Aimee, Ketila, Ella and Harris, for supporting the celebration with their reading.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Anna Turnbull, who left our staff last academic year, after teaching at St Patrick's for over 7 years. During the summer break, she gave birth to Joshua Joel, who weighed 9lb, 12ozs at birth.

### Masses and Liturgies

Additional celebrations, planned for the first half term, are as follows:

**Friday 28.09.18 @ 2:30pm** - Welcome Liturgy (Reception). *This event will take place in school and will be followed by a cake sale and refreshments, in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.*

**Wednesday 03.10.18 @ 2:45pm** - Mass (Class 1) - in school chapel

**Thursday 04.10.18 @ 9:30am** - Mass (Class 2) - in church

**Thursday 04.10.18 @ 2:45pm** - Liturgy (Class 4) - in school chapel

**Wednesday 10.10.18 @ 2:45pm** - Liturgy (Class 3) - in school chapel

**Wednesday 17.10.18 @ 2:45pm** - Liturgy (Class 2) - in school chapel

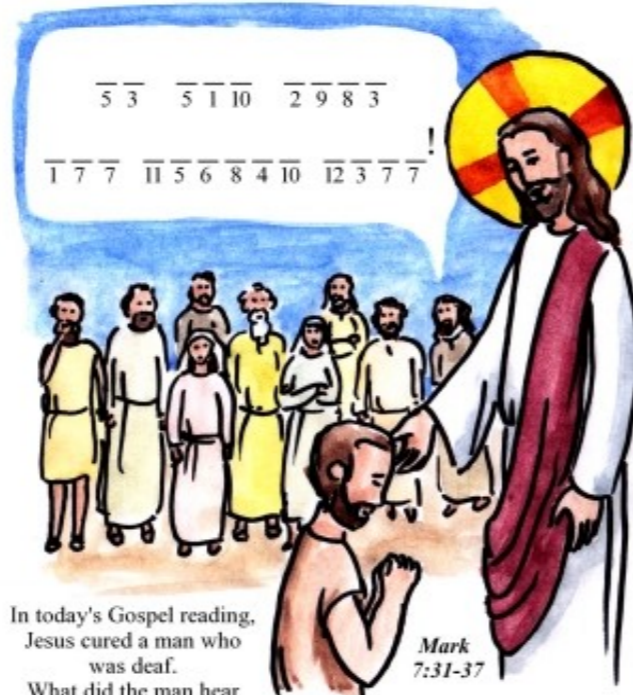
**Thursday 18.10.18 @ 9:30am** - Mass (Class 1) - in church

Everyone welcome!



## The Kids' Bulletin

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 9th, 2018



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus cured a man who was deaf. What did the man hear people saying when he could hear again?

Mark 7:31-37

Use the number code below to find the answer!

A D E G H I L N O S T W  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for September

**That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.**

*"None of us is an island, autonomous and independent from others. We can only build the future by standing together."*



### DID YOU KNOW...?

**...that the "Decapolis" that is mentioned in the Gospel this weekend means a group of ten cities?**

The Decapolis was a federation of ten cities situated mostly on the eastern side of the Jordan River. They had a largely Greek culture. According to Wikipedia, the cities' names are known to us through the Roman historian, Pliny the Elder. They are: Gerasa, Scythopolis, Hippos, Gedara, Pella, Philadelphia, Capitolias, Canatha, Raphana and Damascus (the modern capital of Syria).



### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### *Prayer Group & Bible Study*

Prayer Group meets every third week of the month at **St John's Church of England, Meadowfield**, from **9:30am - 10:15am**. Next meeting: **Tuesday, 18 September**. All welcome!

Bible Study Group will meet every Friday in **September, 2:00pm - 3:00pm**, at **St John's Church of England, Meadowfield**. Please bring a Bible with you. **Theme:** Women in the New Testament.



### "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Make your house beautiful by all means but also look after the poor, or rather look after the poor first. No one was ever condemned for not adorning his house, but those who neglect the poor were threatened with hell fire for all eternity and a life of torment with devils. Adorn your house if you will, but do not forget your brother in distress. He is a temple of infinitely greater value."

**St John Chrysostom** (c.349 - 407)  
Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
*Meditations on the Gospel of Matthew*



**PLEASE PRAY...** for the following intentions throughout Autumn as requested by Bishop Séamus: **Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....

