

The week ahead...

Saturday 17 November Vigil Mass for 33 rd Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Moran family and pro populo
Sunday 18 November 33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 19 November Weekday of Ordinary Time 33	NO MASS	
Tuesday 20 November Weekday of Ordinary Time 33	6:30pm	Mass: Private Intention
Wednesday 21 November <i>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9:30am	Mass: The Faithful Departed
Thursday 22 November <i>St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr</i>	9:30am	Mass: The Faithful Departed
Friday 23 November Weekday of Ordinary Time 33	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 24 November Vigil Mass for Christ the King	5:00pm	Mass: John Middleton and pro populo



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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 18 November, 2018

"Heaven and earth will pass away..."

AS WE REACH the end of the Church's year, our readings focus on the "end times" when the Son of Man will come "in the clouds with great power and glory" and the angels will "gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven." We must be careful not to take these words literally but we must ensure that we take them seriously. Just as we believe that God created the universe, including our planet and everything it is home to, including us, so we believe that a time will come when creation will end and this will herald the return of Christ in all his glory and the General Judgement will take place.

These words strike fear into the hearts of many people, including Christians. Yet surely we have nothing to fear if we truly believe that our God is a loving, merciful and compassionate God? Perhaps the point is that such words as these make us reflect all too readily on our shortcomings as Christian disciples and we question the quality of our commitment to our Lord. Whilst we do not doubt that God is indeed merciful and loving, the source of our fear is most likely a realisation that we are Christians in name only for much of the time and our actions often do not reflect what we proclaim. God does not punish – we punish ourselves.

So to take the words of Jesus seriously means not to envisage a merciless God who, after a calamitous series of natural disasters, will send the 'bad' people spiralling down to hell, but rather to look honestly at ourselves and ask if we are ready should Jesus return tomorrow. On many occasions, people have tried to determine when exactly the events described by Jesus will take place, but he says quite clearly at the end of today's Gospel that nobody knows when these things will happen but the Father, not even Jesus. The 'end times' could happen in a million years' time or before you finish reading this column. That being so, it is important that we continually assess the quality of our discipleship and make the necessary amendments. Regular celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation is one good way to do this.

Next Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, is the final Sunday of the liturgical year. It is fitting that the final Sunday of the year should celebrate the great triumph of Christ over death and his position as King of the universe, the one who reigns triumphantly over all. As we hear Jesus speak this weekend of the sun being darkened, the moon losing its brightness, the stars falling from heaven and the powers in heaven being shaken. it is best to do so bearing next Sunday's feast in mind. Ultimately, Christ conquers death and all evil and is preparing to receive us into his kingdom at the end of time. If our lives are lived in loving gratitude for God's mercy, we can have confidence that the 'end times' will mark for us not a time for fear and trembling but a glorious beginning that will have no end.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 17 November
Eucharistic Ministers
 John & Irene Carey
 Kevin Boyle
Readers
 Marie Paily
 Stella Foody
Children's Liturgy
 Helen Riddles
 Angela Harmston
Welcomers
 Pat Middleton
 Mary Kitching
Music
 Greg Mearman & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 24 November
Eucharistic Ministers
 Jane Smith, Helen Musham
 Wilf Lavery
Readers
 Ann Canavan
 Angela Tosley
Children's Liturgy
 Maria Griffiths
 Joanne Lidster
Welcomers
 Halina Holman
 Janet Harrigan
Music
 Greg Mearman & Choir

33rd 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....

MORAN Family
 Ralph CANAVAN
 Olive MARCH
 Veronica FURNACE
 Ronnie WAGGOTT
 Ethel HARKIN
 John MIDDLETON

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

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



£ LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION
Gift Aid: £260 **Loose Plate:** £241
TOTAL: £501
Mass Attendance: 186
 DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

