

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 14 September</b> Vigil Mass for 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Maughan &amp; Kitching families and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 15 September</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 16 September</b> SS Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Pope, Martyrs	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 17 September</b> Tuesday of Week 24	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Wednesday 18 September</b> Wednesday of Week 24	9:30am	Communion Service
<b>Thursday 19 September</b> Thursday of Week 24	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Friday 20 September</b> SS Andrew Kim, Paul Chong Hasang & Companions (The Korean Martyrs)	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Saturday 21 September</b> Vigil Mass for 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Vera Lumsdon and pro populo</b>



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

**Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ**

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## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 September 2019

### Rejoicing over one repentant sinner

THIS WEEKEND'S LONGER GOSPEL features what is surely one of the most famous parables in the scriptures, that which is popularly known as "The Prodigal Son". It is interesting that the parable is known so well by this name, yet the word "prodigal" is never heard in general conversation (unless someone is referencing this very parable!) Because of the popularity of this parable, we can easily overlook the other two wonderful stories Jesus presents us with in this weekend's gospel that also focus on forgiveness: the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. It might be a good idea to turn our attention from the Prodigal Son for a moment and focus on these other two shorter parables which are often overshadowed by their more famous cousin.

A cursory reading of these two parables would seem to indicate they are identical in every way apart from the fact that one concerns a lost sheep and the other a lost coin. Luke is careful to emphasise however, that the first parable's protagonist is a man and the second parable has a woman as the principal actor. For Luke, men and women have equal roles in God's kingdom. Luke is well-known for giving prominence to women in his gospel, quite remarkable for a first-century writer!

From our perspective as Christian disciples, what is most striking about these two little parables is the fact that the two characters, representative of God, actively seek out what was lost rather than waiting for the lost sheep to make its own way back or for the lost coin to turn up at some point. The initiative comes from God, tirelessly searching for the lost. The reason for this relentless searching for the lost is God's love for his creatures, evidenced by the response once they are found: "Rejoice with me. I have found my sheep/the drachma that was lost."

Based on our own experience, we are aware that the first step towards forgiveness is acknowledgement of our sin, prompted by a feeling of guilt which then leads us to repentance. Following the dynamic of the parables, the recognition of our sin and the feelings which follow, whatever we wish to call them, are prompted by God. God will certainly never bellow at us or force us to take any particular action once we experience guilt or shame, but the subtle promptings that cause us to reflect on our actions have their origins in God. Naturally, what we do next is up to us and will be dictated by the strength of our faith and trust in God and to what extent we wish to respond to the pure, unadulterated love that is God. Surely only the hardest of hearts could fail to seek reconciliation with the one who has tirelessly sought us out in our state of sin and shame?

Each of the three parables related by Jesus this weekend tells us something important about our tendency to sin and God's unfailing efforts to draw us back into relationship with him. Though the two shorter parables of The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin illustrate this beautifully, surely neither effectively touches us as deeply as the image from The Prodigal Son of the father running uninhibitedly towards his returning son to embrace him and kiss him with such profound fatherly love?

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*  
Fr Robert



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 14 September**

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

**Readers**  
Margaret Purdom  
Claire Lavery

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

**Welcomers**  
Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

**Music**  
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 21 September**

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Pauline & Ambrose Burnside  
Harry Curran

**Readers**  
Pat Middleton  
Brendan Payne

**Children's Liturgy**  
Maria Griffiths  
Joanne Lidster

**Welcomers**  
Pat Middleton  
Mary Kitching

**Music**  
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

**24<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...*

MAUGHAN & KITCHING families

Teresa COAD  
Sheila DOUGHERTY  
Frank McGOAY  
Pauline COLLIN

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

*Rose Crick, Frank Moran,  
Doreen Carroll, Tom Taylorson,  
John Byrne, Jack Tobin,  
Margaret Pouton, Mary Spears,  
Frances Harland  
and Sylvia Kelly*



**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**

Gift Aid: £189    Loose Plate: £221

**TOTAL: £410**

Mass Attendance: 117

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**PDG Parish Representative:** As the Partnership Development Group has passed two years since its inception, the various representatives have served their time and the opportunity exists for a new parish representative to serve our parish. Please speak to Fr Robert if you are interested. Meetings occur about every two months at Gilesgate.

**Home Mission Sunday:** There will be a retiring collection after Mass this evening for Home Mission Sunday. This collection goes towards assisting the mission of the Church in England and Wales. As always, please be as generous as you can with this collection. Thank you!

**Catholic Education Collection:** Thank you for your contributions last weekend to this collection. A total of £119.35 was raised.

**Missio September Quarterly Collection:** Red boxes and brown envelope contributions will be collected by sponsors this month. Your monies go directly to helping the most needy in our foreign mission countries.

**Finchale Partnership Open Afternoons:** People often say they would like to know more about the other parishes and churches in the partnership. The next in our series of open afternoons is on **Sunday, 15th September**, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm, at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham. St. Cuthbert's was opened in 1827 and is home to the University Catholic Chaplaincy as well as to the parish. The people of St. Cuthbert's are looking forward to welcoming visitors from across the partnership to look around, chat over refreshments, and learn a little about the parish. The afternoon will finish with simple vespers at 3:50pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. You don't have to sign up in advance, but if you need a lift to Durham, or if you are able to offer someone else a lift, please let Fr Robert know.

**Changes to Mass Schedule in September:** Please note that I will be on leave from **01-20 September**. We welcome Fr Paul Tully this

weekend. The 9:30am Mass this Wednesday, 18 September, will be replaced with a Service of the Word with Communion. Because there will be no weekday Masses, please be aware that no Mass intentions can be offered in my absence. Weekday Masses will return to the usual schedule beginning on Tuesday 24th. Looking forward to seeing you again next Saturday evening!

**School Opening Mass:** The Mass to mark the beginning of the school year will be held on **Monday 23 September at 9:30am**. All parishioners are welcome to this Mass, a great way to show your support for our wonderful primary school and its dedicated staff.

**Twitter:** Please don't forget St Patrick's has a Twitter account and something is tweeted each day. These tweets are both of a spiritual and practical nature. Simply search for **St Patrick's Langley Moor**. Twitter is free to use and can be accessed on any computer or mobile device.

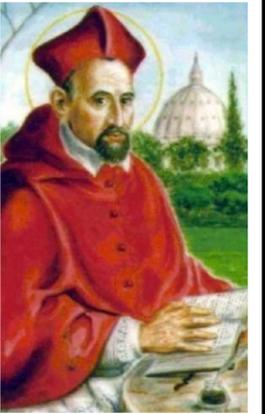
**The Heart of Prayer: An Introductory Day on Centring Prayer:** Ushaw College, Saturday 21 September, 10:00am - 3:30pm, led by Elizabeth Smith. Elizabeth has given numerous retreats and workshops on Centring Prayer, sharing the teaching of Fr Thomas Keating. Thomas was Elizabeth's mentor and friend. Elizabeth founded Contemplative Outreach UK with Fr Keating's blessing and support in 1989. The cost for the day is £10 per person, including tea/coffee in the morning and in the afternoon. Light meals may be purchased in The Refectory. Booking is essential. To purchase a ticket, go to [www.ushaw.org](http://www.ushaw.org).

**Vacancy:** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancy: Cleaner, St Joseph's, Stanley - 12 hours per week, 12 month fixed-term contract. Closing date: 29 September. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk) or contact us 0191 243 3301, email [human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk).

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Robert Bellarmine - 17 September

Robert Bellarmine was born in Montepulciano, in Tuscany in 1542, and became a Jesuit. He taught theology in Rome, and was active in disputation against the Protestants, where his effectiveness was increased by his charity and moderation. He was a moderating influence in the Galileo affair, and gave Galileo much friendly advice. In due course he was nominated a cardinal and archbishop of Capua; but it is for his writings that he is chiefly known. He did not only write controversial works; he also wrote two catechisms and some devotional commentaries on the Psalms and on the Seven Last Words of Jesus. He died in 1621.



(Text taken from *Universalis*)

### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for September

**That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.**

*"Political activity must truly be conducted at the service of the human person, with respect for creation and for the common good."*



### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Prayer Group & Bible Study

The next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held at **St John's, Meadowfield** on **Tuesday 17 September**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments from 9:15am.

The next **Bible Study Group** will meet on **Monday 07 October** at **St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon** from 3:30pm - 4:45pm.

All are welcome at these events and all events organised by Churches Together!



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'We are all special'. We shared the creation story and talked about how we are all unique and have particular gifts and talents. We thought about the importance of using our talents in ways that make our world a better place.

### Chapel

Our Reception children visited the school chapel, this week. They learnt about the things in our chapel and said a prayer to thank God for this special place in our school.

### Football

On Wednesday evening, our school football team played three matches in the Daniel O'Hare Trophy, at Durham Johnston School. The team played well, won two games and lost one. The team played again on Thursday evening, in the Leadgate Eden Colliery Cup and won all three games!

### Twitter

Don't forget that you can always follow us on Twitter - @StPatsLM - and see some of the things our children are doing in school.

### Diary Dates

**Start of School Mass** @ 9:30am on Monday 23 September, in St Patrick's church

**Reception Class - Welcome Liturgy** @ 2:30pm on Friday 27 September, in the school hall (coffee and cake to follow, with donations to Macmillan Cancer Support).



## The Kids' Bulletin

### Fill in the Blanks: The Lost Coin

Here is part of today's Gospel reading. See if you can fill in the blanks and use the marked letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she  \_\_\_\_\_ one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?

And when she has  \_\_\_\_\_ it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying,

'Rejoice with me, for I  \_\_\_\_\_ found the coin which I had lost.'

Just so, I  \_\_\_\_\_ you, there is joy before the angels of God over one  \_\_\_\_\_ who repents."

This parable helps to show us how much God   1  2  3  4  5   each of us.



## Next Week's Readings

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Amos 8:4-7**

**1 Timothy 2:1-8**

**Luke 16:1-13**



"You cannot be the slave both of God

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."

**C S Lewis (1898 - 1963)**

Christian apologist and author

# CHANGE!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR....**the following intentions during Ordinary Time in autumn as requested by Bishop Robert: **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....

