

The week ahead...

Saturday 02 November Vigil Mass for 31 st Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: John Kennedy and pro populo
Sunday 03 November 31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	NO MASS	
Monday 04 November <i>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 05 November Tuesday of Week 31	6:30pm	Mass: Private Intention
Wednesday 06 November Wednesday of Week 31	9:30am	Mass: Private Intention
Thursday 07 November <i>St Willibrord, Bishop</i>	9:30am	Mass: Private Intention
Friday 08 November Friday of Week 31	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 09 November Vigil Mass for 32 nd Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Michael, Catherine & John Evans and pro populo



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

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31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 03 November 2019

"He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was..."

YET ANOTHER STORY unique to the Gospel of Luke is presented to us this weekend, though it is not a parable but rather the story of the encounter in Jericho between Jesus and the tax collector Zacchaeus. I have said before that this is one of my favourite stories from the gospels because it is such a powerful account of conversion, full of movement and even a little humour. We move quickly from Zacchaeus showing some interest in Jesus through to him demonstrating that his life has been turned around by his encounter with Jesus, making restitution for his sins.

As with any great story, repeated readings of the encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus yields depths that were previously unforeseen. For example, though I have read this story dozens of times, I only noticed this week that though Zacchaeus "was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was", his interest in Jesus is purely superficial, his curiosity extending only to Jesus's appearance. It might be rather uncharitable to assume from this that Zacchaeus was altogether a shallow person, but as a tax collector his encounters with people would not have been at a level beyond that necessary to extract the amount of money demanded by the Romans, plus the extra for himself, of course. As a tax collector too, his friends would have been few, if any.

Jesus, however, is interested in Zacchaeus at a profound level. For Jesus, Zacchaeus's physical appearance is of no consequence. He knows Zacchaeus intimately even before he meets him and can see deep into his heart, knowing his need for healing and love. It is this insight that leads Jesus to inviting himself to Zacchaeus's home with the words, "Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today." Jesus was inviting himself to Zacchaeus's house not for his own benefit but for that of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus may have believed that he was taking the initiative in his encounter with Jesus, but it soon becomes clear that the opposite is true.

This dynamic, of course, is not restricted to this ancient encounter in Jericho. As Christians, we too, like Zacchaeus, are anxious to know Jesus better, though hopefully at a more profound level than his mere appearance, (which is unknowable anyway.) Yet, no matter how determined our efforts, no matter how high we climb the sycamore tree, what we glimpse of Jesus will not even approach what Jesus knows of us. Just as Jesus knew not only the type of person Zacchaeus was but also what he needed, so Jesus knows us intimately, our sins as much as our good side, our needs as much as our desires.

And just as Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus house in order to effect healing, so Jesus invites himself into our home, namely our heart, to accomplish the same healing.

Will you have the wisdom of Zacchaeus and open the door to him?

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 02 November

Eucharistic Ministers
Ambrose & Pauline Burnside
Angela Harmston

Readers
Brendan Payne
Angela Tosley

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Helen Riddles

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 09 November

Eucharistic Ministers
Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers
Rowan Payne
Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy
Maria Griffiths
Joanne Lidster

Welcomers
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

Music
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

31st 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....



John KENNEDY
Bernard McGOAY
Gerard MAWSON
Catherine WELSH
James BIRD

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

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



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £160 Loose Plate: £212

TOTAL: £372

Mass Attendance: 132

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Family Fast Day (CAFOD): The final collection total came to **£525.65**. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Retiring Collection: Next weekend we will take up a retiring collection for the Clergy Training Fund. This fund supports those in formation for priesthood or the permanent diaconate. The diocese currently has five men in training for priesthood with eight other men expressing an interest in priesthood. Please support them!

Prisons Week: Please don't forget the collection box at the rear of the church for donations to NEPACS for prisoners being released from HMP Low Newton (women). Suitable items to contribute are toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, flannels, combs etc. Donations will be taken to St Cuthbert's **after this weekend**. For more information visit www.nepacs.co.uk, phone 0191 375 7278 or see the NEPACS poster on the noticeboard.

Christmas Flower Donations: We all love to see the church decorated beautifully with flowers at special times of the year such as Christmas. That being so, there will be a box for donations near Our Lady's statue in the narthex throughout November and early December for donations. Thank you for your generosity!

Remembrance Sunday: This year Remembrance Sunday will be celebrated next weekend on **10 November**.

Church Lighting: You will (hopefully) have noticed as you walked into the church this evening, that the lighting of the nave is brighter than it has been. New LED lights were installed recently which also highlight the crucifix over the sanctuary.

Day of Reflection: With Sr Rosarie Spence RSM at Ushaw College on **Wednesday 27 November**, 10:30am – 3:30pm. An opportunity to step aside, experience different ways of praying and enjoy a time of personal prayer, all in the beautiful surroundings at Ushaw. The cost is £10 per person, including tea/coffee at the beginning and end of the day. Lunch may be purchased in the Refectory. Booking should be made at www.ushaw.org.

Vacancy - Head of Communications: We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic individual to take responsibility for the delivery of our Communications Strategy. You will have experience of identifying the resources and infrastructure required to take this from

concept through to implementation. This new senior role is an opportunity for someone to join the charity, establish a plan and identify the team to deliver the strategy. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk Closing date for applications: 5:00pm on 18 November. See the noticeboard for more details.

Ushaw College Events: Despite the cooler weather, there are still plenty of things happening at Ushaw College. Check the website for all that is happening at this Catholic jewel right on our doorstep! Go to www.ushaw.org.

Minsteracres: Like Ushaw College, there is plenty happening at Minsteracres too. Feel free to take one of the calendars from the table at the rear of the church to see the events for the year ahead. Alternatively, visit the website at www.minsteracres.org.

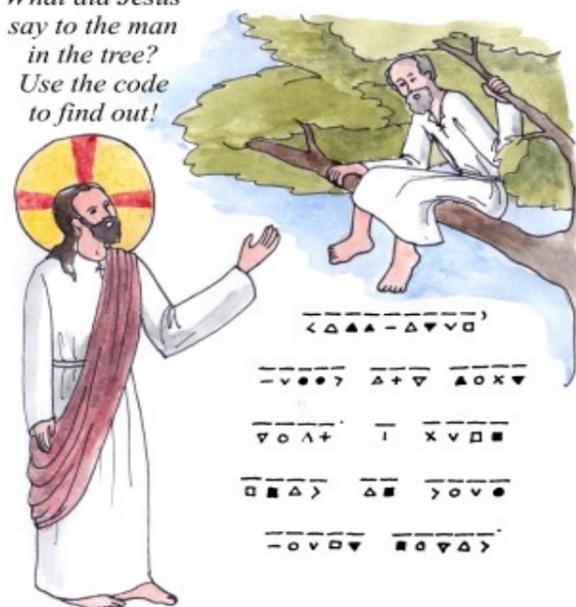
St John Henry Newman: Three weeks ago, Pope Francis canonised John Henry Newman. He is now offered to us as a saint to encourage us in our own faith. Newman was a writer, a poet, a theologian, a preacher and a great educationalist. He was also an Anglican clergyman before becoming a Catholic in 1845. He then became a Catholic priest and, ultimately, a cardinal, dying in 1890. Bishop Robert Byrne is to give a talk about Newman at St Cuthbert's, Durham at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 12 November. This will be preceded by vespers at 6:30pm. **Registration is essential.** See poster for details.

The God Who Speaks: A Year of the Word: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have designated 2020 as 'The God Who Speaks': A Year of the Word to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1600th anniversary of death of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin. Therefore, 2020 will be a year of celebrating, living and sharing God's word, through a range of events, activities and resources. More information to follow. In the meantime, go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/> for more information or the diocesan website.

The Kids' Bulletin

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 3rd, 2019

What did Jesus say to the man in the tree? Use the code to find out!



ACDEHIMNORSTUWYZ

SCHOOL NEWS

School Re-opens

We look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday morning, following the half-term break.

First Holy Communicants

Children preparing to receive First Sacraments attended their second teaching session this afternoon. They spent some time reflecting on the sacrament of baptism, the first step of initiation into the Church.

Masses and Liturgies

Pupils will take part in the following celebrations over the next few weeks:

Mass in church - Years 3 & 4 on Thursday 14 November @ 9:30am

Mass in the chapel - Year 6 on Thursday 14 November @ 2:45pm

Mass in the chapel - Year 5 on Tuesday 19 November @ 2:45pm

All are welcome!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Elizabeth of the Trinity – 08 November

Elizabeth Catez was born in 1880 in Cher, France. In 1901, she entered the Discalced Carmelite monastery of Dijon. There she made her profession of vows in 1903. A faithful adorer in spirit and in truth, her life was a "praise of glory" of the Most Blessed Trinity present in her soul and loved amidst interior darkness and excruciating illness. In the mystery of divine inhabitation she found her "heaven on earth", her special charism and her mission for the Church. Elizabeth died on 09 November 1906, speaking her last words, "I am going to Light, to Love, to Life!"



(Text taken from *Universalis*)

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for November

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

"If we are prepared to listen, we become truly open to accepting a call that can shatter our security, but lead us to a better life."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Prayer Group & Bible Study

The next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held here at **St Patrick's** on **Tuesday 19 November**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments from 9:15am.

The next **Bible Study Group** will meet on **Monday 11 November** 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!



Next Week's Readings

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Macc 7:1-2, 9-14

2 Thess. 2:16 - 3:5

Luke 20:27-38



"Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living, for to him all men are in fact alive."

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"There is a difference between renouncing all things and leaving all things. For it is the way of few perfect men to leave all things, that is, to cast behind them the cares of the world, but it is the part of all the faithful to renounce all things, that is, so to hold the things of the world instead of by them being held in the world."

St Bede (c.673 - 735)
Priest and Doctor of the Church



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....

