



parish newsletter

19 September 2021 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) - Home Mission Sunday



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

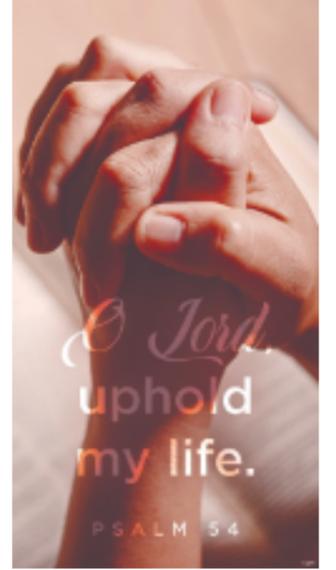
“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me.” - Mk 9:35b-37a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Live the Liturgy

Inspiration for the Week

What does it mean to be God's servant? In essence, it means being willing to call the world back to its child-like innocence, showing all that a joy-filled playfulness has a place in life. The



servant of God serves to foster the Kingdom of God. God's kingdom is not a sterile, unhappy, strict, and rigid reality. It is quite the opposite. It is a kingdom devoid of jealousy and selfish ambition where peace, gentleness, mercy, and good works abound. To be a servant of this kingdom means that selfish ambition must be set aside so that others can be first, and justice pursued at all cost. The prayer of this kind of servant is not focused on self-advancement or need. Rather, the servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. In this way, we who are servants can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led by God. We can then be used to lay the cornerstones of the kingdom: faith, hope, and love. It is upon these that God's firm dwelling is built. Accepting this call may place us last in the world's eyes but first in God's.

Reflecting on the Gospel

There is something about being first. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, or the first one to finish their work, great satisfaction is achieved. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others. When we are first, we can glory in our efforts, skills, and achievements. Isn't that what really matters? After all, we are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All of the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first?

Then, be a servant and welcome a child. All of this is the opposite of our often vehement pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own. If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to continue to believe the illusions we inherit. Those illusions come in many forms, but all have things in common: me before you, being on top and not the bottom, us versus them, personal security over universal harmony and peace. When are we going to learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying our ego with this momentary boost of esteem may feel good for a moment, is it what we really

desire?

If we can break from the world's noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we really desire is not the bolstering of our egos but the innocence we lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat care-free, life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home, and to live peaceful lives with our sisters and brothers. Only a servant can do this. The servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works. Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy.

Everyday Stewardship

Recognise God in your everyday moments



The View from the Back of the Line

Have you known that person? The one who leaves every person they encounter feeling a little more blessed for having met them? They're the friend

you can count on when nothing is going well. They're the one who's always "doing" for others. They're never gossiping or sniping or complaining.

We wonder how they do it, how they have it in them. We're a little envious, even if we don't let ourselves acknowledge it.

That, folks, is what the view is like from the front of the line, gazing at those suckers in the way back and wondering why they're smiling so much.

We've all been at the front of a line and felt no shame about it. We show up early, we put in the time and the legwork, and we "earn" whatever it is we came for — sports tickets, the latest Apple product, whatever. That's how it works here on Earth, where the

fastest win the race, the fittest survive and the first shall be first, always.

It's exactly why stewardship is such a tall order. Stewardship calls us to play by the rules of another kingdom — one where the richest have the least amount in their bank accounts and the happiest don't seem to have anything to show for it, at least materially.

If you have a person in your life who always seems happy "doing" for others, it's because by a boatload of God's grace, they play by the rules of the other place.

Watch and take notes — and don't be afraid to join them at the back of the line.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

First Reading

Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him. (Wis 2:20)

Psalms

The Lord upholds my life. (Ps 53)

Second Reading

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace. (Jas 3:18)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." (Mk 9:31)

This Week

- 19 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY (B)**
Ps Wk 1
Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37
10.30 **Mass** St Mary's Rolando & Braulio (RIP)
17.00 **Mass** St Mary's People of the Parish
- 20 The Korean Martyrs**
Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Lk 8:16-18
12.05 **Mass** St Mary's Derek Winlow (RIP) & family
- 21 St Matthew**
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13
10.00 **Funeral Service** St Cecilia's Marion Henry
12.05 **Communion Service** St Mary's NO MASS
12.45 **Over 60's** St Mary's Hall
- 22 Wednesday**
Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befgh, 7-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6
10.30 **Funeral Service** St Cecilia's Angela Owens
12.05 **Mass** St Mary's Matthew J Cain (RIP)
- 23 St Pius of Pietrelcina**
Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9
10.00 **Confessions** St Cecilia's
10.30 **Open House** St Mary's
10.30 **Mass** St Cecilia's Dec'd members Ward Family
12.05 **Mass** St Mary's Lodwidge Mass Fund
- 24 OUR LADY OF MERCY**
Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22
12.05 **Mass** St Mary's Flora Thompson (RIP)
- 25 Saturday**
Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45
9.00 **First Holy Communion** St Mary's
10.15 **Confessions** St Mary's
11.00 **Mass** St Mary's Robert Marshall (RIP)
18.00 **Vigil Mass** St Cecilia's Fr Bill O'Gorman (RIP)
- 26 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY (B)**
Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
10.30 **Mass** St Mary's Audrey Gibson (RIP)
10.30 **Coffee & Doughnuts** Upper Room University Students
17.00 **Mass** St Mary's People of the Parish



Bernadette, Jean Maureen, Christopher, Paula, Liz, Peter, Emilia, Jean, Teresa, Cath and Norman, the sick sisters at Oaklea, David, Marion, Dave, Neil, Denise

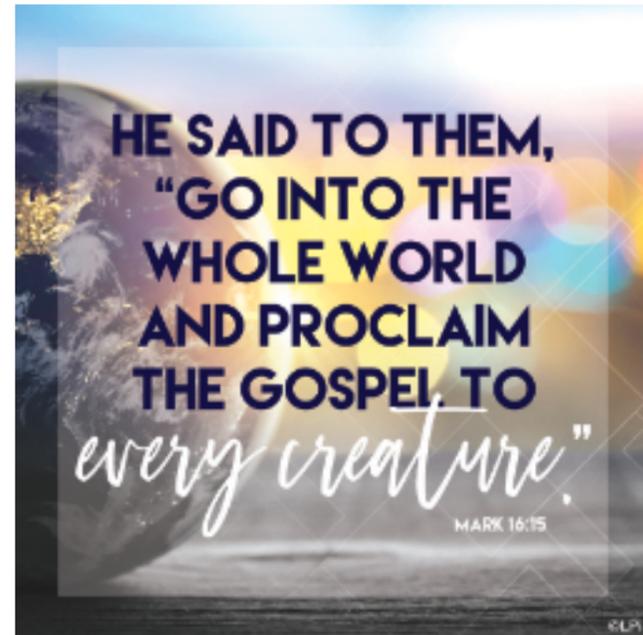


Shaun Dover
Anne Moore
Janet Atkinson
Eileen Gibbins
Kathy Young
Marion Henry
Fr Bill O'Gorman
Angela Owens
Jim Fagan
James Hurst
Patricia Ritter

If you would like a name added to our prayer list, please email or call the parish office.

Questions for the Week

First Reading: The Wisdom writer reveals the mentality of the wicked, characterised by revenge and treachery. How best should people of faith respond to such behaviour?
Second Reading: James offers insight into the human condition as it relates to how often our ambitions and passions can lead us astray. How do you keep yourself grounded in holy intentions?
Gospel: We hear today how the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus questions and reluctant to share with him some of their tensions. Why do you sometimes hold back from opening up to the Lord?



Announcements

Alpha - 4 October

In need of a spiritual booster? Try Alpha - starting 4 October at 6.30pm in St Mary's Hall. Register on the parish website.

Alpha is about meeting together to examine the evidence for Jesus and the answers that Christianity gives to life's questions. Each week there is a short video that looks at a different aspect of the Christian faith and an invitation to share in an informal manner with other participants whatever you have learned or whatever might have touched you. There are no right or wrong answers.

Whether you have no particular faith or you're a 'cradle Catholic' Alpha will help you look at Jesus with fresh eyes and answer for yourself the questions Jesus put to his disciples: 'Who do you say that I am?'

Children's Liturgy is Back!

If you want your children to attend Children's liturgy at the 10.30am Mass you need to drop them off by 10.20 in the church hall. You'll also need to register your children when you get there.

Over 60's has Restarted!

The Over 60's Group meets after the 12.05 Mass in

Flock Notes

The gospel today continues the themes introduced last week, then, as now, the disciples are thinking like human think, not as God thinks. Their notion of greatness is very human and is coloured by power, dominance and imposition of will. It's interesting to note that it is precisely these human attributes that will lead to the crucifixion of Jesus, as he reminds his disciples. Rather than resisting them Jesus will

St Mary's Catholic Centre.

Charity Fayre

In support of McMillan Cancer Support and the Tiny Lives trust. On Saturday, 25 September from 10am to 1pm in St Cecilia's Church Hall, Ryhope Road. Refreshments, raffle, tombola, toy stall, bric-a-brac, grafts and ladies accessories. Come along, bring your fiends and enjoy a coffee, a chat, grab a bargain and support these worthy causes.

Fr Philip Amek Adede

A warm mackem welcome to Fr Philip Adede who arrived this weekend! Fr Philip is from Kenya and is a Mill Hill Missionary. During his training, Fr Philip lived in London for a few years and after ordination had various missionary appointments in Uganda and Kenya. He's just completed a sabbatical year in Rome.

We're really pleased that Fr Philip has joined us and we wish him every happiness and blessing in his ministry in Sunderland.

No Mass on Tuesday

The priests of the diocese are meeting on Tuesday so there'll be a communion service at 12.05 instead of Mass in St Mary's.

submit, like a helpless child, and allow himself to be handed over for the salvation of us all. It is such an 'un-human' way of thinking we struggle to comprehend the logic of the Passion. But how can we learn to think like God?

Jesus gives us the answer: we must become child-like. Awe, wonder, trust, love, obedience: when these characterise our relationship with God and each other we are great in the kingdom. Trouble will come our way, but can we face it by trusting our Father, like a child?



Why do we do that?



Question: Why are Catholics required to fast before Communion?

Answer: How we prepare for an important event helps us with the intentionality of our actions and raises our awareness. We prepare our house for guests. We wash our car before an important trip. We create a nursery for a newborn child. All of these actions heighten our senses for what is about to come.

The fast required by canon law before holy Communion has its roots in Jewish spiritual practices. We fast for cleansing and to demonstrate our reliance on God. Catholics used to fast for much longer periods of time, but it was Pope Paul VI in 1964 who set the time at one hour in an attempt to encourage people to receive the holy Eucharist more frequently. That one-hour observance allows us to pause and reflect on what we will participate in in the very near future. We deny our bodies so that we can focus more clearly on the Body of Christ that we will consume.



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Fr Emmanuel Nuh Mbeh MHM, Assistant Priest • emmanuel.mbeh@diocesehn.org.uk
Fr Philip Amek Adede MHM, Assistant Priest •
Rev Eddy Barker, Parish Deacon
Canon Alexander Barrass, Priest in Residence



A parish of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
Reg Charity 1143450



August 2021			
Collections	5,231	Heat & Light	626.85
Rent	380	Repairs	1537.65
Candles	443.75	Wages	0.00
Piety/CTS	0.00	Water Rates	44.30
Donations	879.85	Council Tax	249.00.85
		Gen Admin	1861.41
Total	6,934.76	Total	4,319.21

Thank-you for your generosity!