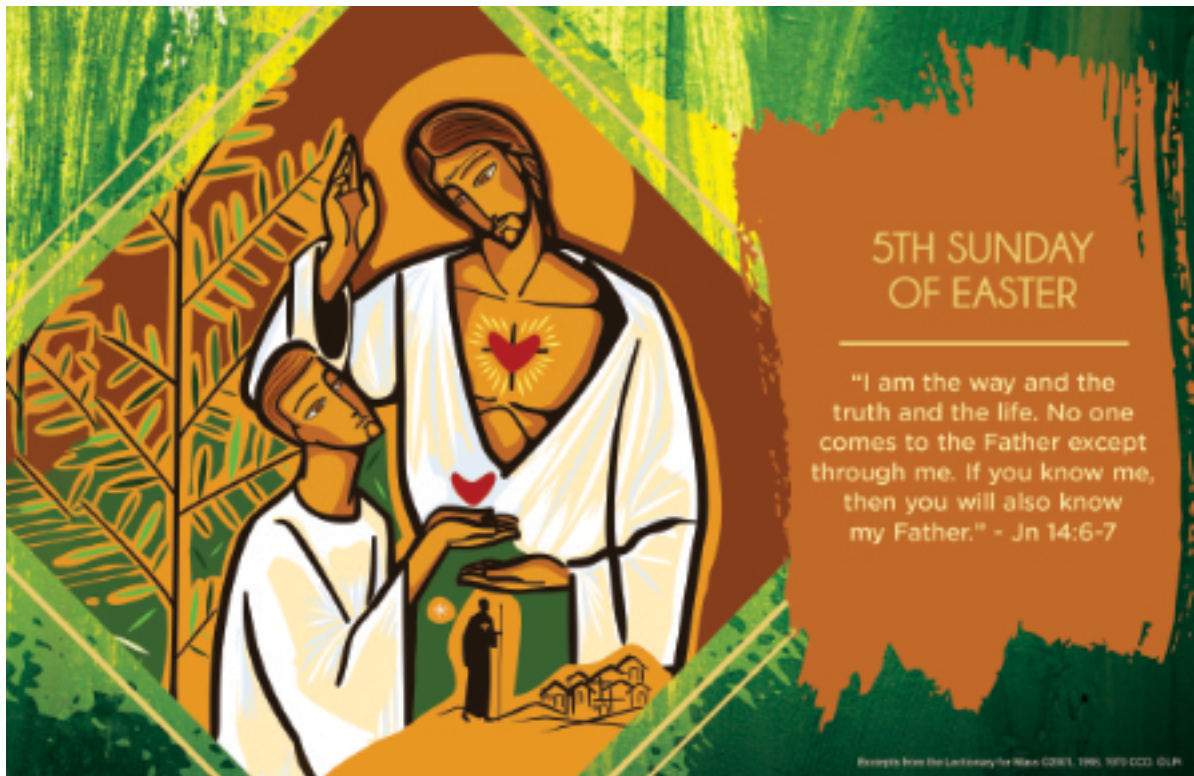




# parish newsletter

7 May 2023 | Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

## I am the way and the truth and the life!







<b>First Reading:</b> “Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom.” (Acts 6:2-4)	<b>Psalm:</b> May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. (Ps 32)	<b>Second Reading:</b> You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Pt 2:9)	<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b> Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’ Alleluia!	<b>Gospel:</b> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ]If you know me, then you will also know my Father.” (Jn 14: 6-7)
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6	Saturday	6.00	VIGIL MASS	St Cecilia's	John & Catherine McConville (RIP)
7	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		9.00	MASS	Convent	Pat Allen (RIP)
		10.30	MASS	St Mary's	Private Intention
		5.00	MASS	St Mary's	People of the Parish
8	Monday	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		9.30	MASS	Convent	
		12.05	MASS	St Mary's	Ann & Bill Murray (RIP)
		12.45	Chaplet of Divine Mercy	St Mary's	
		5.15	Evening Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		6.30	Catholicism: Pivotal Players	Upper Room	
9	Tuesday	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		9.30	MASS	Convent	Ints of Marie Harris
		12.05	MASS	St Mary's	Holy Souls
		1.00	Over 60s	St Mary's Catholic Centre	
		4.30	Chaplaincy Tuesday	Upper Room	
10	Wednesday <i>Saint John of Avila, Priest, Doctor</i>	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		9.30	MASS	Convent	
		12.05	MASS	St Mary's	Holy Souls
		4.00	Confirmation Class	St Mary's Catholic Centre	
		5.15	Evening Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		6.30	RCIA	Upper Room	
11	Thursday	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		9.30	MASS	Convent	
		10.00	Open House	St Mary's Catholic Centre	
		10.00	Confessions	St Cecilia's	
		10.30	MASS	St Cecilia's	For recovery from an illness
		12.05	MASS	St Mary's	Holy Souls
12	Friday <i>Saints Nereus and Achilles, Martyrs or Saint Pancras, Martyr</i>	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		9.30	MASS	Convent	
		12.05	MASS	St Mary's	Ints of Ann & Gordon Forster (50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.)
		12.45	Holy Rosary	St Mary's	
		5.15	Evening Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
13	Saturday <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		10.30	Confessions	Mercy Chapel	
		11.00	MASS	St Mary's	Holy Souls
		11.45	Confessions	Mercy Chapel	
		6.00	VIGIL MASS	St Cecilia's	Agnes Mullen (RIP)
14	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.00	Morning Prayer	Mercy Chapel	
		9.00	MASS	Convent	Dorothy White
		10.30	MASS	St Mary's	People of the Parish
		5.00	MASS	St Mary's	Bill Devine (RIP)
		6.30	Parish Stewardship Committee	Upper Room	



If you would like a name put on the list please let us know.

**BEREAVEMENT**  
*Ministry*

Bridget Brewster, Elizabeth Gladys Baister, Norah Flanagan, Fr John Reid, Brian Jackson

# Announcements

**Cashless Donations**  
While many people still rely on cash, more and more of us are using cash less and less, and some of us have stopped carrying cash at all.  
That's why we've introduced the possibility of making a cashless donation at St Mary's. You'll see two 'digital collection plates' at the back of the church that you can use to make either a contactless or a chip-n-pin donation. You can even GiftAid it to make your donation go fur-


ther. Your donation is quick, safe and secure. You can also use it to pay for purchases from the piety stall and for special collections. We'll still have the normal collection before the offertory and you can still make your offering by standing order and GiftAid is always welcome.  
The cost of living crisis has hit everyone and we at Our Lady of Mercy continue to be so grateful for your ongoing generosity and financial support of the parish. God bless!

**Christian Mindfulness**  
Are you interested in finding out more about mindfulness and how it may support your Christian faith?  
There will be a taster session on Christian Mindfulness run by Andrew Carton that will cover: What is Mindfulness? How it can help our health and wellbeing? As well as an introduction to short, guided meditations and gentle mindful movement. It'll also look at short mindful activities and how it can support our spiritual life.  
Once you've tried the taster session, there will be a short four week programme

# Questions for the Week

**First Reading:** We hear today of some of the practical problems (assisting widows) the early Christians faced with the growing Church in Jerusalem. They solved the problem with division of labor. Which of your co-workers or friends need your help this week to carry a burden?

**Why do we do that?**



**Question:** Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?  
**Answer:** The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the “Precepts” of the Church.

# Saint of the Week



Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was the seventh and youngest child of Ruthenian immigrants to the USA from what is now Eastern Slovakia. She grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey and, after graduating from high school, wanted to become a Carmelite sister. Instead, she stayed in the family home to care for her ailing mother who later died of the influenza epidemic of November 1918. Teresa then went on to graduate summa cum laude from the College of Saint Elizabeth at Convent Station, New Jersey with a degree in literature.  
After years of discernment and a novena specifically prayed to help her discover which congregation she was called to join, she entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and received her religious habit as a novice on May 17, 1925.  
During her short time as a postulant and novice, before her death, Teresa taught at the Academy of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station where she was originally educated. Prompted by her spiritual director, she wrote a series of conferences on the spiritual life for use in the education of the other novices. These 26 conferences would later be published under the title The Greater Perfection; A means of achieving union with God through prayer and the book is still available to this day from the Sisters of Charity's

**Second Reading:** Peter contrasts those with faith who announce the praises of God to those without faith who disobey God's word. How do you react to family or friends who are without faith?


as well as the principal liturgical feasts honouring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.  
The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and

center of the Christian liturgy. Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (*Dies Domini*, no. 7).

online bookstore.  
Shortly into her second year in the congregation, Teresa became very ill. After a tonsillectomy, months of illness, and, eventually, an operation for appendicitis, she passed away on May 8, 1927. Before her passing, though, she made her profession of permeant religious vows from her hospital bed. Her funeral was held on May 11, and she was buried on the grounds of her congregation's motherhouse at the Holy Family Cemetery in Convent Station, New Jersey.  
Throughout her short life, Teresa was known for her contemplative and mystic relationship with God as well as her incredible compassion and selflessness toward others. While in college, her friends nicknamed her Treat and would seek her out for guidance, help, and support. She was very active in the community life of whatever school, church, or congregation she was involved in. She spent time helping with many different ministries, singing in choirs, and spending time with friends by going out on the town shopping and attending concerts. Despite all of these activities and a packed social schedule, she was known to always find time to go to the chapel to pray and could be frequently found there in-between classes and her social engagements.  
Her life mission resonates clearly throughout her writings — to educate people about the universal call to holiness. In the first of the conferences in The Greater Perfection she writes, "The saints did but one thing — the will of God: But they did it with all their might." Teresa, too, strived to do the will of God with all her might and, after the official recognition of a miracle through her intercession, Pope Francis declared her Blessed on Oct 4, 2014.

# Flock Notes

It seems like so many of us are looking for a way, for a truth, and for a life. Although sometimes, in desperation, we settle for any way, any truth and any life.  
What Jesus offers us is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The Way is not a set of directions to follow on Google Maps, it is a person: Jesus Christ. The Truth is not something you'll find in a philosophy book or in a court of law, it is a person: Jesus Christ. The Life is not something you can find at the bottom of a bottle, in a tablet or on the pages of a self-help book, it is a person: Jesus Christ.  
The Way, the Truth, the Life are our relationship with Jesus. He is the Way that leads us to Heaven, the Truth that sets us free and our Life for all eternity.




Our Lady of Mercy Parish

27 Bridge Street, Sunderland, SR1 1TQ  
(0191) 567 5354  
office@sunderlandcatholic.com  
www.sunderlandcatholic.com  
St Mary's Church • 27 Bridge Street • Sunderland • SR1 1TQ  
St Cecilia's Church • Ryhope Road • Sunderland • SR2 7TG

Fr Christopher Hancock MHM • Parish Priest • christopher@sunderlandcatholic.com  
Fr Emmanuel Nuh Mbeh MHM • Assistant Priest • emmanuel.mbeh@diocesehn.org.uk  
Rev Eddy Barker • Parish Deacon

Rebecca Leighton • Lay University Chaplain • rebecca@sunderlandcatholic.com  
Canon Alec Barrass • Bishop Séamus Cunningham



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

