

<div>Saturday</div> <div>27th September 2025</div>	<div>5pm: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions: HOLY ROSARY</div> <div>5.30pm: <i>The Holy Rosary will prayed</i> at HOLY ROSARY</div> <div>6pm: Mass <i>for Joseph, Mary and Pat Ivory:</i> HOLY ROSARY</div>
<div>Sunday</div> <div>28th September 2025</div>	<div>9.30am: Mass <i>for Catherine, George & Alan Hunt:</i> IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY</div> <div>11.00am: Mass <i>for Margaret (Peggy) Humphrey:</i> ST MICHAEL’S</div> <div>11.00am: Mass <i>for Matthew Parkinson:</i> ST LEONARD’S <i>*Celebrated by Carmalites</i></div>
<div>Monday</div> <div>29th September 2025</div>	<div>No Masses today</div>
<div>Tuesday</div> <div>30th September 2025</div> <div>St Jerome</div>	<div>9.30am: Mass <i>for Holy Souls:</i> ST LEONARD’S</div> <div>7.00pm: <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction:</i> ST MICHAEL’S</div>
<div>Wednesday</div> <div>1st October 2025</div> <div>St Therese</div>	<div>9.00am: Mass in ST CUTHBERT’S SCHOOL (<i>Post code is SR4 8HP</i>), Parishioners welcome</div> <div>10am: Mass <i>for the repose of the soul of Maurice Lumley:</i> ST MICHAEL’S (Adoration and confessions before Mass)</div>
<div>Thursday</div> <div>2nd October 2025</div> <div>Guardian Angels</div>	<div>9.30am: <i>The Holy Rosary will be prayed at</i> IMMACULATE HEART</div> <div>10am: Mass <i>for The Holy Souls:</i> IMMACULATE HEART</div>
<div>Friday</div> <div>3rd October 2025</div>	<div>10.00am: Mass <i>for Gerry Crowe:</i> ST MICHAEL’S (Adoration before Mass)</div> <div>12 noon: Mass <i>intention to be announced at Mass:</i> HOLY ROSARY</div>
<div>Saturday</div> <div>4th October 2025</div>	<div>5pm: <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions:</i> HOLY ROSARY</div> <div>5.30pm: <i>The Holy Rosary will be prayed at</i> HOLY ROSARY</div> <div>6pm Mass: <i>for a Private Intention:</i> HOLY ROSARY</div>
<div>Sunday</div> <div>5th October 2025</div>	<div>9.30am: Mass <i>for the People of the Parish:</i> IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY</div> <div>11.00am: Mass <i>for Francesco Angelosanto:</i> ST MICHAEL’S</div> <div>11.00am: Mass <i>for Margaret Ruddick:</i> ST LEONARD’S <i>*Celebrated by Carmalites</i></div>



PARISH ECHO



Holy Rosary, Immaculate Heart and St Leonard's,
Sunderland & St Michael's, Houghton-Le-Spring.

Parish Priest: Fr Marc Lyden-Smith

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Contact Number 0191-5281992 | Email: sunderlandpriest@outlook.com

Parish Secretary: Pat Dawson | Telephone: 0191-5842142 | Email: stmichael.houghtonlespring@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Office is open: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30am – 1.30pm

Singnificance

SIGNIFICANCE GRAND DRAW

Fr Dermott Donnelly founded the charity 'Significance' to enable young people to become all that God has created them to be. Significance supports YMT and the ongoing development of the Emmaus Village and also provides grants for particular projects which provide opportunities to young people.

To raise funds, Significance has launched a Grand Draw: First prize is 2 tickets for a 'Britain's Got Talent' live semi-final in 2026, first class LNER travel and overnight stay in a London hotel as well as many other exciting prizes. Each ticket costs £5 and the aim is to raise £20,000 by selling 800 books x 5 tickets. The draw will take place on Youth Sunday 23rd November 2025. Please give your support by buying a ticket or taking a book to sell. Raffle tickets can be sent to you by

contacting: significance316@gmail.com

Fr. Dermott was an inspirational Priest of our Diocese whose legacy and gift to the Church is the Youth Village and Youth Mission Team.



Eternal Rest grant unto Father Dermott Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.



The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A short reflection on the readings this week...

A major theme in the Gospel of Luke is the importance of the care of the poor in the life of discipleship. In the parable found in today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the life of a rich man and the poor man, Lazarus, who lives in the shadow of the rich man and his wealth. Both die. Lazarus finds himself in heaven; the rich man in the netherworld. The rich man asks for assistance from Lazarus in his torment. But Abraham reminds the rich man of the good things he had in his life and describes the current situation as a reversal of fortunes. The rich man then asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his family, but this is denied with the reminder that Moses and the prophets have warned of judgment for those who neglect the care of the poor.

In the context of Luke's Gospel, this parable, delivered in the presence of a crowd of listeners, is part of Jesus' response to some Pharisees. These Pharisees are described in Luke's Gospel as "loving money." (Note: The Pharisees were followers of a sect of Judaism active before, during, and after Jesus' lifetime. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for popular Jewish piety. They put less emphasis on Temple worship and more on applying the law to everyday life. Though they are often portrayed negatively in the Gospels, they shared many of Jesus' and the early Church's concerns about the law.) Jesus observed that the actions of some Pharisees betrayed misplaced priorities: they spoke one way, but acted in another. The story of the rich man and Lazarus demonstrates the importance of the care of the poor and is a reminder to those who would follow Jesus of the unimportance of wealth in the eyes of God.

Saint Quote of the week:

"Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak."

- St Anthony of Padua

Quote of the Day:

Begin at once to live and count each day as a separate life.

Holy Rosary Parish Hall:

Would you like to book the Parish Hall?
Booking info: Janette Kingsley. Telephone: 0191-5280176

News from the parish, diocese and beyond...

The Future of Sunderland Churches

At the Stewardship meeting last week it was sadly agreed that we simply can't sustain three churches. We now need to make the difficult decision regarding which church we feel should close, although ultimately it may be that two churches have to close, before forwarding our proposals to the Diocese. We know this news will be very disappointing for many parishioners so the decision on which church will close needs to be objective and transparent. We have appointed a small subcommittee to take this forward, but we need your help in deciding what criteria we should apply when making the decision. Please do email or ring Father Marc with thoughts/suggestions/concerns or anything you feel that should be fed into the discussions. It's important that everyone is heard and this process is prayed about by all.

Visit of the Papal Nuncio

On Tuesday 30 September we welcome the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía to our Diocese. On that day at 1.00pm he will celebrate Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to this celebration of Mass. *Could at least one person from each of churches be present to represent our parishes please?* As Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Buendía is Pope Leo's Ambassador to our country and so a sign of our communion with the Church of Rome. As well as celebrating Mass he will visit several of our Diocesan institutions as he stays with us.

Bishop Stephen's visit

Bishop Stephen will be visiting and celebrating all Sunday Masses (apart from St Michael's) next week. Tea and Coffee will be served after each Mass for people to meet the Bishop. This is his first visit to these churches.

Donations: Sunderland Parishes: Please consider setting up a Direct Debit with your parish. Account name: Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Sort Code 40-34-18. Account Number: 94447549

Parish Ceili at Holy Rosary Parish Centre *with the Mussell Square Boys.* All parishioners from all four churches are warmly welcome on Saturday 25th October, at 7.30pm. This promises to be a great night to come together. Tickets £8 adult, £4 child. Raffle, Bar. Contact Phil Boyle 07745061661 for tickets. (Ring or text him). All profits to parish funds. 90 tickets available, first come, first served. See you there!

The Sanctuary Light burning at The Immaculate Heart this week is burning in memory of Shirley McFarlane and the candle burning at St Michael's is burning in memory of Norah & John Reilly.

Thank you for being here at Mass, you're always warmly welcome

St Leonard, Pray for us!

Immaculate Mary of the Rosary, Pray for us!

St Michael, Pray for us!

01 October

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Memorial



St Thérèse Martin (1873 - 1897) was born in Alençon and, aged fifteen, entered the Carmelite of Lisieux, thus joining two of her sisters. Although she died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty four, such was the influence of her spiritual writings and her 'little way' that she was declared a Doctor of the Church by St Pope John Paul II in 1997. She is also Patron of the Missions and Co-Protectress of France (with St Joan of Arc).

On Wednesday we celebrate the feast of St Therese, one of the most popular saints of modern times

“When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens, I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth”. – St Therese

Don't forget to light a candle in church, leaving it burning for someone who needs prayers.

St. Michael's Christmas Fayre: will take place on Saturday 29th November in the Welfare Hall, Houghton, DH4 5AF. Doors open at 1pm for the event which is expected to last from 1.00pm – 3.00pm. **Can you help?** We are looking for new and used (good condition) toys, books, brick-a-brac, 'bottles', biscuits, sweets, cakes, home baked items, and donations. All donations can be left in the Parish Centre but please note that no clothing, shoes or electrical items can be accepted. All profits from the event will be donated to church funds. For further information, or if you would like to volunteer to look after a stall, please contact Alison Turnbull (07780831366) or Elizabeth Scott (07908665546).

Other faiths and the Catholic Church:

To mark the 60th Anniversary of ‘*Nostra Aetate*’, the Diocesan Interreligious Relations team warmly invites you to ‘*Meeting God in Faith and Friendship*’, an interfaith event celebrating dialogue, understanding and unity among faith communities. This special gathering will bring people of faith together and how they view the Catholic faith. With contributions from a diverse panel of speakers, the event offers a unique opportunity to deepen mutual respect, foster spiritual friendship, and reflect on the shared values that connect us all. The Date: Wednesday 8 October 2025 at 7.00pm. In St Mary's Parish Hall, Bridge Street, Sunderland. SR1 1TQ. For more information, please email: interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk or telephone 0191 243 3316.

Assisted killing...

A flawed bill in Parliament

The end-of-Life Bill is currently going through the House of Lords. If passed, the change will dismantle part of that inherited ethical system by allowing the State to engage in killing innocent people at their request.

But, once we've dismantled one part of that system because we think we know best, what then is the status of the rest of that moral and ethical system?

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill to legalise assisted suicide in England and Wales returned to the House of Lords on 19 September for its second day of debate.

Proposed by Labour MP Kim Leadbeater, the controversial Bill is under consideration by the House of Lords having made it through the initial parliamentary procedures and votes in the House of Commons.

It is unusual for a Bill to have two days, rather than one, at the House of Lords for its Second Reading – that Leadbeater's Bill has been granted two days reflects the fact that so many peers have requested to speak during the debate on the contentious legislation that many warn could fundamentally change society for the worse.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales has continued to warn against the dangers that the proposed Bill poses to the sick and vulnerable.

Church leaders have warned that if the Bill is passed into law, it will mark a terrible turning point in British culture, one that undermines the ways that society views and treats life and death.

Mass times during the week are experimental at the moment, to see what works best. Please keep an eye on the newsletter.



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

Thank you to those who have expressed interesting in joining the journey of faith. Please don't forget to email Fr Marc if you plan to attend, with your preference of the day of the week and time best for you. Practicing catholics welcome to come along too, and learn more about your faith.

Hopefully details of when the course will start and where will be in next weeks newsletter.

Concert Date for your diary...

A fabulous fundraising concert will take place in Holy Rosary Church on Friday 21st November at 7.00pm. The amazing Fortissimo Choir will be joined by *The Whole Shebang* to provide an evening of song covering all genres from musicals to classics to folk and back. Tickets are £10 and every penny raised will go to the upkeep of our churches. The bar will be available in the hall after the concert and if anyone would like to bring food for a shared table that would be fabulous. For ticket information or further details please contact Mary Winetroube on 07734849410 or email mwinetroube@icloud.com.

Parish Facebook Page: Keep up to date with Catholic news by liking and following our page 'Fr Marc Lyden-Smith Parish Facebook Page'.

Family Fast Day is this coming Friday. St Cuthbert's school is offering parishoners the chance to come into school at 1.30pm on Friday for soup and a roll. If you'd like to attend please ring the school to let them know on 0191-5285094

Priest of Hexham and Newcastle
appointed to senior role

When they met on Tuesday 16 September, the Bishops of England and Wales appointed Canon William Agley to serve as General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for a period of five years. A qualified solicitor and priest of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Canon Agley served as an official of what is now the Dicastery for the Clergy in Rome from 2012 to 2017. He is currently serving as a parish priest in South Shields. Canon Bill will move to London where he will be based. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said:

"I look forward to welcoming Canon Agley to his new role. He brings great ability and experience to the service of the Church in this important ministry. I thank him for his willingness to accept this appointment.

"I also thank Bishop Stephen Wright for releasing him from his Diocesan duties in Hexham and Newcastle.

Sadly this means we lose another young priest in our Diocese. Bishop Stephen intends to appoint a Priest in South Shields as soon as he can.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
To whom God's love
commits me here,
Ever this day,
be at my side,
To light and guard,
Rule and guide.

What is a Guardian Angel?

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matthew 18:10). Jesus speaks these words immediately before He teaches the Parable of the Lost Sheep that shows Jesus' deep love for each and every person, for each of the "little ones." Not only does He seek out the lost and straying sheep, He also gives them their own guardian angels, who always look upon the face of God, and whose sole task is to care for us, to get us to Heaven. It is these angelic beings whom we honour this week. The fact that every person is assigned a personal guardian angel is deeply rooted not only in Scripture but also in the writings of the saints and the teachings of the Church. In the Psalms we read, "For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-12). Saint Jerome, in commenting on the above-mentioned passage from the Gospel of Matthew, says, "The worth of souls is so great that from birth each one has an angel assigned to him for his protection." Saint Thomas Aquinas says, "Each man has an angel guardian appointed to him. This rests upon the fact that the guardianship of angels belongs to the execution of Divine providence concerning men" (*Summa Theologiae* 1.113.2).

More recently, Pope Saint John Paul II taught, in a General Audience on August 6, 1986, "God has entrusted to the angels a ministry in favour of people. Therefore, the Church *confesses her faith in the guardian angels*, venerating them in the liturgy with an appropriate feast and recommending recourse to their protection by frequent prayer, as in the invocation "Angel of God." Finally, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting Saint Basil, says, "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life" (*CCC* #336). Though the reality of guardian angels is often spoken of to children as a comfort to them when they face fears, the guardian angels are for all of us, and we ought not forget about our own. Angels are not only intercessors, they are mediators. This means that God entrusts them with His divine power, to act in His name and on His behalf, to deliver His grace, reveal His Truth, direct us down the right path, and protect us from evil. Though God is fully capable of distributing His grace Himself, it is His will that all He bestows upon us come to us through mediators who are instruments, cooperating with His divine plan.

St Pope John XXIII had a great devotion to his guardian angel. How often do you call on yours?