

Saturday 25th October 2025	5pm: <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions:</i> HOLY ROSARY 5.30pm: <i>The Holy Rosary will prayed at the</i> HOLY ROSARY CHURCH 6pm: <i>Mass for the Priest's Intention:</i> HOLY ROSARY
Sunday 26th October 2025	9.30am: <i>Mass for Mary and Syd Cook (RIP):</i> IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY 11.00am: <i>Mass for Gerry Crowe (RIP):</i> ST MICHAEL'S 11.00am: <i>Mass for the People of the Parish:</i> ST LEONARD'S <i>*Celebrated by Carmelites</i>
Monday 27th October 2025	<i>No Masses today</i>
Tuesday 28th October 2025	9.30am: <i>Mass for Fr. Joseph Patrick Butler:</i> ST LEONARD'S 7.00pm: <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction:</i> ST MICHAEL'S
Wednesday 29th October 2025	NO Mass in ST CUTHBERT'S SCHOOL (<i>HALF TERM</i>) 10am <i>Mass for Peter & Brenda Brannigan (RIP-wedding anniversary remembrance):</i> ST MICHAEL'S (Adoration and confessions before Mass)
Thursday 30th October 2025	9.30am: <i>The Holy Rosary will be prayed at</i> IMMACULATE HEART 10am: <i>Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Anthony Robson:</i> IMMACULATE HEART
Friday 31st October 2025	10.00am: <i>Mass for Joe Bradley (RIP):</i>ST MICHAEL'S 12 noon: <i>Mass - Intention to be announced at Mass:</i> HOLY ROSARY
Saturday 1st November	5pm: <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions:</i> HOLY ROSARY 5.30pm: <i>The Holy Rosary will prayed at the</i> HOLY ROSARY CHURCH 6pm: <i>Mass - Intention to be announced at Mass:</i> HOLY ROSARY
Sunday 2nd November	9.30am: <i>Mass for Shirley Ann Mc Farlane:</i> IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY 11.00am: <i>Mass for Fr. Bill (RIP):</i> ST MICHAEL'S 11.00am: <i>Mass for the Barron, Scott and Homer families:</i> ST LEONARD'S <i>*Celebrated by Carmelites</i>



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 |

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

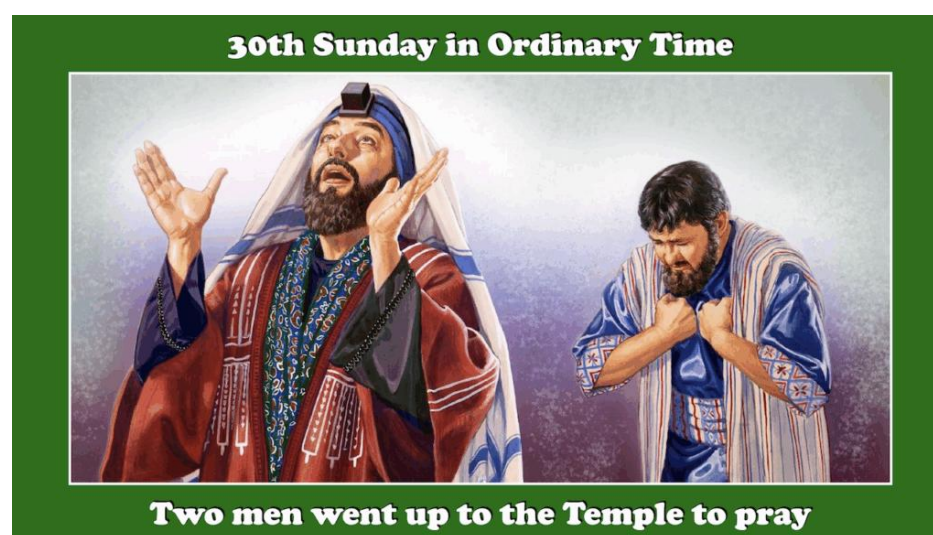
Urgent Parish Meeting

Please forgive the short notice but, as mentioned today, at midweek Mass and on our Facebook page, there will be a meeting for the three churches of St Leonard's, Holy Rosary and Immaculate Heart on **Sunday 26th October (THIS WEEKEND)** at 3.00pm in Holy Rosary Church.

This will be to discuss the future of the parish of St Jeanne Jugan. As you all know, the parish cannot survive with three church buildings. The Stewardship committee have been working hard since March this year, and we are now in a position to share analysed data. Following the meeting, Father Marc will share recommendations for the future in order that the Bishop might make an informed, final decision. Please do come along. However, if you are not able to, all information will be given in next week's Parish Echo and shared on the Parish Facebook page.



Let us pray WITH and FOR one another at Mass this weekend



The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

He who exalts himself will be humbled, he who humbles himself will be exalted...

The second parable that Jesus tells in Luke 18 addresses attitude in prayer. In contrasting the prayer of the Pharisee with the prayer of the tax collector, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in humility before God. Jesus again surprises his listeners by showing the tax collector as the example of faith, rather than the Pharisee. Remember – the Pharisees were members of a sect of Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for Jewish piety.

If anyone might be a model for prayer, a Pharisee would be a likely candidate. In contrast, Jesus offers the tax collector as a model for prayer. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax collectors to line their own pockets by charging in excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us.

Saint Quote of the week:

"A faint faith is better than a strong heresy."
— St. Thomas More

Quote of the week:

Opportunities multiply as they are seized!

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...

Newsletter by Email:
If you would like a copy of the Parish Echo delivered to your email each week, rather than take a paper copy, please email Pat in the parish office and she will add you to the mailing list. Pat's email is pat.dawson@diocesehn.org.uk

New Bishop of Plymouth:
Pope Leo has appointed Bishop Nicholas Hudson, currently an Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster, as the new Bishop of Plymouth.

Parish Ceilidh 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.

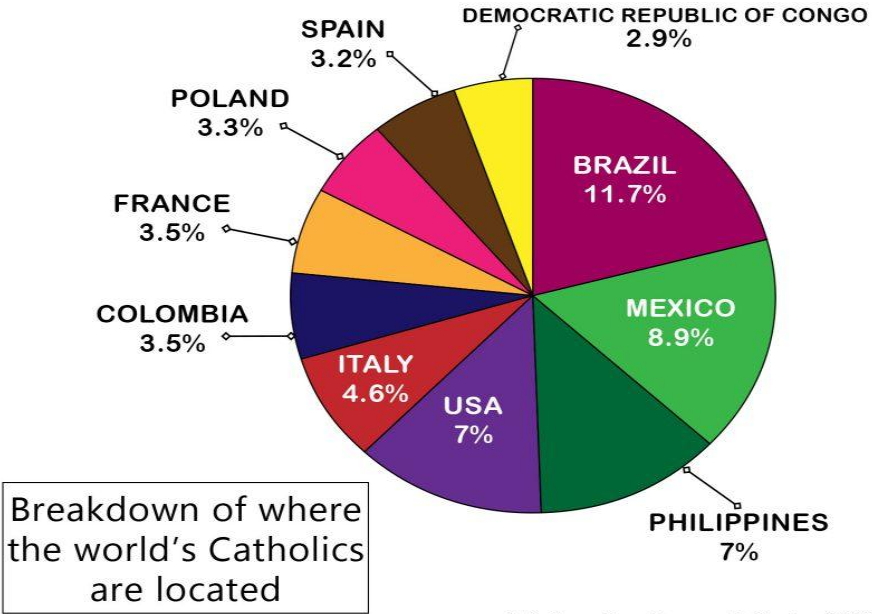
Thank you to all those who came to renew their ministry as a Eucharistic Minister. Hopefully we will be able offer the precious blood at all our Sunday Masses soon.

Concert Tickets on sale NOW!
A fabulous fundraising concert will take place in The 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. Tickets are on sale at the back of church or contact Mary Winetroube on 07734849410

St Leonard, Pray for us!

Immaculate Mary of the Rosary, Pray for us!

St Michael, Pray for us!



Iran honouring Mary?
Tehran, the capital of Iran, has recently named a Metro station after The Virgin Mary, and displayed an image of her in the station. Many in Iran argue that such a move does not align with the Islamic Republic's record in dealing with religious minorities, and some dismiss it as propaganda designed to project a more tolerant image of the regime to international audiences. The official X account of the Iranian Embassy in Yerevan weighed in, describing the station as "a beautiful sign of coexistence between Iranians and the Armenian community." In reality however, this "coexistence" falls far short of international standards on religious freedom and human rights. **Iranian law**, for instance, prohibits evangelising or conversion from Islam to Christianity and enforces strict religious and social codes. During the month of **Ramadan**, no person of any faith is permitted to eat in public, and during Muharram, followers of all religions are barred from holding weddings or celebrations. In addition, the compulsory hijab remains strictly enforced for women, and religious minorities are largely excluded from government employment, leaving communities such as Armenian Christians often feeling like second-class citizens. Even if the metro station is a symbolic gesture toward Christians, particularly Armenian Christians, it serves as a reminder of a harsher reality: Christians in Iran continue to face arrest, torture, and imprisonment for their faith. Let us pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

Tea and coffee will be served at St Leonard's after the first Mass of every month, rather than the last. This will start in November and offers parishioners a wonderful opportunity to come together and get to know each other. All are very welcome. Tea/Coffee remain the last Sunday of the month at Holy Rosary and Immaculate Heart.

Sanctuary Light burning this week in St Michael's is for John Bleanch

Why not join us?
The Journey of Faith programme started last week and will continue each Thursday evening at The Holy Rosary starting at 6.30pm. It will always be finished by 7.30pm. It would be good if parishioners joined us, to learn more about the Catholic faith, and to support those seeking to enter the Catholic faith next Easter. In previous parishes, I have always had practicing Catholics join in, to be welcoming and supportive of the new people joining their parish. It's the least we can do, as these people give us hope for the future. Please join us if you can.

Mass intentions: We have not had many Mass intentions. Envelopes are at the back of church if you would like a Mass said for someone. There can be no greater gift!

Change of funeral date: The funeral of Susan Vallely will now take place on Thursday 6th November at 10am in Holy Rosary. As a result there will be no morning Mass in the Immaculate Heart that day.

First Holy Communion children... don't forget to get your passport stamped by Fr Marc after Mass!

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



Womens brunch and Prayer:

Women in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle are invited to come together to share brunch and a time of prayer and reflection led by Sr Sheila McNamara. This will take place: 11am - 1pm on Saturday 1st November at St Cuthbert's, Albion Road West, North Shields, NE29 OJB. Please bring pastries, fruit or other to contribute to the bring and share brunch table.

To RSVP or for more information please contact: Mary
(mmadziva@ymt.org)

The Carbon Literacy Project run by North East Churches Acting Together.

If you are interested in working on ways to protect the environment in the context of your Catholic faith, you may be interested in the Carbon Literacy Project. Three online sessions will examine the science of climate change, our own personal carbon footprints, and what we can be doing together as churches. The course can lead to Carbon Literacy Certification for those who choose to take this option.

The course will run from 7-9pm on Wednesdays, November 19th, 26th, and January 14th 2026.

To express an interest, please email minnie.fraser@diocesehn.org.uk

Soup and tea/coffee: Following the 12 noon Mass on Friday in the Holy Rosary, all are welcome in the parish club for soup, a bun and a hot drink. Why not join us?

Safeguarding

Our Parish operates at all times in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and our Diocese's policies and procedures.

The parish Safeguarding representatives are Joanne Robson for St Michael's and Jane Cook for our other churches, who can be contacted via the parish office. Their details are displayed at the back of church.

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team directly on (0191) 243 3305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Half term:

This week is half term, and we wish all our hard working school staff a restful week.

Obviously there will be no Mass in St Cuthbert's this week as the school is closed.



Prayer for People Critically Ill or Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart,
bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.

Bring them hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.

Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.

—Adapted from *New Zealand Prayer Book*, p. 765

Food Bank Collections...

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring an item each week to Mass for the boxes in all our churches. This is helping people more than you will ever know. Let's keep it up!

My special thanks to parishioners who ensure food is collected and delivered to our food banks - particularly Pauline & Richard McLaughlin and Kath Cowell who have always ensured donations from St Michael's are taken to the Food Bank each week. This is unseen but vital work.