

Mass Readings for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – A

First reading

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: *O LORD, how I love your law!*

Psalm 119(118)

1. You, O LORD, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.
2. Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.
4. Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

Second reading

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. Alleluia.

Gospel

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church <i>Albion Road West North Shields</i>	Tynemouth Priory Partnership 	Saint Joseph Catholic Church <i>Wallsend Road North Shields</i>
Father Christopher Hughes, St Joseph's Church, Wallsend Road, Chirton, North Shields, NE29 7AA ☎ (Tel) 0191 257 5801 / ✉ (Email) chris.hughes@diocesehn.org.uk Parish Administrator: Mrs Katherine Main – Tuesday-Friday 8.45am-12.45pm Tel: 0191 2573408 Email: Katherine.Main@diocesehn.org.uk Parish Safeguarding Officer: Clare Harvey – 07507 297779		
Parish website information at: http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk For Live Stream of 11am Mass at St Cuthbert's go to: https://www.youtube.com/@SaintCuthbertNorthShields		
<u>Parish Schools</u> St Thomas More High School: https://stmacademy.org.uk/ St Cuthbert's Primary School: https://www.stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk/ St Joseph's Primary School: https://www.stjosephsrc-primary.co.uk/		
Partnership Telephone Numbers Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021 St Mary's Cullercoats ☎ 0191 251 3770 St Cuthbert's Church ☎ 0191 257 3408	Partnership Telephone Numbers Father David Smith ☎ 0191 262 3882 Hospital Chaplaincy: ☎ 01670 712476 Deacon: Rev Stephen Boulter: ☎ 07768 387393	

25th / 26th July 2026 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – A

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert's	St Joseph's	Our Lady & St Oswin's
Saturday 25th July		5:30pm: Vigil Mass: People of Parish	
Sunday 26th July 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am: Mass: Stan Llewellyn		9:30am: Mass: People of Parish
Monday 27th July			
Tuesday 28th July	1.00pm: Requiem Mass for Winnie White		10:00am: Mass: Ricci Hudson-Storey (SS)
Wednesday 29th July	9.30am: Mass: Mary Elizabeth Bale		
Thursday 30th July		9.30am: Mass:	
Friday 31st July	1.30pm: Requiem Mass for Anne Donnelly 7.00pm: Mass: Philip & John Howells		
Saturday 1st August		5:30pm: Vigil Mass:	
Sunday 2nd August 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am: Mass: People of Parish		9:30am: Mass: Cynthia Chicken (K&R Young)

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The Parish of St Cuthbert's and St Joseph's, North Shields

Facebook:

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Prayer Intentions for Summer: A Deeper Understanding between Christian and Jews; those who suffer Persecution; the Oppressed and those denied human rights; Europe; the Dignity of all Human Life; Seafarers. We pray for all who are sick, including Ros McGann, Jean Slater, Irene Keenaghan, Mary Quinn, Patricia Thompson, Paul Atkinson, Francis McSherry, Mary Kidd, Mary Rowley, Antoni Kulik, Peter Chester, Rebecca Cummings, Dorothy Falla, Bridget Geddes, James Llewellyn, Sr Zita, Stephen Davies & Fr Leo Pyle. Please pray for Billy Burwood, Ann Donnelly, Winnie White, Irene Clarke, Fr Leo Pyle and all those who have died recently.

17th Sunday of the Year

As of last week, we have three parables. The first two of a someone finding a treasure in the field and the merchant finding the pearl of great price, and they both sell what they have to gain this treasure, seem to have a similar meaning. They are saying about the significance of Jesus' vision of the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the most important thing that we need to focus on. All that we have is to enable to focus on this vision. The Gospel is a call to reflect on our priorities. What really matter? What is our primary call. All that we have is to enable us to fulfil that call, then if it does not, it is surplus to requirements. The third parable appears to be about judgement between the good and bad but further exploration gives a different emphasis. A dragnet had wide holes so lot of fish could come through the net, but once dragged the hold became much narrower. The Kingdom of Heaven is open to all. The church is called to accept. Yes, there is judgement, but the judgement is done by God and not by us.

The last comment of the Gospel is also worth exploring. Matthew Gospel is for community who were Jewish converts to Christianity. He is addressing those who have been scribes in the Jewish tradition who now follow Christ. Now trained in the Kingdom of Heaven, they are like the master of the house who brings from his treasures, what is new and old. There is wisdom in being able to discern what from tradition is of significance and what new insights come for the present time. We need to ensure that all traditions are living traditions able to speak of the gospel in different time and cultures.

Pope Leo has set us a wonderful example in his reflection on human dignity in this new age of AI. This scripture also is great summary of the two key principles of the Second Vatican Council. Of *ressourcement*, of going deeper into our tradition as shown by a number of ancient spiritualities, such a *lectio divina* and centring prayer, being commonly used today and of *aggiornamento*, of being open to the current time as shown by Pope Leo in his recent development of Catholic Church to be applied within the life of the Church as well.

Fr Leo Pyle RIP

Fr Leo Pyle was parish priest of St Cuthbert's, from 1978 to 1986. He died on July 10th aged 93. May he rest in peace. His Requiem Mass is at St Mary's, Hexham at 12 noon on Wednesday 29th July, presided by Bishop Stephen.

Requiem Masses

The following Requiem Masses will be taking place this week

Winnie White: Tuesday 28th July 1pm at St Joseph's;

Ann Donnelly: Friday 31st July 1.30pm at St Cuthbert's.

May they rest in peace.

Partnership Appointment

At the weekend, it was announced that Bishop Stephen has appointed Fr Binoy Mandapathil as Priest in charge of the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Whitley Bay, Backworth and West Monkseaton and the Parish of St Mary Cullercoats and St Oswin, Tynemouth.

We look forward to welcoming Fr Binoy to the partnership. He is from India and is a member of Syra-Malabar community. He is also a member of the Redemptorist Order. He has been a priest of 22 years and offers a great deal of experience from ministering in different parts of the world, including the Middle East. We pray for him as he prepares to take up his new appointment. We also pray for Mgr Faley as he prepares to leave Whitley Bay after 13 years of faithful service. Fr Binoy will take up his new appointment on September 1st.

Tyne and Wear Citizens

There was a very fruitful meeting on Tuesday at St Cuthbert's of the North Shields Hub. 14 people were

present. There was clearly an appetite to reach out to communal spaces to discover people concerns and to explore ways we can develop community cohesion in the town. We agree on the following:

We would map as a group the communal meeting places in North Shields, formal and informal. A member of the group will create a google doc for these places to be collated. Aim is build up relationships in these spaces as the first step in reaching out.

We would try to have 1-2-1s among this group and beyond. I encourage parishioners to reach out to fellow parishioners they see in church but do not know that well to meet up to get to know each other, hopefully discovering shared concerns and building up relationships with each other.

Encourage people to take part in the training that will take place 9.30-4pm on September 18th and 25th in North Tyneside. Venue to be confirmed but St Cuthbert's is a possibility. Training is free. You can sign up at: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/introduction-to-community-organising-training-north-tyneside-september-2026/>

Next meeting is Wednesday 2nd September at St Cuthbert's at 7pm.

CAFOD Emergency Appeal for Venezuela & Sponsored Walk for Sudanese Appeal

A big thank-you to all who contributed in anyway to our sponsored walk to St Mary's Lighthouse. Thanks to all who have sponsored and to all who took part in the walk. If you would like to make a donation please leave it in an envelope marked 'CAFOS Sudanese appeal'. The CAFOD emergency appeal for Venezuela is still open as well.. The latest figure raised for the Sudanese appeal is £787. Well done to all who contributed

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

The Pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Stephen, from 22nd till 29th October 2027 – £1725 per person. Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place. The itinerary and booking details can be found on the diocesan website (www.diocesehn.org.uk) or alternatively via the parish office.

Therapist Placement

I have been approached by Amanda Normand, who subject to DBS and diocesan approval, is wanting to do a placement in the parish as a trainee therapist, with Therapy North. She can offer support on low level anxiety and depression, bereavement and loss and relationship counselling for couples. If you are interested in seeking support, please contact Amanda at: amandanormand55@gmail.com.

The initial meeting will explore if there is enough compatibility between needs of the client and what Amanda can offer. If not she will sign post them to appropriate sources of support.

The sessions are free though if it is possible a small donation to cover supervision fees would be appreciated.

Live Simply Tip

Living Simply is based on the following three strands:

- living simply
- living in solidarity with people in poverty
- living sustainably with creation

Live Simply Tip:

Further Reflections from Magnifica Humanitas:

AI does not know compassion, mercy, forgiveness or hope of change. We must build in the right social and moral vision right from the start, rather than thinking that using the tool "well" is enough. It is not just about how we use AI, but how AI is developed, and by whom, as it has the possibility to shape our culture, our imagination, and therefore our lives.

Pope Leo talks about how the way that we treat migrants, refugees and those who are forced to move due to poverty, violence or climate change reveals a lot about our society. It shows whether our actions are driven by fear or by a sense of community and care for one another. (MH – CAFOD).

Parish Finance – Standing Orders

If you would like to set up a Standing Order the details of the parish account are:

Name: DHN North Shields St Cuthbert & St Joseph

Bank: HSBC

Sort code: 40-34-45

Account No.: 91146513

Prayer for Peace

As the fever of day calms towards twilight. May all that is strained in us come to ease. We pray for all who suffered violence today. May an unexpected serenity surprise them.. For those who risk their lives each day for peace. May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.. That those who make riches from violence and war. Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.. That we might see through our fear of each other. A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression. That those who enjoy the privilege of peace. Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters. That the wolf might lie down with the lamb. That our swords be beaten into ploughshares. And no hurt or harm be done anywhere along the holy mountain.

John O'Donohue Benedictus A Book of Blessings