

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – A

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house."'

Psalm 138 (137)

Response: *O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.
2. I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.
3. The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia. You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Alleluia.

Matthew 16:13-20

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Deacon: Rev Stephen Boulter: 07768 387393

9:30am: Mass:
People of the Parish

0191 257 3408

Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Clare Harvey:
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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 and Stephen Davies. Please pray for Fr Leo Pyle, Michelle Collings, Olive Dargaval, Maria Scott, Fr Joe Kendal and all those who have died recently.

21st Sunday of the Year

The Gospel is St Matthew's account of Peter proclaiming Jesus as the Christ and then Jesus giving his authority to Peter and that on this rock (that what Peter means) he will build his Church. The gospel stops before the passage where Peter refuses to accept and understand that Jesus has to die and 'rise in three days', and Jesus has to confront Peter. Perhaps there was a lot of irony in giving this disciple the nickname 'rocky', since as else where we see how Peter is anything but strong, but weak and unreliable. Along with the first reading, we have the theme of being given authority. We all have authority as followers of Christ.

Through our baptism we are given the power to be Christ in the world but faced with the challenges of life we feel more like a marshmallow than a rock! But perhaps Peter was chosen for this role because of his weakness and not his strength since he would know soon enough that he could not depend on his own strength but on the grace of

Christ, that he knew during his ministry and then through his risen life and then through the power of the Spirit. May we use our gifts, aware of our weakness but also the power of Christ's grace working through us.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

We pray for our partnership parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea, at this time of transition. We pray that Mgr Faley enjoys his retirement and is happy at residing with the Little Sisters of the Poor at St Joseph's. We also pray for Fr Binoy as he prepares to take up his new appointment.

Journey of Faith Programme

The partnership Journey of Faith Programme will start at St Edward's Whitley Bay on October 6th. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic or learning more about their faith please contact Fr Chris.

New Health and Safety Officer for St Cuthbert's

The new health and safety officer for St Cuthbert's is Tony Pinkerton. Health and Safety is his 'bread and butter' since he trains and advises on health and safety issues relating to the off-shore industry. I am very grateful to him for taking on this role. I would like to also express my sincere thanks and respect to Charlie Tynan for his service to the parish in this role for the last five years. His generosity and commitment with and to the role has been much appreciated.

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 at St Cuthbert's. Training is free for all parishioners You can sign up at: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/introduction-to-community-organising-training-north-tyneside-september-2026/>

Next meeting of the hub 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 £1177. Well done to all who contributed.

Songs of Praise Christmas Celebration

If you would like to be part of an audience for a special Christmas Songs of Praise at the Glass House (the Sage, Gateshead) on October 6th, you can obtain free tickets at: https://lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1453&utm_source=outreach&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newcastle_sop_2026

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.

Healthy Lifestyle Event: Cancer Signs & Symptoms

This will be at the Cedarwood Community Centre, Avon Avenue, North Shields, NE29 7QT on Thursday 27th August from 10am to 1.30pm. Free Screenings, Health Checks and Resources will be available. There will be family friendly activities, demos, talk and classes. The day is free and no booking required.

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, please email 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

"The civilisation of love will not arise from a single or spectacular gesture, but from the sum total of small and steadfast acts of fidelity that serve as a bulwark against dehumanisation." #213 (MH)

The encyclical is a reminder that working towards social justice is a key part of our faith:

"For the Christian community, social justice is a concrete way of following Jesus and remaining faithful to the Gospel." #79 (MH)

We cannot remain to the side and hope for the best but must actively participate in the creation of a better world, where no one is excluded and all are able to flourish. The benefits of our human creativity can and must reach all of us. (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