

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE

THE PARISHES OF



**Saint
Aidan**
Station Road
ASHINGTON
NE63 8AD



**Saint Thomas
of Canterbury**
West Road
LONGHORSLEY
NE65 8UY



Parish Priest - Father Vincent Waiga, CSSp
Assistant Parish Priest – Father Oliver Ejike Ugwu, CSSp

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TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – YEAR A

Our existence is built on relationships, apart from each other we can do nothing, together we can work towards a more just, a more equal, world, a world in which the love for our brothers and sisters takes priority over everything else. Even though, at times, to show that love leads us to sacrifice our feelings, our beliefs, that is the road that Our Lord asks us to walk.

Ezekiel writes when Israel is in chaos. The people have turned away from God and are at the mercy of their powerful neighbours. It is the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile in Babylon. Ezekiel is called by God to speak clearly and truthfully to the people warning them that, unless they seek reconciliation with God, they face annihilation. The choice, then, is for them to make, if they do not heed the warnings then they must face the consequences and, for Ezekiel there is no blame, he has done what the Lord asks of him.

Paul's world is dominated by the power of Rome, a power built on the subjugation of small nations under the iron fist of Rome. There is no place in this world for the forgiving mercy of God. When Paul speaks of "mutual love" he calls it a debt. His words are inspired by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, a selfless sacrifice for all, a sign of God's love for the world. The debt can only be repaid by our selfless forgiveness of our neighbour whatever they have done. Paul uses the Commandments of God to show the many ways in which we should act when we follow Him. He reminds us that "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour".

How do we apply the idea of mutual love for all when something occurs within our community, within the church. Jesus speaks of various steps we can make in order to bring about reconciliation, but He understands that sometimes even these can fail. He does not condemn but neither can he fix the problem. Every dispute, every sin, leads to the destruction of peace and harmony, it is up to ourselves to restore the balance. Peace comes when we gather in prayer for "when two or three are gathered together, God is there." And He is always listening.

David Frank

*Where
TWO or THREE
gather
IN MY NAME,
there I am
with them*



Dear Parishioners of St Aidan's Ashington and St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley,

My name is Fr Vincent Waiga, your new Parish Priest. I am delighted to be here and thank you for the warm welcome I have received from those parishioners I have already met. I hope to meet all of you over the coming weeks.

I will be joined in the near future by Fr Oliver Ejike Ugwu, who will be my assistant in the parishes. We are both of the religious order The Spiritans, often called the Holy Ghost Fathers. I am from Uganda and Fr Oliver is from Nigeria but have been resident in the UK for several years. In spite of our extensive experience we know we will need your support and your prayers so that our parishes can continue to flourish as they did under Fr Shaun, to whom we owe our gratitude for the preparations he made for our arrival. We wish him well and all God's blessings in his new parishes and his work in the Diocese. I am looking forward to meeting the Christians in the parishes of Ashington and Longhorsley.

Be assured of our prayers and our support and may God bless each one of you.

Fr Vincent Waiga CSSp

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email: ashlong.info@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE, BY WEDNESDAY EVENING.

If you are visiting our parishes, we extend a warm welcome and hope you enjoy your stay in the beautiful county of Northumberland.

SAINT AIDAN'S MONDAY ESCAPE (S.A.M.E.)

The Monday Escape continues this week. Why not come along and see what it's all about. A warm welcome awaits you. You may also make some new friends along the way. Give it a go, don't be shy! Venue - St Aidan's Hall 10.00am - 2.00pm

SOUP LUNCH

Soup lunch returns this Tuesday – all welcome. Why not pop into the hall after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD - ST AIDAN'S

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place each Sunday at 9.00am Mass. This is for Children aged 3-10 years.

100+ CLUB RESULTS - WEEK TWELVE

£5 - **69** £5 - **70** £5 - **93**
£10 - **16** £10 - **47**

Congratulations to the winners!

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH CLEANING

Church Cleaning takes place on Monday at 2.00pm with a small group of people. Familiar and new faces are always welcome. No experience needed, just a willingness to help. All equipment is provided, just bring yourself. Remember, many hands make light work!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2023/24

Starts with the parents meeting in church this **Tuesday, 12th September at 6.30pm.**

BELL RINGERS - LONGHORSLEY

Pease sign up for a Sunday to ring the bell five minutes before Mass begins. The list is at the back of the Church. No previous experience necessary.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BRING IN YOUR USED STAMPS AND OLD SPECTACLES - THANK YOU.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are sick or housebound and would like Holy Communion in the home, this can be arranged. If you would like the Sacrament of the Sick or Reconciliation, Father Vincent is more than happy to come and visit you. Please contact the parish office.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION – ST AIDAN'S

In order to help Father Vincent and Father Oliver with visiting the sick and housebound, could all extraordinary ministers at St Aidan's, please write down on the list at the back of Church (kept with the welcomers) the names, addresses, telephone numbers of the sick and housebound they visit and also your contact details. It is important that this list is kept up to date.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR FR SHAUN

Friday 6th October, Mass at 7.00pm in St Aidan's, followed by fish and chip supper in St Aidan's Community Hall. All welcome. If you wish to attend the fish and chip supper, please complete the form at the back of each. The deadline is Friday 29th September.

If you wish to give a gift to Fr Shaun, please put in an envelope, seal it and return it with the offertory baskets.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP TO YORK

On Thursday 7th December, there will be a Christmas Shopping trip to York. The coach will leave St Aidan's at 8.30am. If you would like to go, please contact the office on 812 200. The cost is £20 per person.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

As in previous years, we continue the tradition of the red candles at Christmas in memory of loved ones. The envelopes are available from this week and the campaign will remain open until 18th December. £7.50 a candle or two for £12.00.

Unfortunately, due to limited space in St Thomas' we are unable to offer the candles there, but there will be envelopes available if you would like to have a candle lit in St Aidan's in memory of a loved-one at Christmas.

ST AIDAN'S PIETY SHOP

Have you visited the Piety Shop lately? There are lots of cards and gifts available for Christmas. Yes, you heard correctly... Christmas! Support your local business and in the process help to keep Christ in Christmas. There are lots of other cards and gifts available for all occasions.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Department for Education

Deputy Director of Education (Inspection)

Full-time, term-time. Closing date: 18th September

Senior Administrator

Full-time, permanent. Closing date: 11th September

All roles based in the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

DIOCESAN STATEMENT ON RAAC

The Diocesan Director of Education has issued a statement on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Diocesan Schools. The statement is available on their website using: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/statement-on-reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-raac-in-diocesan-schools/>

CCRS COURSE

This programme is available for serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, for teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools, for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education. The CCRS course programme is now available for 2023-2024 on the Diocesan website:

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/education> If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocesan Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk

ROSARY RALLY

A Rosary procession will be held on Saturday 7 October 2023 from St Joseph's Church, Gateshead to Northumberland Street, Newcastle followed by public Rosary in Northumberland Street.

The day will start with First Saturday Mass and devotions at 11.00am at St Joseph's, High West Street, Gateshead (near to Gateshead Metro Station), then the Marian procession will start with a statue of Our Lady from the church at 12.30pm, walking over the Tyne Bridge before assembling in Northumberland Street to pray the Rosary starting at 1.15pm.

All are welcome and anyone can join at any stage of the event.

RAINBOWS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The North East Team of Rainbows is seeking to recruit local volunteers to work alongside their existing team of professional volunteers who train school staff to deliver age-appropriate peer support programmes for Children and Young People in both Primary and Secondary Schools. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Ruth Higginbottom, Rainbows North East Secretary, rainbows.northeast@btconnect.com, 01670 518546 Check out their website for more information of the work of Rainbows <https://rainbowsgb.org/>

ASHINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Ashington Churches Together will take place on **Thursday 21st September at 7.00pm in Holy Sepulchre Church Hall**. This meeting is open to everyone and it would be lovely if this year we could make double figures of those attending! Please put the date in your diary.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CHURCH OPEN DAY

On Saturday 7th October between 2pm and 5pm, Ashington Churches Together will be opening their Churches for people to come and have look around and meet members of the Church communities. There may also be a chance for a cuppa and slice of cake! More information will be given after the AGM.

MASS FOR NEW SCHOOL TERM

A Mass for the new school term will take place on Friday, 15th September at 9.15am at St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Moorhouse Lane, Ashington.

The Mass will be concelebrated by Fr Shaun, as his school farewell mass and introduce Fr Vincent.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.
Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen

FAITH IN ACTION GROUP - ST. AIDAN'S

The Faith in Action group is there to do exactly that - put Faith into Action. Do you visit the sick and housebound in the parish? Do you have a care for those in need or who find themselves lonely or isolated? Do you want to help with fundraising in the parish or help bring people together? Then this group is for you. If you can make a difference, no matter how big or small it may be or want to find out more, why not come along? We look forward to seeing you there.

The FiA Group will be meeting on Monday 18th September at 1.30pm in St Aidan's Hall to plan for Christmas.

NORTHERN CROSS NEWSLETTER

The Northern Cross is the independent newspaper for the Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. It's website transforms the monthly tabloid newspaper into an online publication delivering news to the Catholic and wider Christian community across the North East.

If you would like to subscribe to it please following the link <https://www.northerncross.org.uk/subscriptions/>. To receive it by post, please contact their office on 01429 274 408.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT...

The world changes -
circumstances change,
but God's word never changes.

Warren Wiersbe

✠ MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS ✠

A = Ashington | LH = Longhorsley | (A) = Anniversary | (LD) = Lately Deceased | DFM = Deceased Family Members

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|--|--|---|--|
| Sunday 10th September <i>23rd Sunday of the Year</i> | 9.00am 11.15am 5.00pm | People of the Parishes Anne Wyatt DFM of Melody Family | A LH A |
| Monday 11th September | 12noon | Special Intention (Priests of our Parish) | LH |
| Tuesday 12th September | 12noon | Maureen and Bob Forster and Jean and Vin Kearney (D'cd) The Name of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary | A <i>Soup</i> <i>After Mass</i> |
| Thursday 14th September | 11.15am 12noon | <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.45am and Adoration until 11.50am</i> Barbara and Dennis Pattinson | LH |
| Friday 15th September | 12noon | Marion Thompson (D'cd) | A |
| Saturday 16th September | 11.00am | Deborah Grey (A) | A |
| Sunday 17th September <i>23rd Sunday of the Year</i> | 9.00am 11.15am 5.00pm | Kathryn Moore (D'cd) Special Intention (ABE) People of the Parishes | A |

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK

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|------------------|--|
| Monday | Feria |
| Tuesday | Weekday or The Most Holy Name of Mary |
| Wednesday | St John Chrysostom, Bp, D (Memorial) |
| Thursday | The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast) |
| Friday | Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial) |
| Saturday | SS Cornelius Pp and Cyprian Bp MM (Memorial) |

AT A GLANCE THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday | Monday Escape (10am-2pm) Ashington |
| Tuesday | Soup after Mass (12noon) Ashington |
| Wednesday | St Aidan's Bingo (7.15pm) |

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday | 11.30am - Mass Longhorsley |
| Tuesday | 11.15am - 11.50am Ashington |
| Friday | 11.30am - Mass Ashington |
| Saturday | 9.30am - 10.45am Ashington |

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 11.15am - 11.45am Ashington |
| Thursday | 11.15am - 11.45am Longhorsley |
| Saturday | 9.30am - 10.30am Ashington |

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9 Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12
Romans 14:7-9 Matthew 18:21-35

WEEKDAY READINGS

Use the camera on your Smart Phone to scan the QR Code to access the Weekday readings from Universalis.



THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

Autumn

During Ordinary Time (Autumn) from September to Advent, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.



From Pope Francis' Wednesday Audience

Dear brothers and sisters... I was in the heart of Asia, and this did me good. It is good to enter into dialogue with that vast continent, to glean its messages, to know its wisdom, its way of looking at things, to embrace time and space. It was good for me to meet the Mongolian people, who cherish their roots and traditions, who respect the elderly and live in harmony with the environment: they are a people who contemplate the sky and feel the breath of creation. Thinking of the boundless and silent expanses of Mongolia, let us be stirred by the need to extend the confines of our gaze, please: broaden the horizons, look high and low, look and do not fall prisoner to trivial things. Let us expand the boundaries of our gaze, so that we may be able to see the good in others and be capable of broadening our horizons, and let us also open our heart; we need to make our heart grow and expand, in order to understand, to be close to every person and every civilization.