



PARISH CLERGY

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Retired Priest

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Retired Priest

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SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST 2025

**THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**



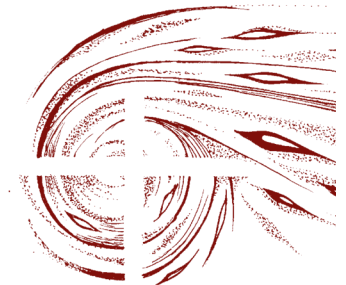
WATCH AND WAIT

YOU ALSO MUST BE READY."

LUKE 12

SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST 2025

**THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**



" I HAVE NOT COME TO GIVE PEACE BUT DIVISION ."

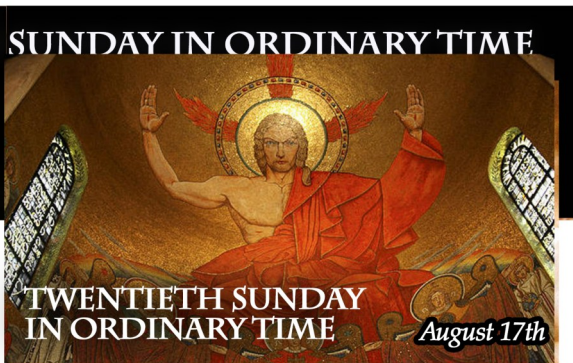
LUKE 12

SUNDAY MESSAGE

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Just before the reading above, Jesus has warned in St Luke's Gospel about the peril of worldly possession. This is a danger about which Luke, writing to a prosperous audience, continually reminds his audience. Then Jesus issues a series of exhortations to be alert for the final meeting with the Lord, and a series of blessings on those who are so ready. Luke does not have a great scene of a universal final judgement (as Matthew's Gospel does with the parable of the sheep and the goats). For Luke there is no need to wait for a great final judgement scene at the end of the world; instead, with his Greek frame of mind, he is more interested in the individual judgement (for each of these parables concerns a single individual who is rewarded or punished). This is fully compatible with the notion that each individual's final judgement is at death, rather than all together at the end of the world. Most wonderful and startling is the promise (suggested by today's parable) that, after the Master's return at the judgement, he will himself serve the faithful servants.

How may we best be "ready" for the return of the Lord?



What is this? Jesus came to bring peace and harmony, to perfect the unity of society and families. How is it then that he can here say exactly the opposite? And without apology! There is no, 'I am afraid there may sometimes be disagreements in the family'. Rather, 'I have come to bring disagreements in the family'. To make things worse, in Judaism the family is the basic unit which sticks together through thick and thin. Any Jew will be thoroughly shocked by this passage. We have seen repeatedly that Jesus' statements are often fierce and extreme: 'If your hand causes you to fall, cut it off'; 'Let the dead bury their dead'. Elsewhere he says 'It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven' – and the traditional let-out clause that he is talking about a small gate in Jerusalem is simply wrong; there was no such gate! Jesus is teaching that the most sacred earthly ties are less important than loyalty to the Lord. He chooses the family as an example deliberately because it is so sacred and important, but even so, following Jesus who leads us into all truth is more important still.

What are the hardest circumstances in which you have to make decisions for or against the demands of Jesus?

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

PARISH CHANGES

We were pleased to learn of Fr. Charles Ejieji's appointment as Parish Priest of St. Joseph's, Murton; St. Cuthbert's, New Seaham; and St. Mary Magdalen's, Seaham Harbour. With the link between Murton and Shotton now concluded, it is a natural step to bring together the parishes in the SR7 area under one partnership. As Seaham prepares to bid farewell to Fr. Marc—who has faithfully served since Fr. Frank's retirement five years ago—we look forward to these new arrangements taking effect later this summer. We also extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Fr. Frank and Fr. John as they embark on a well-earned second retirement—let's hope this time they really can retire! Last weekend the parish gifted them both a token of our appreciation for their dedication and ministry over the last ten months, under such exceptional circumstances.

THE ASSUMPTION - HOLY DAY

Thursday 14th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holyday of Obligation. Mass will be said at **11:00am rather than 10:00am**, honouring what is printed on the sign in the car park.

WEDDING BELLS!

Please remember in your prayers Callum Harker and Ellie Dawson who are getting married in Church on Tuesday 19th August. We wish them well as they embark on this next chapter in their lives!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We wish all of those in our Parish community who are travelling at home or abroad this summer a happy, safe, restful, refreshing and enjoyable break throughout their time away. We also welcome those who are visiting the North East coast throughout these summer months. You are very welcome in our Parish.

DONATION FROM ST JOSEPH'S

St. Joseph's has donated £100 to the Salvation Army from the community fund, or which they are very grateful!



SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

**James Vickers & Agnes &
William Smith**
August 10th

Albert & Vera Short
August 17th

BONUS BALL WINNER

Saturday 19th July
Eddie Matterson

15

Saturday 26th July
Sarah Smith

18

Saturday 2nd August
Geraldine Miller

56



**POPE LEO XIV'S
PRAYER INTENTION
FOR AUGUST**



FOR MUTUAL COEXISTENCE

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Lenne PP. XIV

✠ TWO WEEKS AT ST JOSEPH'S ✠

A = Anniversary | **(LD)** = Lately Deceased | **(DFM)** = Deceased Family Members

Sunday 10th August THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am	<i>Confessions before Mass</i> Walda Thompson <i>Coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass</i>
Monday 11th August <i>St Clare</i>	No Mass today	
Tuesday 12th August <i>St Jane Frances de Chantal</i>	No Mass today	
Wednesday 13th August <i>Ss Pontian, Pope and Hippolytus, Priest</i>	10:00am	John and Catherine Lamb
Thursday 14th August <i>St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday 15th August <i>The Assumption of the BVM</i>	10:00am	George Dobson (LD)
Saturday 16th August <i>St Stephen of Hungary</i>	No Mass Today	
Sunday 17th August THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am	<i>Confessions before Mass</i> Bobby and Cathie Smith <i>Coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass</i>
Monday 18th August <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Mass today	
Tuesday 19th August <i>St John Eudes, Priesr</i>	TBC	Wedding Callum Harker & Ellie Dawson
Wednesday 20th August <i>St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor</i>	10:00am	Isabel Welsh
Thursday 21st August <i>The Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday 22nd August <i>Our Lady, Mother and Queen</i>	10:00am	Priests Intention
Saturday 23rd August <i>St Rose of Lima, Virgin</i>	No Mass Today	
Sunday 24th August THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am	<i>Confessions before Mass</i> Dobson and Richards Families <i>Coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass</i>