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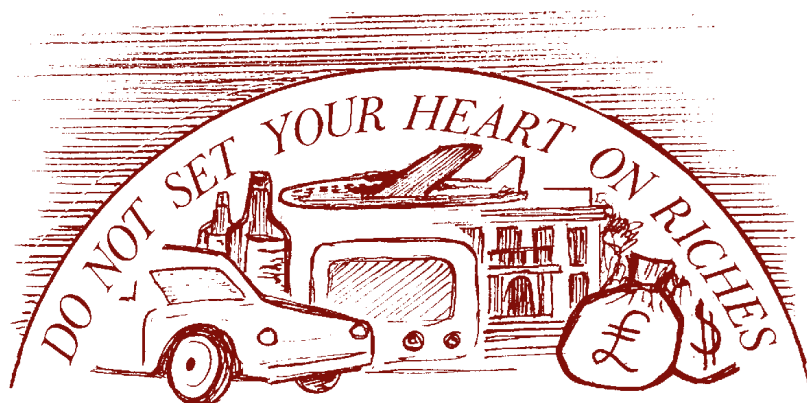
THE SIXTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

20th July 2025



THE SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

27th July 2025



THE EIGHTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

3rd August 2025

SUNDAY MESSAGE



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Martha and Mary have become classic figures in the Church representing two different styles of life, the active and the contemplative vocation, an active apostolate or a life of prayer. Carried to an extreme, this opposition is, of course, merely silly. No active apostolate can thrive unless it grows out of a life of prayer, for we cannot draw others to the knowledge and love of a God whom we do not ourselves know and love. Nor can a life of prayer be genuine unless it leads to care for others and concern for the salvation of all those whom the Lord loves. Even a strictly enclosed community cannot claim to be a part of Christ's body unless its fabric is one of love and concern for all the members, and especially those in need, the elderly, the sick and the young. In fact, Jesus does not present any such choice between two different religious ways of life. His speech is always in terms of absolutes. He does not use comparatives; he says that Mary has chosen not 'the better' (as our translation has it) but 'the good' part (as the Greek has it). Any 'good' life must be founded on listening devotedly to the Lord and responding to what we have heard.

How important a part does listening to the Lord play in my life as a Christian?

FEATURED SAINT



ST MARY MAGDALEN
27TH JULY

Mary of Magdala was healed of "seven devils" by Jesus. She ministered to him in Galilee and was present at his crucifixion. She was in the group of women who were the first to discover the empty tomb, and it was to her that the risen Jesus first appeared. The Western tradition is that Mary Magdalene is also "the woman who was a sinner" and the sister of Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. There is no evidence either way, and the tradition is tenuous enough for even such authorities as St Ambrose to hold, with the East, that they are three different people. It seems, therefore, that although the Western tradition is to be respected and is a real inspiration, it may not necessarily be historical. (Indeed, in 2021 Mary of Bethany was formally recognised as separate, being included in the same feast as Martha and Lazarus, a week after Mary of Magdala). This kind of ambiguity is inevitable in a religion such as Christianity, which is founded on definite historical events rather than myths which can be adjusted into logicity.

6TH AUGUST THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



The Transfiguration of the Lord can sound embarrassingly magical. Jesus goes up onto a mountain and his clothes become dazzlingly white. Prophets appear and talk to him. And then it is all over and Jesus tells his disciples to say nothing. We should hold on to the absurdity of the incident. There is simply no reason for all this to have happened. In particular, there is no reason to put it into a gospel – the evangelist makes no capital out of it, it is simply there. And this is the strength of the Transfiguration as an historical incident. *There is no reason for anyone to have invented it.* It is not central to the Christian case. It is not used to win arguments. There is only one reason to put it into the Gospel, and that is because it happened. It is one of those cases of the evangelists writing things down without knowing why they were important, and their very puzzlement is what makes the story so convincing. Why, then, did it happen? Surely so that we could see and understand that Jesus is at once one of the prophets and the one that was prophesied by them; and that he is God, and lives for all eternity in a blaze of dazzling and unapproachable light. The true miracle of the Transfiguration is not the shining face or the white garments, but the fact that for the rest of the time Jesus hid his glory so well.

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

HOLIDAY BULLETIN

Throughout the summer months, when news can be in short supply and our school children are enjoying their break, we are going to produce a fortnightly edition of the bulletin. However this edition will be a three-week, one off edition, thereafter we shall move to the fortnightly version. If there are any amendments to the diary, an announcement will be made at Mass and on the Facebook page. The best way to keep up to date with the news over the summer, particularly if you are going on holiday, is to add your name and email address to the mailing list or 'like' the Facebook page. To sign up online head to stjosephs-murton.org.uk/newsletter. We will resume the weekly edition on 7th September

HAPPY TRAVELLING

We wish all of those travelling this summer a safe and happy journey. We hope our school children and teachers have an incredibly relaxing break!

A WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS

Across the summer we offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our parish who are holidaying on the North East coast. We welcome you warmly into our special parish community!

SCHOOL LEAVERS MASS - THANKS

A huge thank you to all who attended our School leavers Mass on Wednesday 16th July! A massive congratulations to those who leave St. Joseph's and head to Secondary School. Prayers from your parish family are most assured!

WELCOME INTO ST. JOSEPH'S FAMILY ...

Kaleb Brown who will be Baptised on Sunday 27th July at Midday. Congratulations and best wishes to Kaleb and his family!

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mark Jeffries who has died. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 24th July at 11:00am. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

A special thanks to those who contributed to Apostleship of the Sea collection on Sunday 13th July. We now have a break from special collections across the summer period!

AFTERNOON TEA—SAVE THE DATE

There will be a summer afternoon tea on Tuesday 26th August. Tickets will be on sale soon.



SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

**HOOLE AND FOLEY
FAMILIES**
20th July

**IN MEMORY
OF JOHN DANSON**
27th July

**DFM OF WARD AND
EDWARDS FAMILIES**
3rd August

BONUS BALL WINNER

Saturday 12th July
Lisa Laughton

14



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



FORMATION IN DISCERNMENT

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Leone PP. XIV

✠ THREE WEEKS AT ST JOSEPH'S ✠

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

Sunday 20th July THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am	Confessions before Mass Ernest, Emma and Francis Miller Coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass
Monday 21st July <i>St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor</i>	No Mass today	
Tuesday 22nd July <i>St Mary Magdalen - FEAST</i>	No Mass today	
Wednesday 23rd July <i>St Bridget of Sweden</i>	10:00am	Sandra & Doris Nicholson
Thursday 24th July <i>The Martyrs of the Diocese</i>	11:00am	REQUIEM MASS - Mark Anthony Jeffries
Friday 25th July <i>St James, Apostle</i>	10:00am	George Dobson (LD)
Saturday 26th July <i>St Joachim, St Anne, parents of the BVM</i>	No Masses today	
Sunday 27th July THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11:00am	In Thanksgiving (E&E Matterson)
Monday 28th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Mass today	
Tuesday 29th July <i>SS Mary, Martha and Lazarus</i>	No Mass today	
Wednesday 30th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am	Clare Marie Hudson
Thursday 31st July <i>St. Ignatius Loyola, Priest</i>	No Mass today	
Friday 1st August <i>St Alphonsus Mary de'Liguori, Bishop, Doctor</i>	10:00am	Living & Deceased of the Ward and Edwards Families
Saturday 2nd August <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Mass today	
Sunday 3rd August THE 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am	Confessions before Mass Catherine Finan Coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass
Monday 4th August <i>St John Vianney, Priest</i>	No Mass today	
Tuesday 5th August <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Mass today	
Wednesday 6th August <i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	10:00am	George Dobson (LD)
Thursday 7th August <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Masses today	
Friday 8th August <i>St Dominic, Priest</i>	10:00am	Hoole and Foley Families
Saturday 9th August <i>St Theresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>	No Masses today	
Sunday 10th August THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am	Confessions before Mass Walda Thompson Coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass

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