



PARISH CLERGY

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Retired Priest

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SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST 2025

THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"PEOPLE WILL COME FROM EAST AND WEST,
AND RECLINE AT THE TABLE
IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

LUKE 13

SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST 2025

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"WHEN YOU GIVE A FEAST,
INVITE THE POOR."

LUKE 14



SUNDAY MESSAGE

THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C



The Gospel reading makes a point which is directly opposite to one found in the first reading. There the inhabitants of distant lands will come to draw salvation from Jerusalem. This is repeated in the Gospel, but the daunting corollary is also given to those nearer home and who are expecting to find their way into the heavenly city easily: don't sit back in complacent contentment that you have been called, or you may find the door slammed in your face. Matthew 7:21-23 has the same warning: it is not enough to keep calling out, 'Lord, Lord!' without actually doing the will of the Father. There is also the similar, more developed teaching in the parable of the wedding attendants - five who are wise with oil in their lamps, and five who are unprepared for the wedding feast. They too vainly cry, 'Lord, Lord!' from outside the door. Today's Gospel almost forms the centre-piece of the instructions to the disciples as they make their way with Jesus up to Jerusalem and to his Passion and Death. There is no cheap way to salvation: each disciple must take up the cross behind Jesus and follow to the end of the road. This teaching is the more striking in Luke, who stresses that both Jews and Gentiles will take part in the festival.

Are we complacent? How do we best journey on the road of salvation?

NEXT WEEK

THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

Two parables in today's Gospel about invitations to table. Both are from Luke's special material, without parallel in the other gospels. Jesus moves in a higher stratum of society than he does in Mark and Matthew, and often has in mind the implications of the Gospel in this context. The first parable, however, like several of Luke's parables, seems to be developed from a little Old Testament proverb: 'Do not give yourself airs, do not take a place among the great; better to be invited, "Come up here," than to be humiliated' (Proverbs 25:6-7). At first sight this seems a merely worldly precaution, a false humility engineered to gain attention. But for Luke a banquet is always an image of the heavenly banquet of the Lord. So the message is a moral one too: don't think yourself better than you are. The message is also typical of Luke's open and straightforward approach. One is reminded of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-collector at prayer, where the latter prays only 'God be merciful to me, a sinner'. The second parable also is typical of Luke: it exemplifies his stress on the inherent danger of wealth, on the need to use wealth well, and on his concern for the poor and neglected in society.

What is the message of these two parables? What does their message say to me about the way I lead my own life?

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

WELCOMING FR. CHARLES

We look forward to welcoming Fr. Charles into our parish community on Sunday 7th April.

CHANGES TO THE BULLETIN

On Fr. Charles' arrival weekend, this bulletin will become a joint edition between all three parishes, featuring Mass intentions and news from St Joseph's, St. Cuthbert's and St. Mary Magdalen's. The bulletin will continued to be prepared and printed by David, on site here at St. Joseph's with copies being distributed around all three parishes. Our parish website will also change from stjosephs-murton.org.uk to seaham-catholics.org.uk combining all three parishes in one website

NEWS DEADLINE

We are happy to feature any news from any of our parishes but please ensure all news is with us for print for the weekend, by a Wednesday evening at 5:00pm. News can be emailed to us at bulletin@stjosephs-murton.org.uk, until the new email address is set up!

CONGRATULATIONS

A huge congratulations to Callum Harker and Ellie Dawson who were married in St. Joseph's on Tuesday by Fr. Ian Jackson. We wish them well as they embark on this next chapter in their lives!

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH'S FAMILY

Kahsiyonna Awamefule who will be Baptised this morning. Congratulations and best wishes to the family!

SUMMER BREAK

As the summer comes to a close we hope all in our parish community have had a refreshing end to their holidays. We look forward to welcoming St. Joseph's staff and children back to school in the coming weeks, we hope you have all had a relaxing break!

ST. JOSEPH'S AFTERNOON TEA

There is an afternoon tea in St Joseph's Parish Hall on Tuesday 26th August 2pm–4pm. All are welcome to attend! Tickets are available from the back of Church or at the Sunday morning coffee morning.



SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

**The Dobson &
Richards Families**
August 24th

Father Ronnie Richmond
August 31st

BONUS BALL WINNER

Saturday 9th August
Anne Marie Cram

23

Saturday 16th August
Dianna Richards

37



**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.

Leone PP. XIV

✠ TWO WEEKS AT ST JOSEPH'S ✠

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

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>
Monday 25th August <i>St Louis or St Joseph of Calansanz</i>	No Mass today	
Tuesday 26th August <i>St Ninian, Bishop</i>	No Mass today	
Wednesday 27th August <i>St Monica</i>	10:00am	Vera & Albert Short
Thursday 28th August <i>St Augustine, Bishop and Doctor</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday 29th August <i>The Beheading of St John the Baptist</i>	10:00am	Maureen & Harry Morris (A)
Saturday 30th August <i>SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward, Martyrs</i>	No Mass Today	
Sunday 31st August THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am 12:00pm	<i>Confessions before Mass</i> The People of the Parish Baptism - Kahsiyonna Awamefule
Monday 1st September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Mass today	
Tuesday 2nd September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Mass today	
Wednesday 3rd September <i>St Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor</i>	10:00am	Intention of the Priest
Thursday 4th September <i>The Translation of St Cuthbert</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday 5th September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am	Intention of the Priest
Saturday 6th September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	No Mass Today	
Sunday 7th September THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.00am	<i>Confessions before Mass</i> David Bramley <i>Coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass</i>