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## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | SUNDAY 8TH FEB

Matthew here takes two piquant images from the words of Jesus which he found in Mark's Gospel and builds on them. This text follows immediately after the Beatitudes, with which he began the Sermon on the Mount; now he shows that these Christian attitudes are not just for our own benefit but are to change the world. The first teaching is a warning, the second a promise. Christians are to be salt for the whole world. Imagine a perpetual diet of food without any tang or taste, soggy and insipid! This would be the world if Christians did not spread the good news of Christ, did not impart to the world the flavour brought by Christ's message. What would the world be without that message and without the challenge of the generosity and salvation of Christ which we profess? Yes, of course much of the same message may come to the world through other great world-faiths, but the full challenge and the full promise is in Christ. The same is true for the second image, that of light. Imagine a world of darkness, where we had to feel our way and are never quite sure of shapes and purposes! And then what a difference occurs when the sun rises over the horizon or the light is switched on. Such is the difference which Christianity – and our Christianity – must make to the world. **What is the best way that I can share with my friends the joy of knowing Jesus?**

## ✠ THIS WEEK AT ST MATTHEW'S ✠

<b>Sunday 8th February</b> 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>10:00am</b> - Vic McGuiness
<b>Monday 9th February</b> <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	<b>NO MASSES TODAY</b>
<b>Tuesday 10th February</b> <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>10:00am</b> - James Anthony Gould (Jim)
<b>Wednesday 11th February</b> <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>10:00am</b> - Fred Woodhouse
<b>Thursday 12th February</b> <i>St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr</i>	<b>10:00am</b> - In thanksgiving for my brothers recovery
<b>Friday 13th February</b> <i>SS Paul Miki &amp; his companion</i>	<b>10:00am</b> - Stewart Pairman
<b>Saturday 14th February</b> <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>NO MASSES TODAY</b>
<b>Sunday 15th February</b> 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>10:00am</b> - Federick Sherman

## ✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

### THE RETURN OF THE PARISH WEBSITE

We are working hard in the background to bring back our website [www.stmatthews-ponteland.org.uk](http://www.stmatthews-ponteland.org.uk). We have officially re-registered the website address and we are working on the design! Although not yet available, we hope it will be soon, meaning we can once again publish all parish news, Mass times and the bulletin to the website. We will keep you posted on the progress!

### ASH WEDNESDAY ...

is celebrated this year on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Mass will be at 10am as usual. We will have a period of Exposition or Stations of the Cross before each weekday Mass for the duration of Lent, More information to follow in next weeks bulletin.

### NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MISSAL

We are now using the New Translation Missals for Sundays and weekdays. There are several differences in the text, so could readers please read through the readings to familiarise themselves before getting up to read. .

### JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Pope Leo has proclaimed a special 'Year of St. Francis' to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. Our department for education shares this prayer to mark the beginning of the Franciscan Jubilee Year

*"Lord, help me to live this day quietly, easily. To lean upon Thy great strength, trustfully, restfully. To wait for the unfolding of Thy will, patiently, serenely. To meet others peacefully, joyfully. To face tomorrow, confidently, courageously".*

### TODAY IS A DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

This weekend 7th/8th February, the 12th World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking will be celebrated with the words "Peace begins with dignity: a global appeal to end human trafficking" which is the theme of the 2026 edition, inspired by the powerful message of Pope Leo XIV, who stated that true peace is gentle and humble, born of love and sustained wherever human dignity is upheld. The exploitation and objectification of people through trafficking undermine the foundations of peace and justice, making its elimination essential for building a just world. Human trafficking is a global wound that denies human dignity and shatters peace in communities everywhere.

### MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

We now have a supply of pre-printed Mass Intention envelopes. Please use these to request a Mass at St Matthew's. Whilst Sundays are in demand weekday Masses are available on most days of the week.

### ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

If you can sure all items for the parish bulletin are with us by Wednesday at 5:00pm at the latest. Please email any news to [stmatthew.ponteland@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stmatthew.ponteland@diocesehn.org.uk)