



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

33RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR B

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2024

**ST MARY'S (HEXHAM) & ST MARY'S (SWINBURNE)
ST OSWALD'S (BELLINGHAM) & ST PETER'S (OTTERBURN)
ST JOHN'S (HAYDON BRIDGE) & ST WILFRID'S (HALTWHISTLE)**

Parish Priest & Episcopal Vicar for Northumberland: Fr Jeffrey J Dodds

Assistant Priest: Fr Paul Kilduff

Retired Assistant Priest: Fr James Dunne

Seminarian: David Pinder

Parish Office: Email stmarys.hexham@diocesehn.org.uk Tel. No. 01434 603119

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm

Website: www.stmaryshexham.org.uk

THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM OUR CLERGY

NOVEMBER 16th: FEAST OF ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND.

This lady is worthy of our thoughts on this side of the Border, not least because her biographer was a man called Turgot, who had been the Prior of Durham Cathedral before becoming Bishop of St Andrews. Margaret was born in England, of royal stock, in 1046 – almost at the last gasp of the old Saxon monarchy, before it was overthrown in the Norman Conquest in 1066. She was well-educated – mainly in Hungary – but had to escape England when the Normans arrived. She found refuge at the court of King Malcolm III in Scotland; they fell in love and married in 1069. Oddly enough (for such marriages at the time) they were happy together and had several children.

She had great influence on the life of the Scottish royal court, making it quite 'European' in style and outlook – thanks to her education and upbringing in Hungary. She was also quite religious and had a real impact on improving the Church in Scotland, which, most agree, was in need of some reform. She encouraged the practice of going to Holy Communion, especially at Easter; she discouraged making people work on Sundays; she developed the pilgrimage site at Iona, which had been the birthplace of Scottish & Northumbrian Christianity centuries earlier.

Her influence on Malcolm was immense – he had probably been illiterate when he had met her. Some people criticized her for being "too English" in her attitudes and practices. I couldn't possibly comment! Of her eight children, two (Alexander & David) became kings of Scotland; one daughter (Matilda) married King Henry I of England. She died, aged 47, in 1093, and was canonized some time later (the document is lost). She was named patron of Scotland in 1673. I suppose that I have a bit of a 'soft spot' for her, as my mother was also called Margaret. In any case, St Margaret was a beacon of light & civilization at a rather dark & rough time in history. *Fr Jim Dunne.*

THIS WEEKS NEWS & EVENTS

New Translation of the Lectionary – Formation Meeting for All Parish Readers

The remaining meeting will take place on Saturday November 23rd, at 11.30am at St. John's, Haydon Bridge. The rationale behind the change will be explored, and best practices in improving reading skills will be shared. All Readers are expected to attend one of these sessions. Any new readers would be welcome.

Priest's Training Fund

This will remain open for one more week. Please be as generous as you can as we support future training of deacons and priests in the diocese.

Blessing of Graves

These will take place after Mass as follows: November 17th Haydon Bridge, St Andrew's, Hexham & Bellingham, November 24th Corbridge Cemetery.

Weekly Parishes Bible Study

Every Sunday at 7pm in St. Mary's Parish Centre, we continue to examine the Acts of the Apostles, through a period of discussion and listening to a talk. Everyone is welcome to attend.

R.C.I.A (Journey in Faith)

Do you feel called to the Catholic Faith? Would you like to find out more about your faith? The invitation is open to everyone. These sessions develop, explore, and unwrap our Catholic Faith, allowing us to grow and nurture our love of God. Please speak to the clergy for more details. Sessions are held every Thursday at 7.00pm in St Mary's Parish Centre. Parishioners who would like to journey with our inquirers are also very welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during November

Adoration will continue to take place every Monday morning in St Mary's, Hexham following the 9.30am Mass until 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to stay and call in as you please. Stay for a while and pray for personal and world needs.

Parishes November Dead

Thank you to all who returned their enveloped. The names will be read out in Masses over this weekend, 16/17th November, together with those who have died over the past year.

St Mary's Finances

You will recall that in June, members of our finance team made an appeal for increased offerings in the collections to assist with the increasing costs of running out parish. We have looked at the amounts received in September and compared them to September last year.

September 2024 £6,405 September 2023 £6,415

We greatly appreciate the generosity of those parishioners who have increased their donations, but as you can see, this has only made up for the lost donations following the deaths and other departures of parishioners in the last year.

We have also looked at inflation rates since 2016 and the effects on regular donations.

A standing order of £20 made in 2016 is now only worth £13, and a standing order of £30 made in 2016 is now only worth £20.

We appreciate that costs for many families have increased at a greater rate than their incomes, but our costs are continuing to rise, too. We would request that you consider the amount of your regular donation and the date you last increased the amount (members of the finance team are in this category, too!) and, if possible, increase your standing order.

If you operate online banking, you should be able to increase the amount; otherwise, standing order forms are available at the back of the church for you to complete and forward to your bank.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

St Mary's Finance Committee

FORTHCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

The next early morning Mass will take place on 6th December – followed by a period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament up until the 9.30am Mass. This early-morning Mass and Adoration will take place on the first and third Friday of each month.

New Sunday Missals – Order a Copy

These can be bought through the Parish Office, price £13. The beautiful new version by Hodder & Stoughton will help you appreciate the new translation and include our current new translation of the Mass. Please let Trish know if you would like a copy by Sunday 17th November.

First Holy Communion Programme

We have moved our preparation to Sunday evening at 5:30pm prior to the 6:00pm Mass. Anyone in year 4 or above who is interested in making their First Holy Communion should contact the Parish Office or clergy as soon as possible.

Two weeks to stop assisted suicide!

The most vulnerable in our society are at risk. MPs will vote on whether to introduce an extreme assisted suicide law on 29 November. To protect the vulnerable from this radical law change, contact your MP and ask them to vote NO. Take action now - it only takes 30 seconds to contact your MP using the tool here:www.righttolife.org.uk/mpcontactnow

St Mary's Sunday Mass Live Streaming

Our parish live stream provides a service to the housebound and those unable to be at Mass on a Sunday. We are looking for new team members who would like to help. Full training will be given, and it would involve approximately one Sunday a month. Contact the parish office for further details.

Little Sisters of the Poor

A huge thank you to everyone who very kindly supported our Christmas fayre at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 9th November. It was a great success. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. We look forward to welcoming you back. Mother Kathleen Mary and Community **Little Sisters of the Poor Christmas Concert** - The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert on Saturday 7th December 2024 at 7.00pm. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home – 0191 273 1279, in aid of the work of the Little Sisters at St Joseph's home.

Youth Sunday – A Message from YMT

- As we near Youth Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King on 24th November, we invite you to celebrate and encourage young people in our Diocese. World Youth Sunday resources are now available, including a registration link for CYMFed's *World Youth Funday*, a free, interactive livestream event on Friday 22nd November. Join live from studios in London, Nottingham, and YMT, with special guests like Sr. Anna and Sr. Linda (*Daughters of Divine Charity*), Bishop David Oakley, and more ending the day with a moment of adoration. Thank you for any support or fundraising you can offer for youth ministry in our Diocese. Follow YMT and visit the CYMFed website for more details. A retiring collection will be held on the day.

Cafod Live Simply Award

– The Bishops of England and Wales have encouraged all parishes and schools to work toward this award. St Marys RC First School are supporting this, and we can all be a part of this too, by making a simple pledge involving a lifestyle choice. There will be more information to follow with a display in the Narthex (poster on notice board).

TIMES SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday (St Mary's Hexham) after 9.30am Mass;
Wednesday (St Oswald's, Bellingham) after 9.30am Mass;
Thursday (St Wilfrid's, Haltwhistle) after 9.30am Mass;
Saturday (St Mary's, Hexham) 4.30pm – 5.15pm before Vigil Mass

Masses This Week – 33rd Sunday Ordinary Time Year B

Sat	16 th	Vigil 5.30pm	Hexham	People of the Parishes (Pro Populo)	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun	17 th	9.00am	Haydon Bridge	Claudine and Ryan Engen and Family	
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Hexham	Bill Armstrong RIP	
			Live Streamed		
Sun	17 th	11.00am	Bellingham	Quigley and Hendren Families RIP	
Sun	17 th	6.00pm	Hexham	Margaret and Andy Murphy	
Mon	18 th	9.00am	Hexham	Rosary	Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter and Paul
		9:30am	Hexham	Garside and Gormley Families RIP	
Tue	19 ^h	9:30am	Swinburne	Monica Jackson and Thomas Wilson RIP	
Wed	20 th	9:30am	Hexham	Christine Taylor RIP	St Edmund King
Wed	20 th	9.30am	Bellingham	Mary, Charles Snr + Charlie Jnr Stanley RIP	
Thurs	21 st	9.30am	Haltwhistle	Harry Hill RIP	
Fri	22 nd	9.30am	Hexham	Dorothy Stainsby RIP	St Cecilia
Fri	22 nd	12 noon	Otterburn	MacDonald, Dawson, Tansey, Bell, Bickle, O'Brien, McSwaine and Kelly families RIP	
Sat	23 rd	9.30am	Rosary	Ron Pinder RIP	
		10.00am	Hexham		
Sat	23 rd	Vigil 5.30pm	Hexham	Joseph Scanlan RIP	Our Lord Jesus Christ the King
Sun	24 th	9.00am	Haydon Bridge	Mick Dowling RIP	
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Hexham	Theresa Ann Brown RIP	
			Live Streamed		
Sun	24 th	11.00am	Bellingham	People of the Parishes (Pro Populo)	
Sun	24 th	6.00pm	Hexham	Dorothy Peters RIP	

Newsletter Items: Please have all items in by Wednesday morning at the latest for inclusion. News items can be sent to the Parish Office or the designated email address newsletterheavenfieldparishes@gmail.com