



# HOLY FAMILY PARISH HARTLEPOOL



This week's readings

Canon Michael Griffiths ☎: 01429 272985

Fr Jim Angus ☎: 01429 266734

Ric Slatter (Coordinator, Holy Family Youth) ☎: 07741162085 ✉: ric@holyfamilyyouth.co.uk

Parish Office ☎: 01429 866288, ✉: holyfamilyhartlepool@gmail.com

Newsletter items: hartlepoolnewsletter@gmail.com

## SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### MESSAGE FROM CANON MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

"Bake Off" has started again this week, not to mention "Strictly" last Saturday. In the end, all of these are simply a competition to try and find out who is best, and this means there are losers. We are entertained by people's struggle, their joy in success, and their disappointment in defeat. I caught the results of a painting competition the other day. I liked the paintings of one man and thought he should win, but he didn't. When the camera moved from the exultant winner to his face, despite his effort to look calm, you could see his disappointment, and there was a hint of envy, even jealousy! 'Why her and not me?'

We don't have to enter Strictly or Bake Off to struggle with these emotions, for life is peppered with experiences of envy and even jealousy for the better sportsman, student, co-worker, parent, dancer, and baker; and for me even priest! Usually we get over it but if we don't it becomes divisive and even poisonous.

Our Gospel today gives us two insights into what we might describe as helps and hinderances. John in our Gospel wants to stop a man successfully using the name of Jesus to cast out devils. "He is not one of us," he complains, but clearly there is a

competitive and jealous motivation in his complaint. Jesus responds "Anyone who is not against us is for us." In other words, John, and in turn we, are being told to accept good wherever we can find it, not only in our own group and where we expect it to be, and not to be jealous of the good of others. It's the same lesson in the first reading today. The Spirit of God is at work not only in Catholics, not only in Christians, not only even in explicit believers. The second Vatican council teaches us that the Holy Spirit is at work in anyone who recognises good and works for it. They can be better people and better Christians than those who sit back and do nothing, secure in the belief that they are members of the Church! Worst still, those who try to deny or stop good works because they are envious and jealous. In short, anything that helps is good, and should not be stopped. The Gospel then gives some dire sayings about 'scandals'. It is about hinderances or trip-stones that make people fall over.

These dire sayings are a warning to those who might lead others into evil and about hindrances or trip-stones in ourselves, the disordered desire that leads into evil. We have become all too aware of this in our society, and tragically within even the church today. The saying of Jesus here must be taken with the utmost seriousness, but we recognise that this language is extreme to get the point over and therefore not taken literally to the extent of self-mutilation.

We can take a lot from this Gospel today as we celebrate the call to ministry in the building up of our parish of Holy Family across our town. Ministry is a call to help and not to hinder. It is not a competition, 'I do this better', 'I am more successful'. Nor is it an invitation to draw up lines so we are tempted to say 'They are not one of us'. Ministry is to work for the common good by seeing the common good even in unexpected places. These challenging times have thrown us more closely together than ever before, and called us to unite while facing a common threat to all. It is a challenge to any form of favouritism and exclusiveness, to envy and jealousy. We need to give thanks for the good done by many in selfless and generous service of one another, to acknowledge so much done by others, great and small, seen and unseen. This is the work of the Holy Spirit working within us all to do so much more than we can think or imagine.



*Father Michael*

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK** - What aspect of my selfhood leads me to sin?  
What must I do to remove that aspect?

# THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

**COVID RESTRICTIONS UPDATE** - The last few weeks have seen an increase again in cases of covid here in the Northeast, as the effects of the relaxation have allowed covid to spread more easily. Health officials in the region have advised that maintaining covid control measures such as social distancing and face covering through the autumn period will be vital in controlling covid infections. Infections are likely to rise as students return to schools and universities, and as the virus becomes more active in the cooler weather when we spend more time indoors. Against this is the success of the vaccination programme and all Parishioners should see the importance of having the vaccine as part of their responsibility towards the common good. Against this background and the government's announcement of plan A and plan B, there is also the need for us to reclaim our parish life and energy whilst keeping everyone safe. With effect from 18<sup>th</sup> September, our diocese will continue to use hand sanitisers in entering and leaving church, that face coverings are to be worn unless anyone is exempt in doing so, social distancing continues to 1m+ between households. To this end, we will be operating an offset seating plan in church and so stewards will still be managing seating to ensure distancing, but all benches will be accessible under their direction. We will continue to clean touchpoints in the building after each act of worship, and a thorough cleaning every Friday. Congregational singing is now permitted, but people must still wear a mask while singing. We will continue to use our one-way systems in order to ensure distancing and safety. We are now also able to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound in their homes.

**MINISTRY MORNING** - Please note, the ministry morning on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September will take place at St Joseph's Church. At masses over the weekend, we will be celebrating ministry and giving an opportunity for those involved to recommit. Eucharistic ministers please note that it is essential that you make this commitment and that if you are not able to attend, you need to get in touch to make other arrangements.

**ST PATRICK'S NOTICES** - There will be a fundraiser for HCPT on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October in memory of Kevin Walsh. It will be held at Rovers Quoit Club (formerly Iona). Tickets £5 including pie and pea supper. Tombola and raffle. If interested please contact Sheila Simmons on 07525210624 or e mail: [sheila.simmons@uwclub.net](mailto:sheila.simmons@uwclub.net)

**BREAKING THE WORD** - A day of reflection for readers is being held at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 10:30-15:30. The cost of the day is £15 per person. A light lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. Please contact the Parish Office to book your place no later than Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**CALLED TO THE SUPPER OF THE LAMB** - A day of reflection for Extraordinary ministers is being held at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October, and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 10:30-15:30. You do not have to attend both. The cost of the day is £15 per person. A light lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. Please contact the Parish Office to book your place no later than Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September, or 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Climate Change is very much in the news and Pope Francis is expected to visit Glasgow in November to encourage the global community to take urgent action. Meanwhile, our diocese is launching a new environment policy so it seems like a good time to look at what our parish can do. We're holding a meeting at St. Mary's on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Jeremy Cain at [jemandem1998@gmail.com](mailto:jemandem1998@gmail.com) or on 07881891142.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING** - As the current situation with Covid continues, I am asking if you would join this fundraising virtually and host your own coffee morning with family and friends and donate the money you raise. I'm happy to collect the donations and send them on to the charity on behalf of the Holy Family Parish. I'm happy to collect any donations if you email me your details at [patriciacarroll09@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciacarroll09@yahoo.com) or bring your donations to church as long as they are in a sealed envelope clearly marked Macmillan. Many thanks, Pat.

**ALPHA AND CONFIRMATION JOURNEY** - Any young people in Year 9 or above who would like to take the next step in their journey of faith are invited to Alpha which will start soon. Alpha is a 10-week course which enables young people to explore the Christian faith together. It's also the first step for those considering receiving the sacrament of confirmation. To express interest and for updates about dates, email [ric@holyfamiyyouth.co.uk](mailto:ric@holyfamiyyouth.co.uk)

**ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL** - We would like to invite all parishioners to a charity coffee morning at the school. The event will run from 9:30-11:00 on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October in St Anne's Hall, anyone wishing to attend should report to main school reception. Anyone interested in coming along, please email [gmcintock@ems.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:gmcintock@ems.bhcet.org.uk) with your name. Please do not attend if you are feeling at all unwell. This is the ideal opportunity to raise some money for some worthy causes whilst spending time together as a community.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

**PARISH OFFICE** - Our secretary, Laura Coxon, can be contacted for general Parish enquiries, including Sacraments:

Call: 01429 866288 / Email: [holyfamilyhartlepool@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyhartlepool@gmail.com), Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between the hours of 10.00 am - 2.00 pm  
She is happy to deal with any enquiries during these hours or you can leave her a message on the answering machine.

**HOLY FAMILY YOUTH** - For enquiries about ministry to young people, or to volunteer:

Call: Ric Slatter on 07741162085 or email [ric@holyfamiyyouth.co.uk](mailto:ric@holyfamiyyouth.co.uk)

**DONATIONS** - Anyone wishing to provide regular giving, you can instruct your bank to set up a standing order using these details:  
Beneficiary: DHN The Holy Family      Account Number: 11173928      Sort Code: 40-34-45.      Thank you.

**TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL EACH WEEK** - email [hartlepoolnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hartlepoolnewsletter@gmail.com)

**PRE-RECORDED TELEPHONE LITURGIES** - Call: 01429 450388

Recorded Liturgy of the Word, homily, and prayers available from Saturday evenings onwards (calls charged at local rate)

# OUR PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

**Please remember in your prayers all those in our communities who are sick or housebound, especially:**

STEPHEN ANDERSON, PAT BAKER, MICHAEL BLACKFORD, HILARY BRADBURY, DENNIS BRATT, MARGARET BURKE, KAY BURNS, MICHAEL CANN, SARAH CARROLL, RITA CHARLTON, MARIE CHOLMONDELEY, VERONICA COCHRANE, DANIEL COSBY, BETTY CRANE, NEIL DAVIS, LOTTIE DOCHERTY, NATALIE EGLINTINE, TERESA FALKINGHAM, ALISON FOSTER, LORRAINE GALEN, DOROTHY GEEN, TOM GILFOYLE, DIANNE GOODING, PETER GRIEVES, CHRISTINE HANSELL, MARY HARPER, MARY HARRIS, LYNNE HARRISON, ANDREW HAYGARTH, BELLA HOEY, ANN HOEY, MURIEL HOWE, MOLLY HUGHES, PETER JOHNSON, CHRISTINE JONES, ETTY JORDAN, MOIRA KELLY, MARGARET KIRKPATRICK, KEN KNIGHT, MARIE LYDON, MAUREEN MAGUIRE, VERA MARRIOTT, MARY MASON, OWEN MCENEANEY, JIM MCKENNA, CHRISTOPHER MGHEE, PAUL MOORE, PAT NESS, KITTY NEWSTEAD, SYLVICE NOTRIANNI, DORIS O'DELL, WINNIE OLIVER, MYRA PATTISON, MILLIE PEARCE, EDDIE PEARSON, COLIN PRICE, JEAN RAYMENT, JEAN RICHARDSON, PAM ROBERTSON, JOSEPH ROBINSON, PAULA ROGERS, HILDA RYAN, AGNES SCULLY, CORAZON SIMPSON, MATTHEW STEEL, BRENDA STOTT, BRETT SWAIN, GAIL SYMINGTON, MATTHEW THACKERAY, NORA TRISCHLER, JONATHON VOKES, KAY WALLACE, ANTHONY WEEGRAM.

All the sick and their carers, both at home and in hospital, are prayed for at each Mass, as well as the health and safety of all parishioners.

**Please pray for those who have died recently:**

Edith Davidson, Patrick Sanderson, Mary Jukes, Anne Robinson  
and for their family and friends who mourn their loss.

**We also pray for all those whose anniversaries fall this week:**

**ST JOSEPH'S:** Francis Cannell, Kathleen Laffin.

**ST MARY'S:** Peter Francis Ryan, Frank Stothart, Elizabeth Howard, Mary Howard, William Menary, Blanche Fraser, Joan Ackroyd.

**ST JOHN VIANNEY'S:** Monsignor Farrelly, Fr Lawrence Murrey, Nora Dwyer, Bryan Keenan.

**ST PATRICK'S:** Ronald Thomas Day, Ann Gallagher, Marc Whincup, Anna Bostock, Elizabeth Cook, Kathleen Young.

**ST THOMAS MORE'S:** Kathleen Gooding, William Henry Lavender, Ava Grace Turnbull, Evelyn Davison, Alice McGarry, John Stephen Judson, Joyce Manson, Edward Gill.

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.**

**Please pray for our children preparing to celebrate their First Holy Communion**

Our First Holy Communion children will be celebrating their First Holy Communion on all of the Saturdays of October. Due to the numbers, we can only accommodate a household of 6 for each child, but the Masses will be live-streamed through the Holy Family Facebook page.



Listen to the Word

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Numbers 11: 25-29*

*Psalms 18*

*James 5: 1-6*

*Mark 9: 38-48*

**"If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his spirit to them all."**

Today is Harvest Sunday when we give thanks to God for the food we have gathered from our fields and gardens and for the work of those who gather our harvest and, in doing so, feed our world. As followers of Christ, we too are workers in the fields of life, seeking to gather all people into the family of God. In our readings we find food for thought, encouragement, and a word of warning, for each of us has a part to play in God's harvest and we must be attentive to His call.

In the first reading we have a reminder that God's call can come to individuals whatever their rank in society. The Israelites in the desert have complained that they are hungry and would be better off in Egypt. God responds by calling together seventy elders to support Moses against the harsh criticism he has received. Initially God calls down His spirit on the seventy elders and they respond, but, in the camp, two others receive this same spirit. This causes consternation among the people, why them and not us! Then Moses speaks out on behalf of the two, exclaiming "if only the whole people of God were prophets".

The letter of James is the first warning; this is against those who take the harvest for themselves and fail to share with the people. It is graphic language that reminds us that each harvest cannot last forever, it is only by the work of the labourers that a fresh harvest can replace that which is used or wasted. James reminds us that the labourers deserve a share in the harvest and the rich man cannot keep his harvest for eternal life.

We know from history and from experience that those who work for the harvest often are ill-treated in the world. Like the labourers in the field the disciples and those who follow Christ will suffer to bring the harvest home. Sometimes the spirit calls those we do not expect, we shake our heads at the thought that he calls the sinners not the righteous to do His work. The warning in Mark's Gospel is for those who question the choice that God makes; we cannot know what is in a person's heart; we must allow the spirit of God to make the choice and rely on His wisdom.

**David Frank**

# THIS WEEK'S MASSES

During the suspension of Sunday Obligation

[\\*Live stream: Holy Family Parish Facebook page](#)

Pre-recorded telephone liturgies Call: (01429) 450388 to listen to prayers and reflection.

	St Joseph's	St Mary's	St Patrick's
<p>Saturday <b>25<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b></p> <p>Saturday Mass of our Lady</p>	<p><b>4.00 pm - 4.30 pm</b> Confessions</p> <p><b>5.00 pm Vigil Mass</b> William and Elizabeth Carroll</p>		
<p>Sunday <b>26<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b></p> <p>Day of Prayer in Thanksgiving for the Harvest</p>	<p><b>10.00 am Mass</b> Richard and Ann Roe</p>	<p><b>*11.00 am Mass</b> Kathleen Laffin</p>	<p><b>9.00 am Mass</b> Deceased Members of the Carney and Horwood Families</p>
<p>Monday <b>27<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b></p> <p>St Vincent de Paul</p>		<p><b>10.00 am Mass</b> NBF</p>	
<p>Tuesday <b>28<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b></p> <p>St Wenceslaus</p>	<p><b>12.05 pm Mass</b> Barbara Gray</p>	<p><b>2.00 pm</b> Rosary</p>	
<p>Wednesday <b>29<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b></p> <p>SS Michael, Gabriel &amp; Raphael</p>	<p><b>6.00 pm - 6.25 pm</b> Confessions</p> <p><b>6.30 pm Mass</b> Jimmy McNeil (1<sup>st</sup> A)</p>		<p><b>10.30 am - 11.30 am</b> Rosary and Private Prayer</p>
<p>Thursday <b>30<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b></p> <p>St Jerome</p>	<p><b>12.05 pm Mass</b> Raymond and Eileen Biddle</p> <p><b>6.00 pm</b> First Holy Communion Practice</p>		
<p>Friday <b>1<sup>st</sup> October 2021</b></p> <p>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus</p>	<p><b>12.05 pm Mass</b> William and Nora Spalding</p>		
<p>Saturday <b>2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021</b></p> <p>The Holy Guardian Angels</p>	<p><b>10.30 am</b> First Holy Communion Celebration</p> <p><b>4.00 pm - 4.30 pm</b> Confessions</p> <p><b>5.00 pm Vigil Mass</b> People of the Parish</p>		
<p>Sunday <b>3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021</b></p> <p><b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b></p>	<p><b>10.00 am Mass</b> Bert and Jessie Spaldin</p>	<p><b>*11.00 am Mass</b> Debbie Hall Ross Private Intention</p>	<p><b>9.00 am Mass</b> Paul Linighan</p>