

Are you a confident communicator? Would you like to help couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage? The Diocese is looking for **volunteer couples and individuals** who would like to train with Marriage Care in this exciting role. Contact Moira Graham at: marriagecare.tyneside@gmail.com

The McCartin family wish to thank you all for the cards, gifts and the amazing help and support that was given in making **Joyce's 80th tea party** such a memorable occasion

Tuesday 6 August, 2pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle:
Guided tour of the Cathedral.

Wednesday 7 August, 11am - 3pm: **Fun the Parks** (Burn Lane, Aycliffe). St Mary's car park will be used for this event.

Saturday 10 August, at All Saints Community Centre, Ferryhill:
Summer Fair.

August 16-19, at Pluscarden Abbey: Monastic Experience Weekend for young single Catholic men. Fr Benedict Hardy, novicemaster@pluscardenabbey.org

August 23-26, Ampleforth Abbey: Youth2000 Summer festival: www.youth2000Ampleforth

Saturday 27 September, 12 noon at St Mary's: SVP mass for **all those who are sick.**

Sunday 29 September: World Day of **Migrants and Refugees**

Monday 30 September (for 7 weeks), 7pm at St Mary's:
Life in the Spirit seminars.

Food for Life

We believe that no one should go hungry in today's world. Jesus thought the same. He was a great people-watcher - and people watched him.

We all need food. Big crowds need catering. Hunger and worse is not acceptable. Doing without can be admirable, but being forced to do without lacks humanity. The one they called Master is about to teach a lesson. He's not just feeding people, He's about to re-interpret the whole notion of food.

The Gospel should challenge our understanding of what feeds us, who feeds us and how are we being fed. Jesus fed thousands. He's still doing it. We are fed by the self-giving of others. This is a love story. Jesus starts with loaves and fish as a long lead-in to the personal gift of himself - the Bread of Life. Do you say grace before meals? Pause before you eat. Even the biggest meal is only a starter. *Escomb Partnership Note*

Please pray for all the sick

Mark Hugill, Lynda Whelbourn, Phyllis Musgrave, Doris Irwin, Terry Cheesmond, Savannah Philips, Christine Bainbridge Benjamin, Rita Neasham, Raymond Lowey, Rose Hankey, Julie Kirkbride, Vilna Woolhead, Nadine O'Sullivan, Claire, John Regan, Elaine McCartney, John Garnham, Mary Horton, Frank Morrell, Coulson family, Coleen Ogden, Janet Holmes, Alfie Pennington, Suzanne Winship, Hannibal Gonsalves, Eleanor Goundry, Jamie Spence, Lola Rose, Anne Nicholson, Bernard Molyneux, Heather Belcher, Stephen Russ, Doreen Hennessey, Marie Nichol, Frances Bainbridge, Frank & Joan Billingham, Matthew Pape, Sharon Pape.

Saint Mary,
Saint Thomas,
All Saints,
Sacred Heart,
Saint Joseph,

Aycliffe
Shildon
Ferryhill
Chilton
Coundon



All are welcome
in all of our
churches —
no exceptions!

Fr Anthony Cornforth, 01325 313611, 07923683046

Fr Augustine Ofoma 01740 651343, Fr Deni Mary,

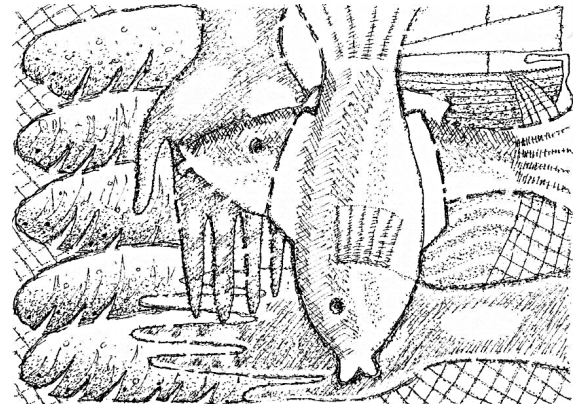
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27 / 28 July 2024: Sunday 17b



Where can we buy food for these people to eat?

This Gospel passage resonates, challenging us to discern the needs of the hungry with perceptive eyes and to take meaningful action. We witness Jesus miraculously feeding 5,000 people, a profound act of compassion and abundance in the face of hunger, yet in our modern world, where we produce enough food to feed all the world's 8 billion people, some 828 million are going hungry every day; these facts create deep questions for us all.

The generosity of the man who brought loaves to Elisha, and the boy who gave his bread and fish, demonstrates how God encourages practical care for the other. If time is taken to sit down together, rest and restore, discover the riches in our midst, give thanks, and distribute what we have, we may find we have more than enough, and when nothing is lost even more benefit from our sharing. Then we can truly be known as Eucharistic people. Fed and satisfied, willing to share God's love and be as bread broken for others, we never know where our efforts to love, to help and support others may bear fruit when God works miracles through us, with us and in us.

Sat	12.00	Aycliffe	George (B) and Ena Cornforth
27	16.00	Shildon	Alessandro Rossi
July	<u>18.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	Polish language mass
	18.00	Chilton	Private Intention
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Cornelius, Kathleen, Tony Mattimoe
28	10.00	Aycliffe	Mick Allen
July	10.30	Ferryhill	Pauline and Vincent Carr (60th wedding anniversary)
	11.00	Aycliffe	Baptism: Theodore & Elijah Balmer
	18.00	Aycliffe	Our parish family

Every Little Helps

Managing a crowd is a very difficult task, especially when it comes to distributing limited resources. The crowd has no rules other than the crowd, because the crowd has no soul. Therefore, the competence of leaders is manifested in their ability to manage the crowd that follows them. A crowd, like a fire, is easy to ignite but difficult to control. Trump's crowd easily gathered in Washington on January 6, but no one was able to stop it from storming the Capitol. It must be admitted, however, that just as it was easy to ignite a fiery crowd to pull down a target, it takes very little to make it do good deeds. It all depends on when the trigger is pulled. If the trigger is pulled for good, the crowd manifests goodness. Politicians love crowds for the political power they give them, not for the ideologies they promote. Acts of kindness and generosity can create a spark that turns a crowd into a furnace of goodness.

A young engineering student joined a crowd of supporters to cheer on the governor of his state during a visit to his village. He decided to take the opportunity to make a personal appeal, as he needed money for a hernia operation that forced him to drop out of school. So he wrote on a piece of paper: *My dear governor, I need this operation to return to school.* The governor's aides saw this as a disturbance to the positive vibes around the governor, so they pulled the young man out of the way. The governor did nothing to stop the harassment or help the young man. Even the crowd didn't notice the harassment. But someone recorded it on video and shared it on social media. The video was popular for several weeks, and a crowd of people mobilized online support for the boy and made donations that covered the cost of his surgery and school, to shame the governor. The accumulation of small donations brought millions that solved the young man's problems, providing him with additional cash for his personal needs. This was made possible by one positive spark of goodwill. The crowd follows the trend. It is like a furnace that consumes everything in its path, but the quality of its action depends on the first spark. If the trend is good, the crowd works for good.

Elisha and Jesus were able to feed crowds with small loaves of bread. The miracles showed how sincere kindness and total selflessness generate a small spark of kindness that mobilises crowds to unity of purpose. It shows that with goodwill in everything we do, every drop is enough to water the ground for a great harvest. Our small contributions go a long way. But when we are too self-centred, we create a disorder that makes resources seem small and insufficient. A few loaves can satisfy when each person is sincere, compassionate and kind; everyone in the crowd will go with the flow and will be considerate with a sincere determination to make every little help.

Fr Anthony O'Haekwusi

St Mary's and St Joseph's Credit Union: **Special thanks** to those who made the Credit Union such a success and a valuable ministry within our parish. All good things must come to an end, but the tireless work of many will never be forgotten.

Wanted (for Zambia): **Football shirts**, any size or colour

Vacancy: **Property Surveyor** on a two-year fixed-term contract. www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies or 0191 243 3301

Masses this week

Mon	09.30	Coundon	Shaw family
July	<u>13.30</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Requiem mass Ann Dryden</u>
Tue	09.15	Ferryhill	Kevin McCartin
30	<u>09.50</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	Divine Mercy
July	<u>10.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	Frank Bowtell (A)
	13.00	Coundon	Exposition (also 7pm)
	19.00	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	Joe, Anne and Tony Murray
31	<u>09.30</u>	<u>Shildon</u>	<u>Exposition</u>
July	<u>10.00</u>	<u>Shildon</u>	St Thomas' SVP (Deceased)
Thu	09.30	Coundon	O'Donovan family (deceased)
1	10.00	Aycliffe	Fr Cornelius O'Connor
Aug	19.00	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Exposition</u>
Fri	09.15	Chilton	Keith and Mary Cheesmond
2	09.30	Aycliffe	Exposition
Aug	10.00	Aycliffe	Isabella and William McKeating
Sat	09.30	Coundon	Ryan family (deceased)
3	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and Confession
Aug	12.00	Aycliffe	Ann Dryden (RIP)
	16.00	Shildon	Our parish family
	18.00	Chilton	John Moran
Sun	09.00	Coundon	John and Catherine Ryan
4	10.00	Aycliffe	John Moran (RIP)
Aug	10.30	Ferryhill	Joe and Pat Batty
	11.00	Aycliffe	Baptism: Matthew John Marshall
	<u>13.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	Polish language mass
	18.00	Aycliffe	SVP Holy Island workers

Saturday, 12.45pm at St Mary's: SVP **afternoon tea**.

Sunday, 10am at St Mary's: We celebrate the baptism of **Samuel Nelson** and the confirmation of **John McCartin**.

Sunday: World Day of **Grandparents and Elderly**.

Monday, No morning mass at St Mary's (this week only).
Requiem mass for **Ann Dryden** at 1.30pm

Next Saturday 3 August, 12 noon at Walsingham: Pilgrimage in Reparation for the **Sanctity of Life**.

www.prolifepilgrimage.org

Coundon: **raffle tickets**. £1 each. First prize £5,000. Half the proceeds to national SVP, half to Coundon SVP.

The **Little Sisters of the Poor** collect used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (all varieties), odd bits of unwanted gold and silver (even broken pieces or earring backs) and military medals. Any items can be left at the back of church.