

ALL SAINTS , ST GEORGE'S AND ST ROBERT'S FENHAM , 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 11TH OCTOBER 2026

Parish Priest:
Rev Arockia Mariadass Pagyasamy
 St Bede's Presbytery
 233 Whickham View
 Newcastle, NE15 7HP
Fr James Dunne (retired)
 Resident at St Robert's Presbytery
0191 682 5484 (St Bede's)
0191 273 3903 (St Robert's)
Parish Secretary: Miss Elizabeth Elliott
strobart.newcastle@diocesehn.org.uk
stbede.newcastle@diocesehn.org.uk
stgeorge.bellsclough@diocesehn.org.uk
 Website:- www.strobertsfenham.org.uk



THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: AUTUMN

During Ordinary Time from September to Advent, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Students & Teachers;
 The Spread of the Gospel;
 The Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work &
 the Reverent Use of Creation;
 Justice & Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young
 People;
 Prisoners & Their Families
 Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression & Denial of
 Human Rights:

Date	Readers of the World	Eucharistic Ministers	Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions)
11th October	N.Hedley C.Aleke	D.Drozdewski J.Watson	M.Bulman
18th October	J.Kemakolam M.J.Kemakolam	M Murray N.Hedley	G.Murphy

Mass Intentions week beginning 11th October 2026

<u>Day</u>	<u>St George's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>St Robert's</u>
Saturday 10th October St Paulinus of York Bp	6.00 pm (Vigil Mass) Patrick Naughton RIP (P.L)		
Sunday 11th October 28th Sunday of the Year Day of Special Prayer for Prisoners & their Dependants		9.30 am Alan Taylor RIP (M.C)	11.00 am In Memory of Sarah Brolly RIP (M & T.B)
Monday 12th October St Wilfrid Bp			
Tuesday 13th October St Edward the Confessor King			5.45 pm Exposition 6.15 pm Lorena Lacqua RIP (L.L)
Wednesday 14th October St Callistus I Pp, M		10.00 am	
Thursday 15th October St Teresa of Avila V, D			9.00 am (In Church) Attended by Y2 & Y7 from the High School) Repose of the Soul of Frank Sarginson
Friday 16th October St Margaret Mary Alacoque V	10.00 am		
Saturday 17th October St Ignatius of Antioch Bp, M	6.00 pm (Vigil Mass) James & Marie Marshall & the Holy Souls (A.N)		
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday of the Year Day of Prayer for Evangelisation of the World (World Mission Sunday)		9.30 am William & Ann Maughan—50 years of marriage—Deo Gratias (A.M)	11.00 am Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary Jim & Chris Congratulations (M.N)

Spirituality

SANCTUARY CANDLE—ST ROBERT'S

Week Beginning 11th October

The Hammill Family



THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

For mental health ministry
Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

ANNUAL MASS ATTENDANCE

The annual Mass count is to be taken during this weekend **10th/11th October**

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL

Thank you for putting your faith into action this Family Fast Day. Your generous donations will help more children stay in school. Children like Tayla in Zimbabwe, where CAFOD's local partners worked with her community to install a solar-powered water supply. Now Tayla has access to safe water and nutritious food at school, helping her to keep learning and develop her God-given talents.

To find out more about the work that your generosity at Fast Day makes possible visit:
www.cafod.org.uk/parishthankyou



RCIA—JOURNEY OF FAITH

The next sequence for 2026-27 will begin this coming **Wednesday 14th October at 6 pm** in the meeting room at **St. Bede's, Denton Burn**. While this is primarily for those people who may wish to join the Roman Catholic Church, it is also open to anyone who would like to explore her or his own Catholic Faith. If anyone is interested please speak to Fr. Mariadass or if he is not available via the Parish Office. The email is on the front of the newsletter.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FRANK SARGINSON



A Memorial Service for Frank Sarginson will take place on **Sunday 25th October at 1.30 pm** in **St Robert's Church**. All are welcome to come and pray for Frank and his family.

PLEASE KEEP THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THEIR CARERS IN YOUR PRAYERS ESPECIALLY:

Teresa Hegarty, David Hutchinson, Anne McCormick, Theresa McDonald, Ann Taylor, Mary Bastable (Auntie Mary), Maureen Derrick, Maureen Porteous, Pat Kennedy, Jim Newcombe, Kay Bowman, Kevin Milburn, George Thornton, Paula Coyne, Francesca Dixon, Terry Wright, Dorothy Okoh, Sylvia Stevenson, Siobhan Daly, Vivienne Iqbal, Rosemary Green, Tony Knox, Rosemary Burke, Tom Dudley, Michael Temperley, Kath Wood, John Emmerson, Norma Charlton



MASS INTENTIONS

If you want a specific date for a Mass intention (especially on a Sunday) it is important to give as much notice as possible in order to avoid disappointment. (at least two months, preferably three)

NOVEMBER - THE MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

If you would like your deceased relatives or friends to be remembered during the month of November, please add their names to the list in the Narthex, (please print the names in BLOCK CAPITALS.)



These names will be displayed during November on the sanctuary steps. Envelopes are available for your donations.

REMEMBRANCE MASS – DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

A Remembrance Mass has been organised by the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for **Friday 20th November at 7 pm** at **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington**.

This is open to everyone, not just those who have been to Lourdes. See poster for more details.

MUHORONI FUNDRAISER

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all those who supported my fundraiser for the Malnutrition Clinic in Muhoroni, Kenya last Friday. Thanks to your attendance and to all the generous kind donations I received, a grand total of **£2400** has been raised, which will enable the charity to purchase much needed baby milk. I will be going out there next week to visit the malnutrition clinic and I know the funds will be gratefully received & be put to great use..

Once again a massive thankyou to you all.
Best Wishes

Liz

OCTOBER HARVEST FESTIVAL APPEAL



We will be collecting for Harvest Festival throughout the month of October. Any dry goods can be donated each week, (in date please) so please place the items in the baskets at the back of church and in the box in the Narthex.

All items collected will be donated to local charities. Please consider bringing something each week. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED 11TH -17TH OCTOBER

- Mary O'Brien, John Harmeston, John Heaney, Sheila Mairi Dunne
- Rose Anne Rodgers, William Corbett, Julian Roarty, Theresa Convery
- Jane Corbett, Nan McKendry, Paul Clennel, Ronnie Larby, Liz Carr, Margaret Halpin
- Irene MacDermott
- Thomas McFadden, George Andrew Hardy
- John Carr McTaggart, Ronald (Ronnie) Charlton, Anthony Hannon
- Marie Gunning, Joan Forster, Marlene Rankin, Thomas Douglass





28th Sunday of Year A:

Does God have 'favourites'? Did St Paul?

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10:

Hopeful future: lush mountain and no mourning;

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14,19-20:

Paul contented & grateful for life;

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14:

Parable of the wedding feast's unworthy guests.

Rather like last week's 1st reading and gospel, this week's pair challenge any preacher who wants to make them relevant to people's everyday lives. The first reading shows Isaiah's hope for the future of the Holy Land – a cool, damp mountain-top, with lush grass, plenty to eat and drink – offering a sense of peace and well-being. (After a hot, dry summer, this would be bliss to people suffering hunger caused by drought - like that in Southern England this year.) The prophet hopes that God will remove the (mourning) "veil spread over all nations"; and that "he will swallow up death for ever". In a chaotic world (made worse by the people's own bad behaviour), Isaiah wants God to "wipe away the tears from all faces and the reproach of his people". This is a hope for better times. We may find it strange that Isaiah identifies only his fellow Jews as "God's people" – but that was the world and culture in which they lived.

As I said, the gospel is pastorally difficult: I wonder if those who chose it had ever worked in a parish! The idea of a king's wedding-feast was a symbol of God's love for Israel – just as the first reading had mentioned a lush countryside, with much food & drink. Having said that, the parable is not nice, and it is another allegory, where each bit represents something. It is enough to say that the 'guests' refused to turn up – with various excuses. The king's servants who did the inviting represent the prophets – as in last week's story, they were ill-treated and even killed. The result? "The king was angry; he sent his troops, destroyed those murderers and burned their city." Any early Christian reading this would see it as a foretelling of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Instead of the original guests, the king invited "as many as his servants could find" (from people in the streets) to the feast. This meant the Gentiles – people like us - whom many leading Jews thought 'unworthy'. By their actions, the Jews' leaders had forfeited their status as "God's favourites".

But the longer version of the gospel has a follow-up parable that seems more relevant to us. At the feast, the 'king' saw one of the 'guests' without a 'wedding garment'. (That someone just off the street was not dressed properly makes no sense - unless this had once been a separate parable.) But what it does show is that God (the 'king') does expect standards from the 'guests' – us. Yes, there is a welcome for all who wish to come in to the 'Kingdom' of God, but something is expected in return: the garment represents a minimum amount of faith & good deeds. The man who refused to wear the 'garment' (in other words, do the right thing) was evicted.

The lesson: our decisions do matter.

In total contrast, the 2nd reading is from Paul's Letter to the Philippians – often felt to be the "nicest" of his writings. To him, they were a community of friends, in whom he could place the deepest trust. The city of Philippi was at the northern tip of modern Greece and was an important Roman colony. Paul had preached there on his 2nd missionary journey round the

(Mediterranean (AD 50, about twenty years after Jesus' time). On his 3rd missionary tour (53-58), he visited the place twice, before going to Jerusalem.

Paul thanked them for their generosity. The situation was unusual: Paul generally insisted that did not preach the gospel for money – he saw it as duty from God. He usually earned his keep on his travels by working at his old trade as a tent-maker. This might not sound very grand to us, but in those days, with a huge Roman army under canvas all over the world, it was a very well-paid job. He mentioned being able to survive, whether he had "plenty or hunger, abundance or need". But on this occasion, he was glad of the help that the Philippians had offered him: "It was kind of you to share my trouble".

Before he wrote the letter, he had needed financial help (for unmentioned reasons), and the Philippians had sent him money via a man called Epaphroditus. This fact (in verse 18) is omitted from this Sunday's material. (Perhaps it was to spare us the nightmare of trying to pronounce the name?) He said that this cash-offering had solved his problem, and he had accepted it "as a sweet fragrance" – emotional language we rarely hear from Paul. Rather than criticize him for treating the Philippians as 'teacher's pets', I think we should say that he is being honest. The letter does not have much doctrinal teaching: it is a friendly acknowledgement of what he owed them. Unlike Christian communities elsewhere, the people there caused him no bother. For that, too, he was grateful.

The 1st reading & most of the gospel are not easy to relate to us, so I suggest we concentrate on the idea of obligation. The man without the wedding-garment had not bothered to show any respect to the king who had invited him; by contrast, Paul showed how he felt obliged to the people of Philippi, who had helped him in his time of need. At times, we can seem ungrateful to people who help us; we can also be hyper-critical of our Church leaders. We could all take a leaf from St Paul's book – or at least, this letter!

Fr Jim Dunne.

FLAME CONGRESS, WEMBLEY ARENA **SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2027**

The seventh Flame Congress will take place on **Saturday 6th March 2027 at Wembley Arena.**

In 2025, almost 900 young people from Hexham and Newcastle with accompanying adults travelled to London for this national Catholic youth gathering. The event inspired and affirmed both them and those who accompanied them.

The theme of Flame 2027 is '**TAKE COURAGE**' and reflects the theme of World Youth Day in August 2027 in Seoul.

Once again we are offering a large number of young people from Hexham and Newcastle the opportunity to journey together and to experience a true sense of belonging to Church and an opportunity to grow in their faith in Jesus. We are grateful to Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott, to the Assumption Sisters and to the Sisters of Mercy who have provided financial support to enable our young people to attend Flame.

I plan to accompany our diocesan group to Flame. The event is for young people in Year 9 (usually 14 years old) and above. Typically, there are large numbers of Year 10, Year 11, Sixth Form and University students.

If you are interested please sign on the sheet or speak to one of the welcomers.

LIVE STREAM SERVICE

The Live Stream Service is suspended at present due to technical issues with the broadband. We apologise for any inconvenience.

BOILER APPEAL

Work is progressing well regarding the replacement of the boiler. This will ensure that the church and hall remain warm and cosy during the winter. As the purchase & installation of the new boiler is going to cost approximately £40,000, the parish would be most grateful for any donations towards the cost.

Envelopes will be left at the end of each bench for your donations.

If you have any suggestions on how to raise funds over the coming months, please let a member of the welcome team know or email your suggestions to the parish office.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS



Join us for this opportunity to experience the new life we are promised through baptism in the Holy Spirit. Life in the Spirit seminars are being run by the Diocesan CHARIS group and you will be very welcome to attend.

The next session at **St Anne's, Harlow Green, Gateshead NE9 7UD** is this coming Thursday at **7.pm**

For further information about the other dates and to book a place, please visit <https://bit.ly/LifeInTheSpiritCDSC> or see the poster at the back of church.



ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If you have any items for the newsletter, please email them to St Robert's by 12 pm each Thursday & they will be included in the that weekend's issue

If you wish the newsletter to be emailed to you each week, contact St Roberts & your name will be added to the mailing list.

Many Thanks

Liz

CHILDRENS' BOOKS

Our stock of children's religious books is sadly depleted. If your children or yourselves have taken them home by mistake, please could they be returned so that everyone can make use of them. Any donations to add to our collection are always much appreciated.

CINEMA THROUGH THE AGES

Denton Burn Library Thursday 15th October 2pm

Follow the history of local cinema as seen through Benwell's three emporiums of entertainment- the Grand, Majestic and the Adelaide. booking essential.
email: stjamesbenwell@gmail.com

St Robert's.....

ST ROBERT'S LUNCH CLUB

The lunch club is open to everyone including parishioners from our churches. Anyone is welcome to come along not just those of a 'certain age!' **Transport is available.** If you would like to enjoy a delicious home cooked lunch, tea/coffee, good company, a quiz and a game or two of bingo, please do get in touch with St Robert's.

Our next lunch will be on **Thursday 5th November** from **11 am—1.30 pm**

ANNUAL LEAVE

I will be away on annual leave & out of the country from 14th October. Any emails will be answered on my return.
Many Thanks Liz

PRISON VISITING

Do you have a listening ear?

Are you empathetic and non-judgemental and have a couple of hours free to share?

If so, have you thought about becoming an Official Prison Visitor (OPV) The National Association of Official Prison Visitors (NAOPV) have OPVs in most prisons throughout England & Wales, who come from all sections of the community and are of every age, race, religion, gender and colour. We actively encourage young people from ethnic minorities to join us as you are under-represented in our organisation. As an OPV, you'll visit prisoners who rarely, if ever, have visits and who have few or no links to family and friends outside. Committing to regular visits, taking the outside world into their closed world, bringing hope and companionship is the main role of an OPV.

If you are interested and would like more information, please visit the website www.naopv.com

Saint of the Week

ST WILFRID

Wilfrid was born at Ripon. As a young man he entered St Aidan's monastery on Lindisfarne, which followed the usages & liturgical customs of the Celtic church. He later studied in Rome, readily adopting the Roman tradition, and introduced this tradition to the monastery at Ripon, where he had been invited to become abbot. He played a leading role at the Synod of Whitby (664 AD) which extended the Roman usages to the whole country. His time as Archbishop of York was fraught with difficulties: he returned from France after his consecration to find that St Chad had taken his place; his diocese was later divided against his will; his appeal to Rome against this division led to his imprisonment by the King of Northumbria. Much of Wilfrid's later life was spent in missionary work in the south of England. He was responsible for the extension of Ripon Abbey & for the foundation of Hexham Abbey. In 705, he relinquished control of the Diocese of York & became Bishop of Hexham until his death around 709. Wilfrid was an outstanding man of his time, who never lost the courage of his convictions. His missionary endeavours in the south of England were to bring forth much fruit.

For Sale

NEARLY NEW PRAM AND BASSINETTE



Nearly new pram and bassinette for sale from Mamas & Papas with all proceeds going to the Muhoroni Malnutrition Fund.

All offers considered.

If interested, please email St Robert's Church leaving your name, address and a contact phone number. These will be passed onto the vendor.