

Sunday 25th August 2024

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

After listening to today's Gospel, We Believe Lord: To Whom Shall We Go? (John 6:60-69), consider this reflection.

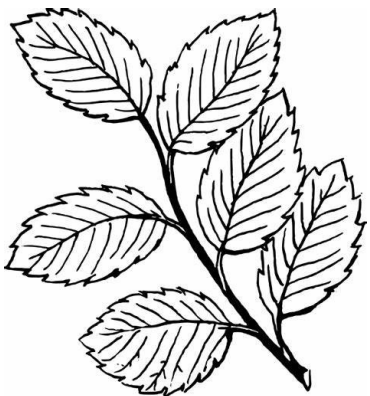
At the end of the Bread of Life Discourse there is a parting of the ways, but it is not primarily about belief in the Eucharist. That is the starting-point, but the lesson is wider.

The Gospel of John is like a series of great forks in the road, one after another leading off the true path. A series of decisions is called for, whether to follow Jesus or not. Or it is like a series of court scenes, except that people are not judged; they judge themselves by their reaction to Jesus: at the Marriage Feast at Cana the disciples believe, but then in the Temple the people reject him; later Nicodemus sits on the fence, but the Samaritan Woman moves from cheeky scepticism to fervent apostleship; the great scenes in Jerusalem (the man at the Pool of Bethzatha, the blind man in the Temple) ironically show the people rejecting Jesus in such a way that they drive others to accept him; finally, before Pilate, the people think they are condemning Jesus when in fact they are condemning themselves by saying, 'We have no king but Caesar'.

But what about the Lord as King of Israel? Day by day the challenge is aimed at ourselves too; do we believe or betray him?

What is the hardest decision that you have had to make in following Jesus? In what does the choice for or against Jesus consist?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB



SEPTEMBER

Lo! a ripe sheaf of many golden days
Gleaned by the year in autumn's harvest ways,
With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,
Some crimson poppy of a late delight
Atoning in its splendor for the flight
Of summer blooms and joys—
This is September.

L M Montgomery

Parish Newsletter:

St. Mary's & St. Aidan's Churches

Rev. Sean Hall

Tel. 0191 268 4222

www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

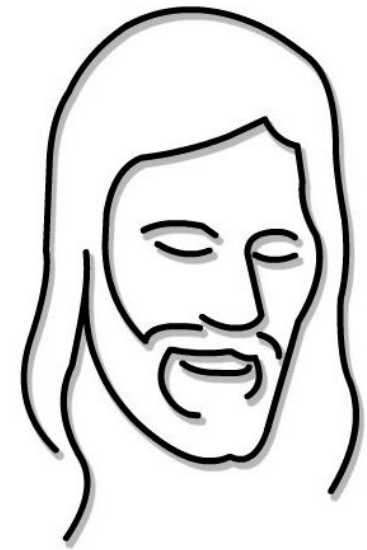
www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com

Join us on Facebook: NE12Catholic

For Baptisms, First Holy Communions

& Confirmations, please email

parishsecretary@mail.com



Sunday 19th August 2024

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

After listening to today's Gospel, Eating the Bread of Life (John 6:51-58), consider this reflection.

This is the last of the readings from the Bread of Life Discourse in John's Gospel. In today's passage, we move on from seeing Christ as the Wisdom of God, who must be accepted and believed, to a reflection on the sacrament of eating the bread of life.

These two themes correspond to the two halves of the Mass, first the service of the Word, then the Eucharistic banquet. We are all so diet-conscious nowadays that it is quite obvious that the food we eat affects us. By eating the Body of Christ we are assimilated into him. But, just as, if I am sick, food does me no good and can even harm me, so if I eat Christ sacramentally without wanting to be moulded into him, it does me no good at all. That is why Paul complained that the Corinthian people were answerable for the death of Christ.

And drinking the blood of Christ? Blood is the sign of life – if there is no blood, there is no life – and God is the Lord of life and death. So if I receive Christ's blood I take on his life, his divine life, as the gift of God. That has alarming side-effects: it means I share Christ's life with other Christians. We all live with the same life's blood.

Do I really share my life, my talents, my goods with others, knowing that we share the same life of Jesus?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

TWO WEEK NEWSLETTER: please keep me safe!

CONFESSION: Saturday 24th August, 11am at St Mary's.

Saturday 7th September, 11am at St Aidan's.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Monday 2nd September, 6pm at St Aidan's.

DEACON ALISON WRITES: Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales is organising Adoremus 2024, the National Eucharistic Congress at St Mary's Oscott this year on Saturday the 14th September 2024.

Every diocese is asked to take restricted number of people due to space constraints. We currently have 7 seats available to fill. Some of our parishioners have booked places but if anyone else would like to go please get in touch with me at alisonrebello@yahoo.co.uk or alternatively call me on 07931-136243 for more information. Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Thank you.

NOURISH SOCIAL SUPERMARKET: Appeal for food donations

Based within the Cedarwood Hub in North Shields, this store bridges the gap between a supermarket and a food bank enabling people to supplement their weekly shop when times are financially difficult. The charity is appealing for help in organising local collections of tins and dry food. If you can help, please contact 0330 094 8454 or info@cedarwoodtrust.com

MASS BOOKS: Sets of six mass books are looking to be rehomed as we will start to use a new lectionary later this year. Readings remain the same so they are ideal for reflection or preparation before mass.

COLLECTIONS: 11th August 2024

St Aidan's - Loose Plate: £179.00 / Envelopes: £40.00 / Hall Hire: £126.00

St Mary's - Loose Plate: £259.23 / Envelopes: £60.00 / Donations: £70.00

Friday Coffee Morning: £66.00 (People's Kitchen).

For details about Gift Aid or donating via standing order, please email parishsecretary@mail.com

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

RECEIVED INTO OUR CHURCHES: If you or someone you know is interested in becoming part of our family, please speak to Fr Hall, Deacon Rebello or email parishsecretary@mail.com

MASS INTENTIONS: w/c 18th & 25th August and 2024

Sat 17th Aug (St. Mary's) 5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 18th (St. Aidan's) 9.15am Derek Savin

Sun 18th (St. Mary's) 11.00am Priest's Intentions

* *Mon 19th* *** **NO MASS** ***

Tues 20th (St. Mary's) 10.00am Alan Hutchinson

Wed 21st (St. Aidan's) 10.00am George Todhunter and family

Thurs 22nd (St. Aidan's) 10.00am Family of Francis McPake

* *Thurs 22nd (St Mary's)* 11.30am *Requiem Mass Francis McPake*

Fri 23rd (St. Mary's) 10.00am Priest's Intention

* *Sat. 24th (St Mary's)* 11.00am *Confession*

Sat 24th (St. Mary's) 5.30pm Feast of St Bartholomew

Sun 25th (St. Aidan's) 9.15am People of the Parish

Sun 25th (St. Mary's) 11.00am Bob & Beatrice Thompson

Mon 26th *** **NO MASS** ***

Tues 27th (St. Mary's) 10.00am Those recently received into our Church

Wed 28th (St. Aidan's) 10.00am Those recently received into our Church

Thurs 29th (St. Mary's) 10.00am Family of Lawrence Briganti

* *Thurs 29th (St. Mary's)* 12.30pm *Requiem Mass Lawrence Briganti*

Fri 30th (St. Mary's) 10.00am Alan Shingfield

Sat 31st (St. Mary's) 5.30pm St Aidan & Saints of Lindisfarne

Sun 1st Sept (St. Aidan's) 9.15am People of the Parish

Sun 1st Sept (St. Mary's) 11.00am Bill & Mary Winifred Langron

For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches.

WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR:

Those in our parishes who are sick or who may need our thoughts and prayers. Those who have died recently. And those of our parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

KEEP IN TOUCH: Contact us parishsecretary@mail.com / 0191 268 4222
Access weekend mass live via YouTube, search St Mary of the Rosary
Newsletters & Homilies can be viewed on www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk
St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk
St. Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk