

**Sunday 26th October 2025:**  
**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14), consider this reflection. These two figures in today's Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists,



they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God's Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus' time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this parable is one more example of Jesus' reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble 'pierces the clouds'. *Take some moments to reflect on these words from the Gospel: "God be merciful to me, a sinner".*

**Through these words, what is God saying to you?**

**Parish Newsletter:**  
**St. Mary's & St. Aidan's Churches**  
**Rev. Sean Hall**  
**Deacon Alison Rebello**  
**Tel. 0191 268 4222**  
**[www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysforesthall.co.uk)**  
**[www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com](http://www.staidansbenton.yolasite.com)**  
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**Sunday 19th October 2025:**  
**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

After listening to today's Gospel, The Answer to Prayer (Luke 18:1-8), consider this reflection.

We often think of prayer as mere asking, and this parable encourages us to pester God as the wronged widow pestered the Unjust Judge. But that is only one aspect of Luke's teaching on prayer. He also shows us what our attitude in prayer should be in the parable which immediately follows today's passage from the gospel: the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector. The tax-collector wins approval because he just stands there, admitting his sins. Most instructive, however, is Luke's teaching on Jesus at prayer: he reminds us that Jesus is always quietly at prayer to his Father. He needs to slip away to spend the night in prayer. Especially he prays at the most important moments of his life: at his Baptism, when he chooses his team of disciples, before he teaches them to pray, at the approach of his Passion, finally forgiving and comforting others at his death. Paul tells us we should pray continually. The prayer of asking must be built on a relationship of love and dependence, just as the request of child to parents is built on their loving relationship. It does not matter if the child is at times naughty; the deep relationship between parent and child is one of love. So too we do not need to be perfect to make our requests to our Father. *When and how do you find it best to pray?*

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

**NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:** Welcome to a two week edition! Please note some changes to weekday masses and confession on the page opposite.

**ST MARY’S JIGSAW LIBRARY:** The perfect tonic for the longer evenings! Please bring any jigsaws to the hall for a new self service borrowing scheme.

**COLLECTIONS:** 12th October  
St Aidan’s - Loose Plate: £244.00 / Envelopes: £72.00 / Hall Hire: £40.00  
Donations: £20.00  
St Mary’s - Loose Plate: £376.07/ Envelopes: £40.00 / Donations: £160.00  
CAFOD Family Fast: £35.01 / Friday Coffee Morning: £70.00 (Out of Sight)  
*Thank you for your continued support & generosity.*

**A MESSAGE FROM SVP GROUP:**  
“As the weather gets wetter and colder, we are desperately in need of sleeping bags, small tents and sleeping mats. We have just given out our last supplies. Also warm hats, gloves, scarfs, hand warmers, flasks and winter clothing is gratefully received. Thank you for helping us support the homeless in our community.”

**FROM THE DIOCESE**  
**ALL SAINTS DAY - BRUNCH BY THE SEA:** 1st November 2025  
An invitation for women in the diocese to come together to share brunch and a time of prayer & reflection led by Sr Sheila McNamara. 11am – 1pm at St Cuthbert’s, North Shields, NE29 0JB. Please bring pastries, fruit or other to contribute to the shared table. To RSVP or for more information please contact: Mary via [mmadziva@ymt.org](mailto:mmadziva@ymt.org)

**ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT:** A programme to help us become better at walking with others & supporting them to see God. All are welcome to join two sessions on Sunday 9th & 16th November, 1pm-4pm, at St Cuthbert’s House, NE15 7PY. For further information or to book your place, please visit: <https://bit.ly/DHNAdventurousAccompaniment>

**SCRIPTURE OF HOPE REFLECTION:** In response to this Jubilee Year theme of hope, the Diocesan Writing Team were invited to share a short reflection on a scripture passage which speaks to them of hope throughout challenges & joys in life. You can read theses online [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)  
You may recognise some of the contributors!

<b><u>MASS INTENTIONS:</u></b> w/c 19th & 26th October 2025		
Sat 18th (St. Mary’s)	5:30pm	Margaret Bradford
Sun 19th (St. Aidan’s)	9:15am	David Mastaglio
Sun 19th (St. Mary’s)	11:00am	Peter Lundgren
* Mon 20th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 21st (St. Mary’s)	10.00am	Benji Willshire
Wed 22nd (St. Aidan’s)	10.00am	Special Intention (Maureen)
Thurs 23rd (St. Aidan’s)	10.00am	Priest’s Intentions
Fri 24th (St. Mary’s)	10:00am	Eileen Ann Lupton
* Sat 25th (St. Mary’s)	11.00am	Confession
Sat 25th (St. Mary’s)	5:30pm	Shrimplin & Conway Families
Sun 26th (St. Aidan’s)	9:15am	Noel & Monica Bogie
Sun 26th (St. Mary’s)	11:00am	Michael & Jean Bell
* Mon 27th	*** NO MASS ***	
Tues 28th (St. Mary’s)	10.00am	Priest’s Intentions
Wed 29th - Thurs 30th	*** NO MASSES ***	
Fri 31st (St. Mary’s)	10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Sat 1st November	*** NO CONFESSION ***	
Sat 1st Nov (St. Mary’s)	5.30pm	Allison Phillips
Sun 2nd (St. Aidan’s)	9.15am	Kitty Todhunter
Sun 2nd (St. Mary’s)	11.00am	People of the Parish
Mon 3rd (St. Aidan’s)	6.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration
For Mass Intentions, please see envelopes in our churches.		

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Those who have died recently.  
Those in our parishes who are sick or who may need our thoughts & prayers.  
And those of our parishes whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**KEEP IN TOUCH:** [NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:NE12Catholic@diocesehn.org.uk) or 0191 268 4222.  
Weekend mass live on YouTube, search St Mary of the Rosary.  
Newsletters & Homilies can be viewed on our Facebook page NE12Catholic

**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE:** News & information about events happening across our diocese can be found via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School [www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk)  
St. Stephen’s Catholic Primary School [www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk)  
St. Mary’s Catholic Comprehensive School [www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk](http://www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk)