



# St Francis High Heaton

*Worship - Community – Service*

**Notices, Readings & Prayers**

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2026** *The Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 10)*

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The General Synod meets at York this weekend, the final session in a five-year cycle, with a mixture of business, theological, and ecological debates. Such high-level discussions can seem detached from daily parish life, but the legislation and motions passed will ripple directly into local communities. For us at St Francis the upcoming agenda offers a mix of local challenges and opportunities. As I wrote last week the debate on "Unity in our Nation" will review a paper advocating for the Church to model a healthy sense of patriotism, examining how symbols like the flag of St George can serve as markers of community cohesion rather than political polarization. In our tight-knit and diverse residential suburb of Newcastle, this conversation is very relevant, for in mirroring the national call to bridge social divisions, we can strengthen our role as an inclusive community hub, intentionally navigating local socio-economic disparities and modelling Christian grace across differing perspectives. The Synod will also confront again deep-seated disagreements regarding human sexuality. Following the conclusion of the formal Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process, the Business Committee has scheduled a Private Member's Motion which asks the synod to affirm that a committed, faithful, and intimate same-sex relationship is entirely compatible with Christian discipleship. The tone of this debate will be felt directly in parishes across the country which must hold together differing theological convictions. For us striving to

be an Inclusive Church, the immediate impact will be to maintain pastoral sensitivity, ensuring that ours remains a safe, welcoming, and unified spiritual home for everyone, regardless of gender identity and sexuality. Environmental stewardship remains a practical priority on the agenda, featuring an extensive progress update on the Church's legally binding commitment to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030. Alongside this, the Faith and Order Commission will present a report titled "*Hope for All Creation*," and will also be moving the final stages of liturgical business to introduce a formal "*Festival of Christ in Creation*" into the church calendar. These national environmental frameworks translate directly into local action. Seeking to match the 2030 target the PCC already evaluates emissions, monitors heating efficiency, and manages the parish carbon footprint. The introduction of a dedicated creation-focused festival will equip us with new liturgical resources which we can share with others in our community and link local eco-church initiatives to a visible, nationwide movement. Beyond the headline debates, critical legislative updates will be formalized, including the new Clergy Conduct Rules designed to support the statutory framework of the Clergy Conduct Measure. These rules, alongside the approval of the Archbishops' Council budget, shape how ministry is safeguarded, funded, and managed across the Diocese of Newcastle. One final thing, as this Synod dissolves on 14<sup>th</sup> July, a new five-year election cycle begins. I will not be seeking re-election but I would warmly encourage anyone who might consider doing so, including lay members of St Francis congregation who might feel called to stand for election or, to our deanery synod representatives who will vote for the people from Newcastle who will determine church policy through to 2031. The York debates are therefore not just remote administrative updates, they will actively shape the future environment in which St Francis High Heaton worships, witnesses, and serves.

**The next Taizé worship will be...** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm, a short meditative service with chants, silence, a reading and prayers.



## Lent soup lunches!

In August we will have a rest from soup, so the next soup lunch will be on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 12.30pm - 1.30pm, supporting *Walking With* which help refugees and asylum seekers in North Tyneside.



## Monthly Litter Pick

**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN ST FRANCIS ECO-CHURCH LITTER PICKERS** on the first Saturday of each month. The next one will be Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August and then Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 10 - 11.30am, meet at church. All equipment provided, everyone welcome! *(children under 18 to be accompanied by an adult).*



## Eco Tip

## Plant Autumn flowering bulbs now

Autumn crocuses are very lovely and they are good for late pollinators. Apparently this is the time to plant the bulbs.

*Jenny Germain*

If you have a green tip to share contact [jenny\\_germain@talk21.com](mailto:jenny_germain@talk21.com)



## ***This week's flowers***

The flowers this week are in celebration of Catherine & Saeed's wedding anniversary!



***THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Summer Fair with gifts, running stalls, setting up and taking down, and bringing friends and family - we raised £2700 (& 10p!) - a marvellous effort!***

# Worship & Prayers for The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

## Opening Rite

*If you're at home you might wish to light a candle, make sure you are sitting comfortably and take a few deep breaths to still yourself.*

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us**

## Prayers of Penitence

Come, Holy Spirit of God,  
**and search our hearts with the light of Christ.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
On these two commandments  
hang all the law and the prophets.  
**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

*After a period of reflection*

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*cf Hosea 6*

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and peace,  
now and for ever. **Amen**

### **The Collect**

*You might like to keep a few moments of silence*

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**

### **Isaiah 55.10-13**

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

## Psalm 65.8-13



You visit the earth and water it; you make it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water;  
you prepare grain for your people,  
for so you provide for the earth. /R:

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;#  
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.  
You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty. /R:

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness  
and the hills be girded with joy. /R:

## Romans 8.1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does

not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **The Gospel According to Matthew**

## **chapter 13.1-9,18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!' 'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ**

## **Reflection**

Parables are often simple stories with complex meanings, and this one is no exception. As with this week's psalm, the term 'word' here can mean much more than just Scripture – it can refer more broadly to God's purposes and affairs. Thus, the one who hears and understands the Word is not necessarily the one who becomes a great scholar of the Bible, but anyone who takes God's purposes seriously, choosing to commit their whole life to the work of God's kingdom. Jesus indicates that while our ensuing fruitfulness may be variable, to God all fruitfulness is valuable.

## **Linking the readings**

In the Matthew passage, those who correctly treasure the Word of God are lauded as those who will choose paths that lead to fruitfulness. Romans 8:4 reminds us that our minds should not be on the matters of the flesh but on the matters of the Spirit – studying the Word of God might be seen as a way to keep ourselves in a state of readiness for making a discerning choice between these competing demands.

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## **Prayers**

*Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love, for the world, for peace and for the relief of refugees everywhere*

## **On the Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

Creator God,  
you made us all in your image:  
may we discern you in all that we see,  
and serve you in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## **Praying for the Earth**

## ***Birds and Insects***

Help us to find joy in the glorious songs of the birds and the immense variety of insects. We praise you for their ability to fly above the earth. We give thanks for the part they play in the spreading of seeds and the fertilization of flowers. **Amen**

## **From the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for the Church**

Porvoo Communion: Diocese of Newcastle and Diocese of Møre (Church of Norway)

Anglican Communion: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan Primate The Most Reverend Justin Badi Arama

Newcastle East Deanery: Benefice: Byker St Silas Vicar: Helen Gill Reader Emeritus: Matthew King

Those living with disability: All living with any form of dementia

## **From our Parish Prayer Cycle this week**

Pray for all residents of Ribbledale Gardens and Stanley Grove

## **For the sick and those being cared for in hospital or at home**

Sheila Sidney-Wilmot, Ida Smart, Neil Walker, Sam Cole, Victoria Coates, Shirley Collingwood, Lynne Dryden, Liz Clarke, Corinne Harris, Jo Whittam, Veronica Brown, Alan Trotter, Alastair Day, Jenny Freeman, Maureen Webster, baby Gianna Skye and Daniel Hassan

## **For those in residential care**

Doreen Richardson, Deirdré Crowe, Irene Gibson, Tony Bartlett, Jacqueline Pearson, Pat Bell and Pat Hindmarsh

## **For those whose year's minds are this week**

Isabella Snowdon, Clem Clark, Thelma Gray, Jane Wilson, Vivien Roe, Brenda Byrne and Ivy Dickinson

*You might like to end your prayers with The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Conclusion**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
**Amen**

Let us bless the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

# Eternal Light

A Requiem by Howard Goodall

The Morning Chorus and Orchestra



Simon Davies-Fidler, Conductor

Hannah Fumoleau, Soprano

Keir McGregor, Baritone

Len Young, Piano

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July @ 3pm**

**St James' & St Basil's Church,  
Fenham**

**[buytickets.at/sdfchoralevents](https://buytickets.at/sdfchoralevents)**



# Parish Directory

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Honorary Associate Priest: Richard Bryant 07765 835 075,

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Churchwardens: Sue Flood 07792 830026

Dorothy Frankland 07530 813191

PCC Secretary & Jennifer Germain 0191 266 5144

Electoral Roll Officer [jenny\\_germain@talk21.com](mailto:jenny_germain@talk21.com)

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We're open every Wednesday from 2 – 4pm for visitors of all ages, some from the congregation, others from further afield. Whether you're regular or it's your first time you'll be welcomed with friendly conversation and free refreshments!

We are also very grateful to our team of volunteers who run the sessions and would welcome anyone who would like to offer help, whether that be in the form of helping to set up the hall, making and serving drinks, welcoming new people or just being there to engage and interact with people – whatever your strengths might

be, they will be highly valued! Contact Helen Swann  
[placesofwelcomehighheaton@gmail.com](mailto:placesofwelcomehighheaton@gmail.com) or 07487 842 820