



St John Southworth's RC Parish

at Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
and St John Southworth Church, Vaughan St
Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
Nelson, BB9 0JY

Parish Priest: Rev Gerard Kelly

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**The 18th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

8th August 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The prophet Elijah enters the Olympic scene as a hot favourite for the gold medal! He has been in blistering form, and has seen off all the competition from the prophets of the Baals who could not match him for passion, conviction and power.

Elijah enters into his chosen event, the Desert Walk, and in the first twenty-four hours he is making excellent progress. But, what is happening? Elijah is sitting down by the side of the road, and it looks like he has a problem! The man is suffering from extreme exhaustion of body, mind, and spirit; and like many athletes who suffer under the expectation that they can produce superhuman performances at will, he is coming into contact with his humanity.

It seems like he cannot continue any further, and it looks like he is now out of the medals. All he has worked for now seems beyond his grasp; he is a broken man.

The story of Elijah is more than his own story: it is the story of the people of Israel, it is the story of the human race, it is our story, it is my story. The human mind is capable of conceiving of the 'idea' of perfect happiness, but we know that the 'reality' of absolute happiness remains always beyond our grasp. Regrets, disappointments, and frustrations all so easily rob us of our dreams, and we are tempted to fall asleep under the furze bush and settle for something less. However, although the gold medal dream may be buried, there is always the possibility that our hope can be revived by the call of God which comes to us precisely through our deepest God-given desires.

Elijah is awakened by the voice of the angel; the messenger from God speaks those words of challenge and encouragement: 'Get up, and eat.' The Lord provides a supernatural nourishment which reaches right down to the core of Elijah's life, renewing him in his motivation, restoring his dream, and providing him with the strength and determination to journey on to Mount Horeb where he will stand in triumph on the Lord's podium.

We are, each one of us, promised that we will come to an experience of achievement and accomplishment which far surpasses that of holding up the gold medal before the cameras. We have all been entered into the main event which is that of life itself. The dream of success, however, needs to be kept alive by faith and hope which are supernatural strengths, born of the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts.

You can ask yourself: is my deepest desire a supernatural yearning for the life of the Kingdom of God, or have I lowered my sights so that my dreams are earthbound—wonderful dreams though they may be, but earthbound nonetheless!

Jesus, himself, comes to us and speaks to our hearts: "Get up, and eat!" We are called to feed on the life of Christ which carries us, from within, to the glorious destiny he has in store for us!

Yours, in the Lord,

Fr Gerard.

Mass Schedule for week beginning Monday 9th August, 2021

Monday 9th August	Tuesday 10th August	Wednesday 11th August	Thursday 12th August	Friday 13th August	Saturday 14th August	Sunday 15th August
For times of Masses and booking at Sacred Heart, click here.						HS 11.15am (booking)
CC 9.30am Funeral	CC 9.00am	CC 9.00am	CC 9.00am	CC 9.00am	CC No Mass	CC 9.30am (booking)

Please note, and keep in mind, the changes to the times of Mass in this coming week!

Online booking for upcoming Masses

[Sunday Morning Mass at Christ Church, 15th Aug, 9.30am](#) (click on link)

[Sunday Morning Mass at Holy Saviour's, 15th Aug, 11.15am](#) (click on link for Good Shepherd newsletter)

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This week: 8th August	Joan Penny-Heys	Maureen Rawlinson
Next week: 15th August	Margaret Borman	Gerard King

Helena (Nell) Morgan

The funeral Mass for Nell Morgan will take place at Christ Church on Monday 9th August at 9.30am. The booking of places will not be required for this Mass and everyone who would like to attend is welcome.

Church Collection

1st August: £232.70
Standing Orders: approx. £315 p/w.
CAFOD (May, June, July): £274.00

Mass Intentions

Jack Bridge, 17th anniv, 4th August
Lucia Smith, b'day anniv, 10th August

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday, 31st August, 7.00pm

Welcome Service at Christ Church for the new Methodist minister, Rick Ormrod. We pray that Rick will be very happy in his new post and that the one the Lord is sending to us will bring us many blessings.

Saturday, 2nd October, 11.00am.

Annual Mass and blessing of graves at All Souls cemetery.

The Catenians

If you would like to know more about this longstanding and well-known Catholic organisation then click here to view a short informative video:

<https://youtu.be/RtKf41p1jwA>

Please contact Mick Armfield, on 01282 459424 for further information.

Book of Remembrance

Aug 9th Lucy Gildea
Aug 12th Annie Darcy
Aug 13th Annie Fegan
Aug 14th Jason Lee Thompson
Aug 14th Paul Simm



May the memory of the lives of those who have gone before us, inspire us to be a people of faith and prayer; may they rest in peace, AMEN

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10 Khuram Javed
£10 Brian Sagar
£10 Sarah Southworth
£74 to Parish Funds, thank you very much!



Please note those who put their envelopes into the draw on a Sunday should carry on doing so. They are allocated a number for the Bingo machine at the time of the draw. The draw takes place after the 10 o'clock mass on a **TUESDAY**.