



St John Southworth's RC Parish
at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
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**If you would like to receive this
newsletter electronically, then
please email the parish.**

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



19th January 2025



Click on the moneybox to make a
secure online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's YouTube Channel](#) 
Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Today's reading from John's Gospel introduces Jesus as the worker of miracles! Jesus, at first seemingly hesitant to reveal his divine power, responds to the prompting of his mother to make an intervention into the awkward situation of the wine shortage at the wedding feast. Jesus responds by famously turning water into wine! So, this is the story, but for us and for John—the writer of the Gospel—the deeper meanings of the story is where our real interest lies.

John's concern is to present Jesus in the fullness of his divinity. The divinity of Jesus is what marks out Jesus as totally unique. There have been, throughout history, holy and wise persons a plenty; there have been many religious leaders and inspirational characters, but there is only one Son of God and consequently only one true religion legitimated and validated by God himself. Later in his Gospel, John will put these words on to the lips of Jesus, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one can come to the Father except through me"

At the centre of God's concern is the well-being of human beings. It takes a massive step of faith to believe that in the enormity and complexity of the universe, cast across unimaginable expanses of space and time, we as human beings are supremely important to God. This view stands in stark contrast to the scientific perspective that suggests that the human species is merely a random and rather quirky product of purely natural and physical processes!

The dynamic of the Christian religion is that, in Jesus, God is drawing us up into his divine life! In the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana, water represents that which is natural and ordinary—a product of nature. The wine represents the intoxicating richness of the love of God. The work of Jesus is to bring about this transformation by which the 'natural' is raised up to be the 'supernatural'. Our work is simply to be open to grace in order to allow this to happen!

In John's Gospel, the explanation of how this transformational process takes place is apparent: we encounter Christ in his teaching, in being open to the Holy Spirit, and through our engagement with the Sacramental life of the Church. It is through the Sacraments of the Church that the supernatural aspect of our lives is nourished. Every aspect of our lives that is brought to the Lord is raised up and transformed; every aspect of our lives that we live independently from God remains exactly as it is: natural and ordinary. That which is natural and ordinary is temporary and limited, like the first consignment of wine which ran out! That which is transformed by grace is limitless... my cup shall overflow!

May we invite Jesus into all that we are and do.... We never know when we might need him!

Fr Gerard

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 20th January 2025

Monday 20th Jan	Tuesday 21st Jan	Wednesday 22nd Jan	Thursday 23rd Jan	Friday 24th Jan	Saturday 25th Jan	Sunday 26th Jan
NO MASS	Eucharistic Service C.C. 10.00am	Euch Service H.S. 7.00pm	Eucharistic Service & Exposition C.C. 10.00am	Eucharistic Service C.C. 10.00am	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 19th January	Margaret Needham	Gerard Spain
Next Sunday: 26th January	Margaret Borman	Joan Penny-Heys

Children's Church: C.C. - Carmel & Margaret B

H.S. - Lisa and Joanne

DIED RECENTLY

The Requiem Mass for **Maureen Waddington** will take place at Christ Church on Wednesday 29th January at 11.00am.

The Requiem Mass for **Ann Mullarkey** will take place at Christ Church on Friday 31st January at 12.00 noon.

We pray for the repose of their souls in thanksgiving for all they contributed to the life of the Parish, especially in former days when St George's Church was the centre of the Parish of St John Southworth.

Eucharistic Ministry (C.C & H.S.) Week 3

Dawid Zycinski	Marian Reilly
Joe Gibbons	Paul Stinchon
Tyrone Mclaughlin	Marcin Zycinski
Helen Keating	James Hargreaves
Linda Goddard	Liz Variyam

CHURCH COLLECTION

12th January: 327.60
Standing Orders: approx: £624 p/w
Many thanks!

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Ash Ghulam
£10.00 Christine Whalley
£10.00 Margaret Fiorentini
£10.00 Margaret Clark



£89.00 towards Parish Funds, thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

John & Anne Kilday Intentions
John Blackburn, died recently
Esme Thornton, died recently
Ann Mullarkey, died recently
Gertrude Conway, died recently
Maureen Waddington, died recently
Alan Patrick Hodson, died recently
Eileen Black, anniv (2003)
Gordon Parker, b'day anniv, 16th Jan
Jim Jennings, b'day anniv, 17th Jan

Young People's Retreat Weekend

One of the concerns of the Church that is never far from our minds is how to engage young people in our parish communities.

In response to that concern we are inviting our young people from Y7+ to a Retreat Weekend at the Castlerigg Retreat Centre in Keswick from Fri 29th—31st Jan.

We now have 15 definite participants and we could possibly take one or two more last minute applications!

The Retreat Centre are charging us £60.00 per person for accommodation and food and we really don't want to pass on any cost to our young people and their families.

With this in mind, we will have a special collection next week so that we are all supporting this initiative as a parish community. Let's be generous! Thank you, Fr Gerard

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Jan 23rd Rev John Aspinall (1957)
Jan 24th James H Picken (1968)
Jan 25th Cameron Barnes (1996)
Sarah Howarth (1986)
Jan 26th Eddie Collingwood (1996)



We pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died, that the Lord will receive them into the fullness of his resurrection life!