

Fr John writes: *Today's Gospel depicts Jesus the great story teller, teaching a crowd from the boat. No doubt they were mesmerised by his eloquence. His hearers, people of the land, would have been familiar with the images used to describe the spread of the Kingdom: a sower sowing seed; the soil, some rocky, some thorny, some barren, some good. "Listen" was all Jesus proposed to them. There are some truths we choose not to hear. The challenge to change would be too costly. It is easier to jog along and do things as we always did. In so doing, what we miss is precious beyond imagining - to be converted and to be healed by Jesus.*

Special Collection

The special collection taken up at all masses this weekend is for the Apostleship of the Sea. The AOS deploys port chaplains and ship visitors to welcome merchant seafarers to our shores. For a seafarer who feels unloved and under-valued, the chaplain's hand of friendship can make an enormous difference to his or her physical and spiritual wellbeing.

Pilgrimage to Padley

Anyone wishing to attend the pilgrimage at Padley, please note that it takes place today 13th July at 3pm.

Thank you

On behalf of the family, Brenda Mastin would like to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy and support at the death of her mother, Ann Bailey. The prayers offered by the Parish community over the years have been much appreciated.

Marple Bridge Old School Refurbishment

May I inform all parishioners that as from today Sunday 13th, the Old School at Marple Bridge will be closed for refurbishment. Therefore, the Children's Liturgy and the Toddler Group will be unable to use the facilities until the work is completed. The work will continue through August and September. It is hoped that once completed you will like the renovations made and hopefully use the new facilities to their best advantage. Please note that only the workforce who are doing the renovations are permitted on the premises during the project. It is off limit to all parishioners so please don't pop in to have a look as you will be told to leave for Health & Safety and insurance reasons. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

School Mass St. Mary's New Mills

I will be doing a school leavers mass at St. Mary's School, New Mills next Thursday at 10am. Any parishioner who wishes to attend is more than welcome.

PPC meeting

Our next PPC meeting will take place in the Kevill Room, New Mills this Tuesday 14th July at 7.30pm. Will all members please make a special effort to attend. Thank you.

First Holy Communion Catechists

Can I meet all catechists from both churches who prepare the children for First Holy Communion on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm sharp in the Kevill Room, New Mills. I wish to sort out dates and programmes for September/October before we break up for the holidays. (Sorry for the short notice).

Wednesday Tea & Bingo session

We will have our usual session next Wednesday 16th July from 2-4pm in the Parish Hall, New Mills. This will be our last session before we break up for the summer holidays. The tea and bingo will start again in September.

Sick and Housebound

I will be visiting the sick and housebound of the parish this Friday 18th July.

St. Mary's School New Mills

Saint Mary's School, New Mills is inviting parishioners to buy a brick for their *Virtual Wall* which can be found on their school website (www.saintmarysnewmills.ik.org). Each brick costs £10 and your name or family name will be displayed on the wall. Forms are available from the school office or from Jo Barber – cash or cheques can be made payable to Saint Mary's School Fund. Saint Mary's has a large building project underway and needs your help to raise the school's ten percent contribution.

Volunteers Required New Mills

Would anyone be available to help with the altar flowers in church in New Mills? No experience is required, just speak to Mary Chadwick or leave a message at the parish office if you can help. Thank you.

Questions People Ask

Q Jesus had many parables about the kingdom of heaven. Do these parables refer to the next life or to present reality?
A. At the beginning of his preaching Jesus announced that his mission in this world would be about the kingdom or reign of God. Its perfection would be in the next life but its growth would begin in this life. The kingdom on earth means what life would be like if everybody lived according to the ideals of the gospel. A beautiful prospect indeed, involving repentance and believing. Jesus said it is a treasure waiting to be discovered, a precious pearl to be sought by every means at our disposal.

Parish Dates

Saturday 18 October Reader's Day, New Mills

Last week's collection

New Mills: Envelopes £294.50 Loose £ 67.61
Marple Bridge: Envelopes £259.50 Loose £115.30
Day for Life: New Mills £96.88 Marple Bridge £179.45

Thank you

Pray for the Sick and Housebound

Remember all those in our parish who are sick or housebound, especially: Marie Jones, Chris Kirrane, Arthur Mertz, Marion Stokes, George Cairns, Eileen Middleton, Neville Middleton, Marion Howard, Monica Norton, Dorothy Graham, Betty Ledwich, Nigel Barron, Ruth Boothroyd, Eileen Grace, Margaret Mary Jackson, Katherine Cowan, Richard Greiner, Celia Crean, Jack Heaton, Mary Heaton, Joan Hines, Jack Williams, Matt Jennings, Mary Weatherley, John Tracey

Rest in Peace

Anniversaries

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen