

Our Lady & St Joseph's Parish Bulletin

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME
 JULY 27TH 2003



YOUTH WORK TRAINEE

You may remember the advertisement for this post a few weeks ago. Two good candidates were short-listed. On Monday there was a lengthy interviewing procedure. Both candidates had to work with six Year 10 students and then met fairly informally with representatives of Our Lady's and Christ the King parishioners. After this they were interviewed by two panels made up of parishioners, young and old, of the two parishes, the Headteacher of Newman, Anne Kennedy who is the head of youth work in the diocese, and Fr. Baron. The whole procedure took from 2.00pm to well after 7.00 pm. There was a detailed discussion afterwards and Tania Jenkins was appointed. She has already been working in West Cumbria in parishes and schools there. She will begin in September. Tania will be working with young people primarily in Newman, Our Lady's and Christ the King. The two parishes and the school will be setting up a support group for her of parishioners and the school staff, and she will work alongside the present chaplains in the school and in the two parishes. It is a very exciting development and I am sure everyone will help her as much as possible. We can welcome her formally in September.

Accommodation

One of her first concerns is to find accommodation, so if anyone knows of a suitable flat please let us know.

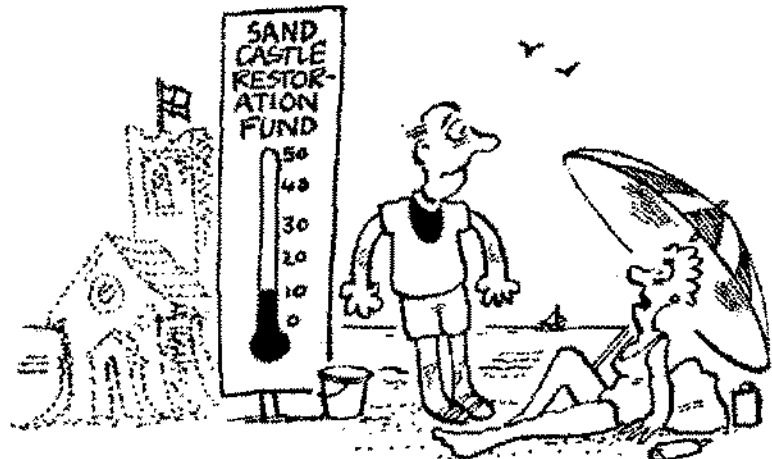
THE HOSPITAL

This is just a reminder that we are no longer able to check who is in hospital due to the Data Protection Act. So it is important to let us know if you have a relative or friend who has gone into hospital, or if you know of someone who is alone and may be sick. If you can find the name of the Ward that is also a great help. It is especially important in summer as there are fewer priests about and the chaplain at the hospital will be changing in September, so the new chaplain will have plenty on his plate!

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat	6.00	Alston	Private Intention
Sun	10.00		Edwina Fraser
	4.30		Iris Zanelli
Mon	12.10		Richard McDonald
Tue	8.00		Jack Finlinson
	12.10		Meg Davidson
Wed	9.15	St Gabs	Private Intention
	12.10		Thomas Kavanagh
Thu	8.00		Private Intention
	12.10		Newly Ordained Deacons of the Diocese
Fri	8.00		Private Intention
	12.10		Special Intention
Sat	12.10		Michael Donnelly
	6.00	Alston	The Parish
Sun	10.00		Violet Agius
	3.30		HOLY HOUR
	4.30		Henry Stordy

Please pray for Billy Boy Miller and Brigid Ward who are sick and for Thomas Kavanagh and Richard McDonald whose anniversaries occur about this time.



"...for goodness sake dear, you're meant to be on holiday!"

GOSPEL FOR THE NEXT FIVE SUNDAYS

The next five Sundays are dreaded by many a priest. Why? Because we are about to read a single chapter from John's gospel and how do you keep thinking of something new to say about the same topic for five weeks? It is Chapter 6, and it is given such importance because it holds the whole of John's Eucharistic theology.

In John's gospel there is no breaking of bread and sharing of wine at the Last Supper, only washing of feet. John says what he has to say about the Eucharist after the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and this is where we begin this week. If you compare John's version with Mark's you can see that John makes it clear that it is the Passover, the feast when the Israelites ate the Passover meal, the Passover lamb, and were delivered from slavery (the feast when the Last Supper was celebrated). John makes it absolutely clear that Jesus is central. He repeats Jesus' name six times. For John it is Jesus who receives, gives thanks for, and hands out the bread (the fish are barely mentioned). (This is the format of the second part of the Mass, gifts of bread (and wine) received, eucharistic prayer and communion.) (This Sunday)



After this week we begin to listen to a long talk by Jesus which is quite complicated. It starts by the crowd asking for a sign, like the Manna sent at Moses' request in the desert, and Jesus takes up their language of Manna and bread. Jesus claims to be the new bread from heaven, 'the bread of life.' (18th Sunday). He has already been compared to Moses and now he claims to be the new Manna in the desert, which never perishes. Many Jews find this too hard to take, especially when he calls himself 'the bread of life.' Jesus is taking over the role of Moses and the Manna! (19th Sunday). And yet as long as he only says this he is not totally out of order. The Old Testament had used the image of feeding people, nourishing them, with the wisdom or the word of God before.

But then Jesus takes it further. He goes too far. 'Eat my flesh and drink my blood,' he says repeatedly. There is no language in the Old Testament like this. But there is a purpose to his language. Bread is simply bread, inanimate; what he asks of us now is to share his very life, this is the new bread of eternal life. (20th Sunday)

It sounds outrageous and even disciples start to leave him now. But Jesus words this week explain that he is talking of spiritual matters, spiritual life. Like us, Peter does not understand it all, it remains a mystery, but in faith he says, "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God." (21st Sunday)

So John shows us that Jesus is the new Moses, the new guide and saviour, and more than that, the actual food, means of our very existence, our Eucharist, for our journey through the wilderness of life.