



**DURHAM
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 27 September
The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*

During this time of great anxiety and uncertainty, we want to stay in touch with our regular worshippers and indeed with everyone who is associated with the Cathedral family. We are delighted that we have been able to reintroduce congregational worship here at the Cathedral and there is more information about that later on in this booklet. Durham Cathedral is also open for private prayer and quiet reflection.

If you'd like to come to the cathedral for worship and/or prayer, there are some important measures we'd like you to know about, to ensure the safety of members of the public and staff. You can find this information on our website: www.durhamcathedral.co.uk We will continue to live stream services as well so that, if you can't re-join us yet, you will still be able to engage with us online.

Gospel

Matthew 21. 23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the

prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Ordination of Deacons

On Sunday 27 September, the Bishop of Durham ordained 12 men and women to the diaconate.

Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

"Only to live our life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

The Church of England has inherited the three ancient forms of ordained ministry in the Church: deacons, priests and bishops. Today the candidates are ordained into the first order as deacons.

The word *deacon* means servant and deacons are called to follow the example of Jesus Christ who came to serve others. Deacons assist the parish priest and other ministers in worship and preaching, pastoral care, and in making Christ's love visible in both church and society. They have a special care for the poor and needy.

In today's ordination service, the candidates are undergoing a 'rite of passage', becoming 'clergy' and taking the title *The Reverend*. They begin their ministry as assistant curates, ministering in the churches where they serve their 'title'.

At the heart of the ordination service, we ask the Holy Spirit to come upon the candidates, as first the Spirit came upon the Church in tongues as of fire, to equip and strengthen them for the service of the gospel.

The Service has five main sections:

The Gathering and Presentation

in which we unite in worshipping God. The candidates are formally presented to the Bishop during this opening part of the service. It concludes with the collect.

The Liturgy of the Word

in which we hear readings from the Bible. We stand for the Gospel reading to honour the words and deeds of Jesus himself. The preacher then brings God's message to the candidates and congregation helping us understand the nature of ministry in the Church.

The Liturgy of Ordination

in which the Bishop sets out the calling and duties of the deacons, who answer searching questions. Deacons are ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands by the bishop. The prayer includes silence and the great hymn *Come, Holy Ghost*, translated by John Cosin, a 17th-century Bishop of Durham. The act of ordination is the climax of this prayer; as we pray for the candidates, the Bishop lays his hand on each of them; and, having been ordained, they are welcomed by the people.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

in which we celebrate the great memorial of Christ's death.

The Sending Out

in which the deacons are given a New Testament as a sign of their call to proclaim and live the Gospel. They and the congregation are then dismissed at the end of the liturgy to minister and live the Christian life in our parishes, communities and places of work.

Veni creator

The ancient hymn to the Holy Spirit translated by former Bishop of Durham John Cosin in the 17th century and used at all ordinations

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Thy blessèd unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
With the abundance of thy grace;
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*John Cosin
(based on Veni, creator Spiritus)*

Calendar of Holy Days

Tuesday 29 September Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted the ministries
of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,
so, at your command,
they may help and defend us on earth;
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.

Wednesday 30 September Jerome, translator, teacher of the faith, 420

Thursday 1 October Remigius, bishop, 533

Anthony Ashley Cooper (Earl of Shaftesbury), social reformer

Saturday 3 October George Bell, bishop, ecumenist, peacemaker, 1958

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit,
and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Father in heaven,
by his blood your Christ has ransomed us to you,
and has made us a kingdom and priests to you our God.
As the angels minister to you in heaven,
strengthen your Church to serve you here on earth.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
when the angels greeted the birth of your Son
they sang for joy 'Glory to God and peace on earth'.
Bless with Christ's peace the nations of the world.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
your Son has promised to your children
the care of the guardian angels who look upon your face.
Protect by your mercy our neighbours, families and friends.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
you give your angels charge over those who trust in you
to guard them in all their ways.
Be with those in trouble,
rescue them and show them your salvation.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
your angel declares 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'
'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit,
'for they may rest from their labours,
for they take with them the record of their deeds.'
Enfold in your love all who come in faith
to your judgement seat in heaven.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Father in heaven,
the angels sing by day and night around your throne:
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty.'
With Michael, prince of the angels, who contends by our side,
with Gabriel, your herald, who brings glad tidings,
with Raphael, the protector, who ministers your healing,
and with the whole company of heaven,
we worship you, we give you glory,
we sing your praise and exalt you for ever.
Amen.



*Jacob Epstein's sculpture of
Archangel Michael at
Coventry Cathedral*

Contact details for The Reverend Canon Michael Everitt

Address: 15 The College, Durham, DH1 3EQ
Email: michael.everitt@durhamcathedral.co.uk
Telephone: 0191 384 0164

A Prayer for use during the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer of priest, poet and hymn writer Horatius Bonar:

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
however dark it be;
lead me by thine own hand,
choose out the path for me.
Smooth let it be or rough,
it will be still the best;
winding or straight,
it leads right onward to thy rest.
Choose thou for me my friends,
my sickness or my health;
choose thou my cares for me,
my poverty or wealth.
Not mine, not mine the choice
in things or great or small;
be thou my guide, my strength,
my wisdom, and my all.
Amen.

The next issue of *Praying Together*
will be published on Monday 5 October