



SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2019

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

5th Sunday of the Year

In St Mary's church in Bishop Auckland there are stained glass windows designed by pitman painter, Tom McGuinness, who was a parishioner. The windows depict scenes illustrating God feeding his people through the ages.

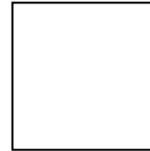
One of the windows pictures the Last Supper. In the distance behind Jesus, Tom has placed the winding gear of the pithead and pit heap. Another window shows Jesus befriending two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It has a street of houses suspiciously like a pit row and three telegraph poles like the three crosses of Calvary. The pithead wheel rises in the background again and the pit heap.

Remember, Tom was a miner. His faith, his mining life and his art are all connected. The stories he heard in school, in church and in his familiarity with the scriptures and the north east, he blends together to show us through his art that the same God of history is still present, here as elsewhere, and always will be. Tom's faith fed him working below ground, working in his studio, and worshipping in church.

Jesus enters the working life of the fishermen in today's Gospel story. He sits in one of their boats to teach people gathered by the lake. He then does something very chancy. He asks Simon Peter to put out into deep water and pay out the nets for a catch. But he wasn't a fisherman. Imagine the look on Simon's face. They'd worked hard all night and caught nothing. But Simon does it because Jesus asked.

We know what happened. The huge catch of fish dumbfounded these men who knew their trade well, understood these waters well, and knew by all their experience that in their terms this was not possible. Simon Peter knew then that he's in a presence beyond everything that had previously made sense. Jesus gets through to these fishermen in a language they understood. He entered their world and left them wanting to know more. Pardon the pun, but they were hooked. He even made a joke of it - 'It's people you'll be catching from now on', he said.

For Simon Peter and the other fishermen apostles, for Tom McGuinness, for you and me, the same Jesus is part of our lives, our families, our outlook and our area. He's alongside us in what we do, enticing us to new possibilities if we do what he asks, even if we're reluctant at first. He knows what he's doing. We have the choice each day to go with him - or what else?



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ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

The trouble with repeating notices on this bulletin and elsewhere is that we think we have the message because we have read it before. We are repeating the notes about the Jumbulance Pilgrimage and Flame because we continue to need your help. Please respond to these requests and never assume that if you don't do something about it, someone else will. Life doesn't work like that. Thanks.

Lourdes Jumbulance Pilgrimage - 2nd to 11th May 2019

Do you know someone with a disability or long term illness who would like to come to Lourdes?

Is there someone living in a care home, or needs 24/7 care? Perhaps someone living alone or on the parish sick list?

The Across Group from the partnership would love to make travel possible for someone who thinks it might be impossible!

For more details please get in touch with Anne Saltrese 07741 552894 anne@across.org.uk or speak to Fr. Dennis.

Flame - is the name of the gathering of 10,000 Catholic young people and helpers at Wembley Arena in London on Saturday 2 March, 2019. It's a brilliant, lively and inspiring gathering with lots of music, encouraging presentations and challenges. The bus from St John's School sets off at about 4am and returns at about 11pm. Would you like to go or to sponsor a young person? The Partnership is paying for the bus in the hope that your donations will reimburse the account. Young people and adults need to apply to Emma Ramsey at St John's School (01388 603246).

Craft Group - a craft group has started at St. Mary's, Bishop Auckland, and runs each Monday in the parish meeting room. from 1.00pm until 4.00pm. Come along for a natter and bring some crafting. If you don't craft and would like some ideas, come along and see what's going on - you might be inspired! Text Jeanette on 07584 247560 for more information

CAFOD Calling: Would you like to inspire the young people in our catholic schools? CAFOD is seeking volunteers who would be willing to visit catholic schools around our diocese to speak about CAFOD's work. Full training will be given. To find out more give David Cross a call on 0191 384 4847 or email hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk