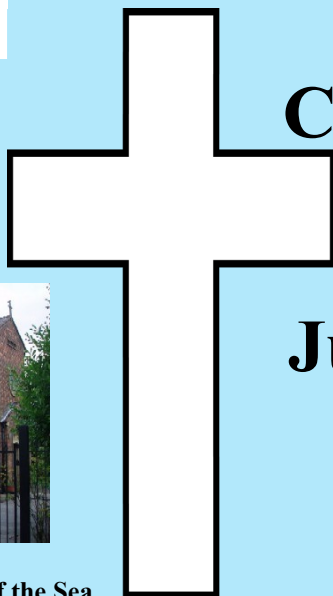




St. Alban's Earsdon



CHURCH VIEWS

June 2024

£1.00



**Our Lady & St. Edmund,
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea**



St. John's Backworth



**Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

June 2024

Dear All,

The Prime Minister has fired the starting gun, and we're heading for a General Election on July 4th. Some thoughts along those lines...

Firstly. Christianity and politics mix, despite what some people say. Someone once cut out of their Bible every passage that had to do with politics: the book ended up resembling a paper doily. Our faith is not *party* political, but politics is the machinery by which we can create a better world. If we're concerned about child poverty, one way to make things better is through the machinery of politics.

Secondly. We have a vote – let's make sure we use it. Sue and I recently visited Morpeth. In a park we saw a statue of Emily Davison. She was the suffragette who threw herself under the King's horse at the Derby. Some people felt so strongly about universal suffrage – the right for everyone to vote – that they gave up their lives. Please make sure that you think carefully, and then cast your vote.

And thirdly. How to vote. I wouldn't dream of telling you where to put your cross on July 4th, and I'm not yet sure how I myself will vote. But here are some guiding principles that I will be thinking about as I mull it over...

I will be voting for the party I feel takes most seriously the issue of ***poverty in the UK***. Our Lent Course 'Act on Poverty' was all about this. It is a scandal that so many are reliant on Food Banks. It is a scandal that many children arrive at school hungry. My vote will go to the party I feel has the best solutions to these issues.

I will be voting for the party I feel is most **compassionate to those seeking refuge in the UK**. The world is increasingly a dangerous place. Not for nothing do people risk life and limb to cross the channel in small boats. Historically, this country has done more than most to create the climate crisis. We were the seat of the Industrial Revolution.

Our economy still reaps the benefit. We must not pull up the drawbridge against people whose whole way of life is threatened by climate change.

So finally, I will be voting for the party I feel has the policies to **protect this beautiful planet for our great-grandchildren**. The Church of England has listed ‘Five Key Asks’ for prospective parliamentary candidates. You might like to have this list to hand for candidates who come canvassing...

- ⇒ **Energy efficient and low carbon homes.** Ensuring that all new-build house are built to net-zero standards.
- ⇒ **Leave fossil fuels behind** and invest in renewable energy. Stop investment and exploration in new sources of fossil fuel extraction.
- ⇒ **Loss and Damage Fund.** Keep the UK’s promise to support a fund for countries already suffering the effects of climate change.
- ⇒ **Nature Recovery.** Keep the UK’s promise to reverse the loss of wildlife and manage 30% of the land and sea for nature by 2030.
- ⇒ Introduce a **Climate and Ecology Bill** which aims to join up the climate and nature crises.

God bless you as you consider how to vote on July 4th.

Tim x

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Part **three** of the delightful article sent in by Ella Heaney, who also wrote the introduction.

INTRODUCTION

This article was written by a gentleman called Frank Buzzard round about 1990. He had been an accountant and when he retired, he and his wife decided to go on a pilgrimage to visit every cathedral in the country. He wrote his impression of each one and also commented on the city and surrounding area. After he died, he left his writing and £5,000 to each cathedral.

This is his account (sometimes amusing) of St Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle.

At the back of the altar is one of the largest tomb brasses in England; approx. 5 feet by 8. It is in memory of a 15th century couple named Thornton and depicts them and their children amongst apostles and saints.

An exhibition devoted to the history and purpose of Misericords was fascination, with many detailed pictures that made it quite unnecessary to walk up and down the choir stalls turning them up. I have often seen violent, pagan and vicious scenes depicted in these narrow ledge seats of which Newcastle has its share. Why such subjects in a church? Now the answer was provided. Because the carvings are underneath they can be turned down towards Hell, sat upon and vanquished to eternal damnation. Reasonable enough.

This church has only been a cathedral since 1882 but it nearly made it in 1553 when a Bill was passed making Newcastle separate from Durham. Then King Edward VI died and Queen Mary swiftly squashed the legislation.

In 1451 a truce between England and Scotland was signed in this vestry and it is not hard to imagine the scene as well dressed dignitaries of both nations hustled in the small space.

Fifty years later a far more flamboyant picture could have been painted when King Henry VII's daughter Margaret was met on the Tyne Bridge by civic 'Worthies' and clergy. The princess Scotland. She attended mass here. Ten years later her husband died at the battle of Flodden and his body rested here on its journey to the grave.

Many thanks to Rev'd Tim Mayfield:

Celebrating Friendship

At a recent service, St Alban's were reflecting on this saying of Jesus: 'I do not call you servants any longer: instead, I call you *friends*.'

We thought about our best friends, and then thought about some words to describe them. This is what we came up with...

Faithful
Kind-hearted
Complete
Loyal
Angel
Caring
Thoughtful
Listening
Special
Reliable
Uncomplicated
Trusting
Transparent
Tolerant
Supporting
Optimistic
Loving
Brotherly

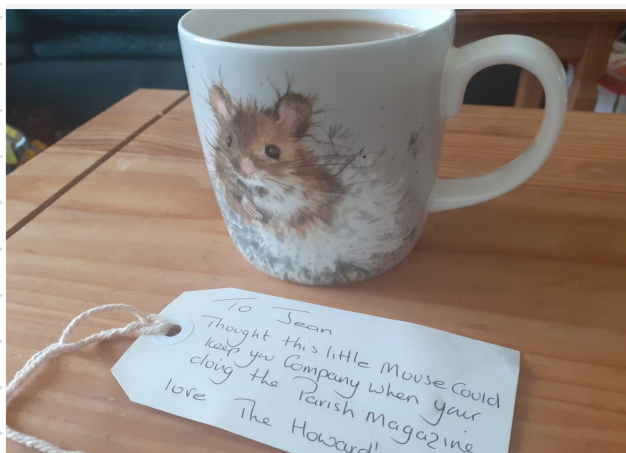
Why not spend a moment thinking about your best friend? Then why not drop them a 'just because' card of appreciation.

From a happy Mary Oliver:

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to organize my surprise birthday party and all who came including The Silver Stars Band which I greatly appreciated. Thank you for all the lovely birthday cards, presents and flowers. You all give so much love and kindness. I am pleased to be a part of the Parish with you all. Thank you and God Bless.

Thank you very much Pam & Paul for thinking of your Church Views editor.
As you can see I am doing just as you suggested.

The label reads, "To Jean. Thought this little mouse could keep you company when you're doing the Parish Magazine.
Love, The Howards xx"



A lovely update from Joan, of St Alban's :

Music at 27 The Ridings

Our thanks to Ted Clark and Dave Young for the excellent musical evening they gave us on Sunday 28th April. The guitar and piano were an unusual duo but very well matched. The French Salon Music by the virtually unknown composers Ferdinando Carulli, his son Gustavo and Matteo Carcassi was very 'Jane Austen' in style and such easy listening. In Emma, Jane Austen wrote, "Without music, life would be a blank in me". For those at the soiree, the BLANK was beautifully filled with piano and guitar music.

Thank you for the donations to the Netty Fund.



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Weather for the month of June.

Direct from the Captain's Charts.

For the early to mid-part of the month.

In early June, conditions are likely to be generally settled due to the influence of high pressure extending across much of the country. A few showers or patchy rain possible in places, most likely in the northwest, but for most it will be a dry start to the month with plenty of sunshine, especially in the southeast.

Feeling warm generally, although cooler near the east coast where onshore breezes are likely to develop. This fair weather is likely to continue for a few days into the following week, but thereafter the outlook becomes more uncertain.

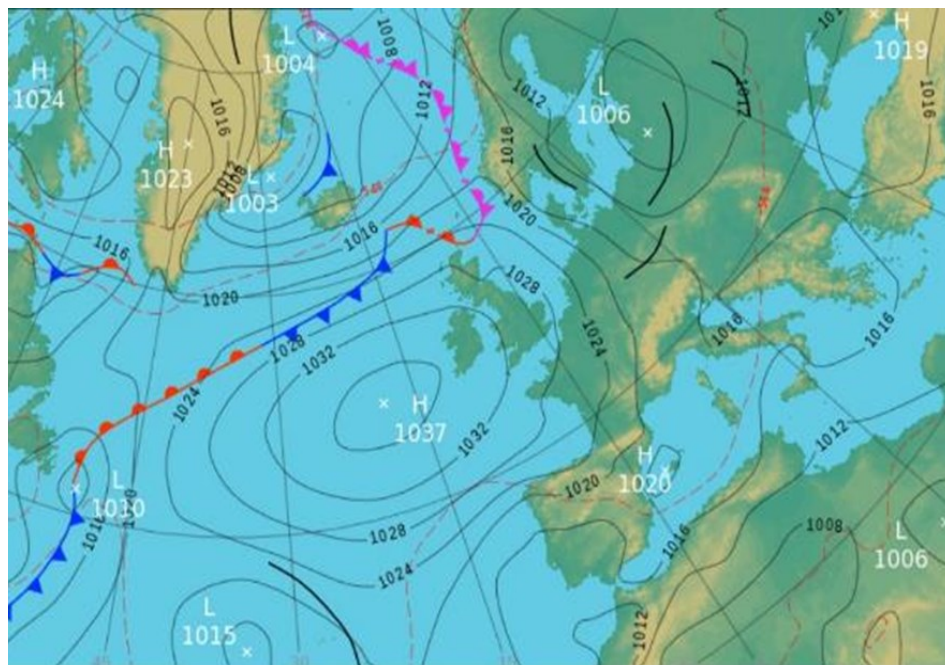
The south of the UK will probably be drier, although occasional widespread scattered showers cannot be ruled out. Cooler and cloudier further northwest, where rain is more likely although I think the northeast will fair slightly better. Temperatures around normal perhaps a little above average for this time of the year.

Looking further ahead.

Current indications are that the chances of high pressure or low-pressure dominating are fairly balanced for this period. A mixture of dry or wet conditions being the more prominent feature of the weather. On balance, it is probable that a continuation of variable, slow moving weather patterns are likely through much of June, similar to that which has been experienced throughout May.

However, with the likelihood of potentially slow-moving weather systems that typically give rise to longer periods of drier and equally wetter spells resulting in the need to carry your umbrella as well as sunscreen lotion.

Temperatures are most likely to be normal or slightly above average.



Atlantic Surface Pressure Chart for Sunday 2nd June 2024.

The High-pressure area (1037 mb) is moving north easterly and will give rise to a light north-westerly backing westerly (for a time) air flow with dry conditions throughout Sunday and continuing into the following week.

NB – It is advisable to protect against the UV effects of the sun even in cloudy overcast conditions.

CHURCH VIEWS FOR JUNE 2024 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Our Lady and St Edmund will close this month



After seventy years, the church of Our Lady and St Edmund in Backworth will close on Saturday 22 June, having served us well for so long. Surprisingly, the church, built in 1954, was very much a latecomer to a long-established parish.

Even in the reign of Queen Victoria, the mining village of Backworth had a large Catholic community, served by priests from Annitsford, Willington Quay and North Shields. In 1882 Backworth became a ‘mission’ of St John’s, Annitsford, with Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am on alternate Sundays in a private house in Woodbine Terrace, Shiremoor.

After Bishop Bewicke authorised the establishment of a Parish of St Edmund in Backworth, Masses moved to ‘an old wooden erection kindly lent by the Colliery Company’. The community scrimped and saved and finally leased an acre of land from the Duke of Northumberland’s Estates on condition it was only for ‘religious purposes’. In 1884 a substantial ‘iron structure’ by Humphries of Knightsbridge costing £300 and accommodating 250 people was opened by Bishop Bewicke. The ‘Iron Church’ served for many years, and finally enough was raised for the more prepossessing St Edmund’s School in 1903, which after changes, additions and adaptations, lasted until 1981.

The fortunes of the village, and to an extent the parish, followed those of the coal industry for almost a hundred years from its foundation, enjoying some periods of high employment and prosperity interspersed with times of intense hardship. Conditions at the Algernon and Eccles collieries were always difficult; the Eccles was the deepest mine in the Northumberland coalfield at fourteen hundred and forty feet.

On Monday 5 April 1954 Bishop Joseph McCormack with fifty attendant priests in procession, opened the new church with its new name, Our Lady and St Edmund. The Bishop had ordered the name change because 1954 was the Holy Year of the Blessed Virgin and he felt the new church should be dedicated to her.

According to the report in that week's Whitley Bay and District Weekly Guardian, 500 packed the church which could seat 300 and 'Pitmen and other Catholic workers in Backworth switched shifts and forfeited bonuses to be present'. It further reported that the sermon was preached by Fr Harold Dommersen, Vice Rector of Minsteracres Monastery, praising the people of Backworth and this 'fine Romanesque building'. The report ends with the much less effusive 'It will not be consecrated until free of all debt.'

The parish flourished with weddings and baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations, and was also active with social evenings, garden parties and summer celebrations. The generosity of its charity donations became legendary. But these turned out to be the golden years.

More recently, church congregations have changed and parishes have had to adapt and reorganise to protect resources and reduce the strain on priests. In 2013 the three coastal parishes, St Edward's, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Our Lady and St Edmund, became Our Lady Star of the Sea parish, with Mgr Andrew Faley as first parish priest. Even with this, only Sunday attendance was sufficient to support a Mass at Backworth. The final blow was the closure of churches in the coronavirus epidemic. Our Lady and St Edmund's never re-opened, despite valiant and prolonged efforts to preserve it.

Bishop Stephen has now signed the Decree of Reduction to Secular Use and he will celebrate a final Mass of Thanksgiving and Closure there at 11.00am on Saturday 22 June.

We are delighted to learn that Rt Rev Paul Mason will concelebrate the Mass. He was baptised, received his First Communion and Confirmation there, and it is where he celebrated his first Mass. He was installed as Bishop to the Forces at the Roman Catholic Military Cathedral Church of St Michael & St George, Aldershot, on 12th September 2018.



Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

Parish Mass Times

St Edward's: Sunday 10.00am, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9.30am

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Wednesday, Friday 9.30am.

Erdesdon House

The story of my dolls' house. By Helen Jackman

7 - The Dining Room

Dining Room

This is my favourite of favourite rooms, a dining room I would love to have had, papered in deep Ruby with a deep golden frieze. Another bay window also with deep Ruby curtains and the inevitable potted aspidistra.

There are wall lights in this room together with a six-candle chandelier. The furniture consists of a chiffonier, refectory table and chairs, a serving table, a corner unit, and a comfy chair.

There's a very nice stone fireplace in this room with a mirror over the mantelpiece and as usual a nice fire and a coal scuttle at the side. Also, on the mantelpiece are miniature pictures of my parents' wedding, together with mine. In fact, on the wall above the serving table are miniature pictures of my grandparents and great grandparents.

There is also a small, framed tapestry and on another wall a Coat of Arms. In the chiffonier there are two Stokely teapots and in the corner unit there are ginger jars.

On the serving table there is a biscuit barrel and a locked(!) Tantalus containing spirits. On the refectory table there are two Cranberry glass candlesticks and a fruit bowl with miniature fruits.

There are two sets of silver knives and forks together with a toast rack and condiment set also made by Mr Sparrow, I don't know how he does it.

James and Florence are busy people but are always entertaining their friends and having dinner parties.

Next time Kitchen and (perhaps) the Garden Room.





St Alban's Church
Earsdon

St Alban's Summer Draw

Prizes

£100 CASH PRIZE		£25 - Voucher	Hermi Dog
Case 12 bottles wine	Barclays Bank	Deluxe Pedicure	Me Time
1 Week Leisure Pass	Village Hotel	£25 - Voucher	Nicholsons
Afternoon Tea for 2	1910 Steak & Champagne Bar	2 scented Candles	Request a Guest
Cooks Soup Maker - D9220		family swim + 3 Junior cards	Waves Swimming pool
5 * one day passes	JD Gyms - Northumberland Park	Breakfast Voucher for 2	Beefeater
5 * one day passes	JD Gyms - Northumberland Park	Hamper	Costa - Northumberland Park
Portrait (Pet, Baby, Person)	Pat Hugman	Vouchers - 2 x £10	De Meos ice cream
£40 Voucher	Marlow	£20 - Voucher	Dunelm
Forged Winter Gin		£20 - Gift Voucher	Francesca - Whitley Bay
Voucher - Cut and blow dry	Splinterz	£20 Gift Voucher	Garden Shop
Cooks Nutriblende 15 Piece Set		£20 Gift Voucher	Holystone Bar & Restaurant
Sanctuary Spa Gift Set		£20 Cinema Voucher	Jam Jar Cinema
SilverCrest Heated Electric Cushion		£20 Gift Voucher	Keelrow Books
Tefal Toaster TT812116		Voucher for 2 tickets	Odeon - Silverlink
Voucher - cut and blow dry	Saronyah Hair Design	Absolute Vodka	
Voucher - Meal	Kings Arms - Seaton Sluice	Fine Ruby Port	
Camera & Photo Album	Max Spellman	6 Junior Activity cards	Waves Swimming pool
1/2Hr Thai Massage & Statue	Yau	2 * entry vouchers	Acorn and Oak
£30 - Voucher	Beehive	£10 Voucher	129 Coffee Shop
Moon Lake Musk Diffuser	Meander	£10 - Voucher	Beacon
£30 - meal voucher	Pavilion	£10 - Voucher	Farmfoods - N'umberland. Pk
voucher - 2 course carvery lunch for 2	Red Lion	£10 - Voucher	Morrisons
Whitley Neill Parma Violet Gin		£10 - voucher	Pizza Hut - Silverlink
£25 Voucher - Beauty treatment	Azendo	£10 - voucher	Pizza Hut - Silverlink
£25 - meal voucher	Cannon Inn	2 Junior Swim + 2 Junior Activity Cards	Waves Swimming pool

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St Alban's Church
Earsdon

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 And came to the Fayre
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 That we'll soon get our loo

Congratulations
 We raised £1,750



From Ali Griffiths :

We had a fantastic morning at our **Anna Chaplains** event at Havelock Place in Backworth. It is a home that cares specifically for dementia sufferers and the staff at this facility do a brilliant job.

They even looked after us very well too.

We had some lovely ladies attend a morning of Hymns, Prayer, Crafts and Home Communion. We even had an impromptu singalong to some old time favourites.



And a massive Thank You goes to Sheila Lucas for making this happen, many blessings from Liz, Heather, Janet and I.



St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for June 2024

Sunday	2nd	<u>First after Trinity</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	9th	<u>Second after Trinity</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	16th	<u>Third after Trinity</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	23rd	<u>Fourth after Trinity</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	30th	<u>Fifth after Trinity</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

(Weekday services not yet clarified at time of going to print.)

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for June :

2nd

Mark 2.23-3.6

9th

Mark 3.20-end

16th

Mark 4.26-34

23rd

Mark 4. 35-end

30th

Mark 5. 21-end

Here is the hyperlink to the Newcastle Diocese newspaper,
THE LINK.

<https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/link-extra-june-2024-5-.pdf>

Check out page 9 - I will definitely be trying some of
Rev'd Tim's recommendations.

* If you have any suggestions, comments or requests *
* regarding the magazine, or for anyone thinking of *
* sending in their contribution for publication, please *
* email it to **magazine@StAlbansEarsdon.org.uk** *
* or call **Jean** on **0191 2377273**. *

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2					5			3
	9		6			7		
	5						4	
				8		3		
	3	7				2	6	
		1		9				
	2						3	
		6			4		9	
8			5					7

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (July) will need to be in before Wednesday 26th June. Thank you.

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All in the month of June.

It was ...

200 years ago, on 16th June 1824, that a London vicar, Arthur Broome, and some 22 of his friends, including the MPs William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner) met at Old Slaughters Coffee House to found the SPCA - the first national animal protection society in the world. By 1840 Queen Victoria had given permission for it to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

150 years ago, on 22nd June 1874, that the first lawn tennis sets went on sale in London. They included balls, racquets, a net, poles, court markers, and instructions. They were designed by Walter Clopton Wingfield, who is credited with having invented modern lawn tennis. Wimbledon began hosting international lawn tennis championships in 1877.

125 years ago, on 19th June 1899 that Anglo-Egyptian Sudan was established. It was granted independence in 1956 as the Republic of Sudan. South Sudan gained its independence in 2011. On 15th April 2023, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces

(RSF) in Sudan, resulting in the displacement of more than 8.6 million people. There are currently about 25 million people in need of aid in Sudan.

80 years ago, on 6th June 1944 that D-Day and the Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25th August. Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 7th June 1954 that Alan Turing, British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, and computer scientist died. Noted for his contributions to code-breaking during World War 2. Considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. Prosecuted for his homosexuality.

30 years ago, on 6th June 1994 that the highest individual score in first-class cricket was achieved. Brian Lara scored 501 not out while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. It is the only score of 500 or more in first-class cricket history.

15 years ago, on 25th June 2009 that Michael Jackson 'the King of Pop', American singer, songwriter, and dancer, died of an anaesthetic overdose, aged 50. His hit songs included *Thriller*, *Bad*, and *Black or White*.

WORDSEARCH

June 2024

Erasmus, patron saint of sailors

Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea. St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms. Legend has it that one day when Erasmus was preaching outside, a thunderbolt hit the ground right beside him. That might have distracted modern bishops, but not Erasmus – he just kept on preaching. His courage won him the respect of sailors, who made him their patron saint. Erasmus finally died during the Diocletian persecutions in 300AD, and his feast day is 2nd June.

Boats

Elmo

Fire

Light

Masthead

Storm

Sea

Fourth

Century

Bishop

Legend

Preaching

Thunder

Ground

Respect

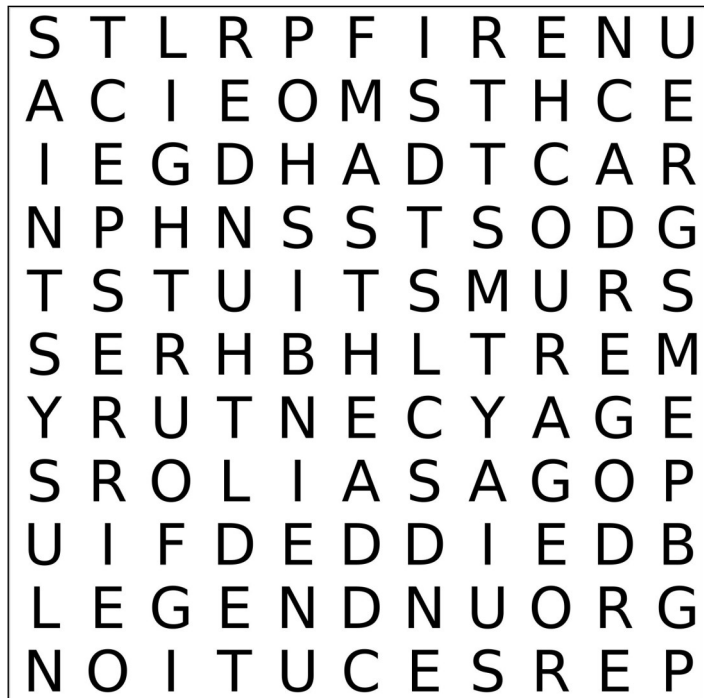
Courage

Sailors

Saints

Died

persecution



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St. John's Backworth:

Vicar

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Our Lady, Star of the Sea :

Parish Priest

Mgr. Andrew Faley

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