



SUNDAY 10 AUGUST 2025

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

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

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

19th Sunday of the Year (C) : Luke 12: 32-48

Zoe was tired. Exhausted would be more accurate. Working in A&E involved long and relentless hours listening, relating and responding. On her feet she covered miles every day. Familiar with crisis, with seeing bravery and seeing complaint from individuals in pain, she could write a book about human behaviour. After 12 hour shifts her family matters kick in, and so it goes on. Choosing to care for others is costly.

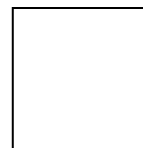
It's made no easier when people in ivory towers make decisions that add bureaucracy that steals from contact time with needy patients. We grouse about our imperfect world and its imperfect people expecting perfection.

Jesus entered our world of inequality, injustice and unfairness and revealed a God who serves. In today's Gospel story, Peter asks our question for us – Is this teaching and example meant for us all to copy? Like us, Peter was still learning. Jesus paints an attractive picture – that if we honour the trust that God has in us, if we are found ready to respond whenever the unexpected happens, then the Father waits on us and serves us at his table. But, like Zoe, the calls on our time and experience come through the messy demands of others' needs.

The Gospel is not an extra, an add-on to our personal wishes and preferences, but the blueprint of a different mindset that re-writes our diaries and aspirations. Jesus believes in us. We are carriers of God's Spirit of love. Our days and nights are classrooms creating insight and reminding us that as the Lord has invested much in each of us, we are bidden to care for each other in his name. I often feel God's trust in us is huge and it's daring. Doing nothing is not an option.

We can be downhearted at the world's precarious state, angry at what appears to be growing intolerance and selfishness. We may feel that we're in the minority, that what we're able to do is too small. Jesus tells us not to be afraid. The Father delights in giving us the Kingdom, God dwelling within us to empower and sustain us in loving and working for the common good. As Jesus teaches us, we have to teach his values consistently to ourselves, using all we've been given to make a difference.

In a time of detailed regulations, algorithms, targets and statistics, can we emphasise our common humanity, our need for one another, for encouragement and belief in each other? Being givers rather than takers, emotionally intelligent and spending time with one another, in sharing what we have we can be constantly surprised at what we can learn from listening. Zoe told me so.



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Another Word from Pope Francis

The principle of the maximisation of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy. As long as production is increased, little concern is given to whether it is at the cost of future resources or the health of the environment; as long as the clearing of a forest increases production, no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. In a word, businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the costs involved. Yet only when the economic and social costs of using up shared environmental resources are recognised with transparency and fully borne by those who incur them, not by other peoples or future generations, can those actions be considered ethical. An instrumental way of reasoning, which provides a purely static analysis of realities in the service of present needs, is at work whether resources are allocated by the market or by state central planning.

♦ *Laudato Si—Para 195*