



SUNDAY 15 JANUARY 2023

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

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

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## ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

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### 2nd Sunday of the Year (A): John 1:29-34

Auguste Rodin, the renowned 19th century French sculptor created a superb figure of John the Baptist - it's a man standing and pointing. It was John's job. Stay close because it's ours as well.

Over the years individuals have pointed out, told us about or introduced us to people who have shaped our thinking, our values and our world view. We may perhaps be able to identify only a few of these formative influences. We learn from others how to live - we are selective in what we choose to accept and make our own, adapting, tweaking and re-inventing received ideas and experience.

John the Baptist points out Jesus as the one who takes away the sin of the world. But John in his turn, had had it pointed out to him - 'he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me'... When you stop to think we've all had lots pointed out to us and we point out things and people to others. I've met people, read books, watched films, listened to music and visited places because of recommendations from others. We've all done the same.

John is open and honest. He didn't know Jesus' significance until he was told and he's passed it on. No need to be shy. We need to pass it on too. What we know, or think we know of Jesus, we must pass on. It's tempting to imagine that we're not well equipped to do this, that there are others who do it better. Forget that. This is a requirement. We must hand on what we've received. It's how things work.

The interaction of the Apostles with those they met and spoke with was crucial. Those people told others who also told others and on and on until others told me and I'm telling you and you'll tell..... you get the message? It's what we call tradition - the business of handing on - we get the word 'trade' from the same activity. If experience, information and talent is not shared then life stops.

Each of us is giving out signals all the time of what we've understood of the Lord and his command to love one another. Your witness is important. Please feel important and take care of how you come across. A lot depends on it. Thanks.



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### **Pope Francis talking about prayer**

Prayer, because it is nourished by the gift of God present and at work in our lives, must always be marked by remembrance. The memory of God's works is central to the experience of the covenant between God and his people. God wished to enter history, and so our prayer is interwoven with memories. We think back not only on his revealed Word, but also on our own lives, the lives of others, and all that the Lord has done in his Church. This is the grateful memory that Saint Ignatius of Loyola refers to in his *Contemplation for Attaining Love*, when he asks us to be mindful of all the blessings we have received from the Lord.

Think of your own history when you pray, and there you will find much mercy. This will also increase your awareness that the Lord is ever mindful of you; he never forgets you. So it makes sense to ask him to shed light on the smallest details of your life, for he sees them all.

- *Rejoice and be Glad*, para 153