

4th Sunday in Lent Year B - 14th March 2021



Come out into the light

Towards the end of our Gospel reading, John makes a link between light and darkness and good and evil. Light is associated with good, and darkness, with evil. John's Gospel, often refers to Jesus as light, and today's Gospel proclaims that the light that has come into the world in the person of Jesus, is the light of God's love. The light of God's love, could not have been brighter, than the moment when Jesus was lifted up on the cross. God's expression of his love for us, found further expression, when God raised Jesus from the dead, and gave him to us as the risen Lord. Here indeed, is a light that darkness cannot overcome, a love that human sin cannot extinguish.

When we go through difficult times in our lives, we often say to people: *"I can't see the light at the end of the tunnel"*. However, when we feel that we are in the dark and have been for some time, we should reflect on the words at the beginning of John's Gospel: *"A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* Jesus who is the light of the world can heal and restore us, and will journey with us from darkness into light.

We are all called to be *'people of the light'*. By doing so, we bring the light of God's love to those whom we meet. The words of today's Gospel should encourage us to live by the truth and come out into the light. We should be encouraged by the words at the end of today's Gospel: *"The man who lives by the truth, comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen, that what he does, is done by God!"*

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)
502196

Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

Website: www.pontoppartnership.org.uk

Facebook: Pontop Partnership

GENERAL NOTICES AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP

Resumption of Daily Public Masses: Now that the government has started to ease the latest national lockdown, after receiving feedback from parishioners who would like a greater number of public Masses to be available, and after consulting with the volunteers who help us to maintain the required standards of health and safety for this to be viable, Fr. John and Fr. Tom have decided that the time has come to resume daily public Masses at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's.

Effective from Monday the 15th of March, the Mass schedule will be as follows:

Monday: 10am Mass at St. Patrick's.

Tuesday: 10am Mass at St. Patrick's and 6:30pm Mass at St. Mary's.

Wednesday: 10am Mass at St. Mary's.

Thursday: 10 am Mass at St. Mary's and 6:30pm Mass at St. Patrick's.

Friday: 10am Mass at St. Patrick's and 6:30pm Mass at St. Mary's.

Periods of private prayer will be available after the morning services as was customary before the lockdown. It should also be noted that there may be some changes in the regular schedule from week to week depending on the priests' other commitments such as funeral services and the like. Parishioners should always check the published Mass sheet in any given week.

All our weekend Masses will continue as they have even during the latest lockdown.

It should be noted that, just because the lockdown is starting to ease, this does not mean that we can afford at this time to ease off on any of the precautions that we have been taking to prevent the spread of COVID 19. It is vital that all parishioners should continue: 1) to book in advance for the Masses they plan to attend; 2) should sanitise their hands upon entering and leaving the church building; 3) should wear masks (covering both mouth and nose) while indoors unless they are medically exempt; and 4) should maintain social distancing from anyone not in their bubble at all times both inside and outside the church building. When the government gives us clearance to reduce any of these conditions, we will let you know. Until then, please continue to support us in keeping everyone as safe as possible.

To enable the cleaners to know which seats have been occupied at mass and will therefore need cleaning afterwards, please pick up a red 'Seat Occupied Card' from the Stewards and place it where you are sitting.

It is therefore IMPORTANT that people DO NOT congregate outside of church at any time, and especially after services. All funerals are private and should only be attended at the request of the family. Gatherings of groups of people outside are not allowed.

Volunteers wanted! We still need new volunteers especially for cleaning please contact either Fr. John or Fr. Tom if you are able to help.

Online Resources during Lockdown: During these times when many of our churches are closed there are online resources available, including Masses and prayer services being streamed. Here are just a few examples: St Patrick's, Consett, Sunday morning - 9.30am which can be viewed live on the Pontop Partnership Facebook page and is archived on the Pontop Partnership Youtube channel.

You can also access live streamed masses on:

The Youtube channel of the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle upon Tyne https://youtube.com/channel/UC12EvW0Eqg-cFTh5i2y_EQw

Sky TV/Freesat/Amazon Fire/Apple tv: for EWTN Network which can be accessed by tv and radio daily and includes live streams from the Vatican.

Mass by phone: to listen to Mass from Middlesbrough over the phone, call: 01642 130120.

To Our Catholic Universe And Catholic Times Readers In The Parish: at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, Post Free. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722

Key Holders: can we ask that you don't come into church other than for mass or private prayer as the church has been cleaned and we must avoid any contamination.

Easter Services: The Booking Line to book a place will be open from Monday 15th March Telephone 07907369233

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - Holy Thursday

7.00pm - St Patrick's and 7.00pm - St Mary's

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion - Good Friday

3.00pm - St Patrick's 3.00pm - St Mary's

3.00pm St Pius 3.00pm - Our Lady and St Joseph's

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil

7.00pm - St Patrick's and 7.00pm - St Mary's

Easter Sunday

9.30am - St Patrick's 9.30am - St Mary's

11.00am - St Pius 11.00am - Our Lady and St Joseph's

St Mary's News

Lately Deceased: John Mordue. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: Will burn in Loving Memory of Frank Bradley.

260 Club: Thank you to all who supported our 300 club 2020. 2021 fees now due £12 per year per number, cheques payable to St Mary's Blackhill. Cheques and cash can be given to Jimmy.

February Winners: £20 (175) - J Young, £10 (130) - T McAlister, £10 (208) - M Oliver, £10 (202) - M Waby, £10 (141) - TH.

SVP phone no: 07821601684. Thank you for your support. If you or anyone you know need support from the SVP please give us a ring.

St Patrick's News

Lately Deceased: Alice McCourt. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Sudan Feeding Station: Sudan Feeding Station: The collection for the SVP Sudan Feeding Station to date has raised £2,178. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Diocesan News

Lourdes: Many of you will be waiting for announcements with regards to our annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. As you will all appreciate, we are still living in such difficult and uncertain times. The safety of ALL who travel to Lourdes must be our priority when making any decisions about our annual Pilgrimage in 2021. Fr. Watson and Fr. Humble are in regular contact with other Pilgrimage Directors and organisations such as Tangney Tours who are helping them to decide upon the safest course of action moving forward. Many thanks for your support and understanding at this difficult time.

Since our last pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2019 sadly we have lost several members of our pilgrimage family. Let us remember them in our prayers. 'Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them, may they rest in peace. Amen'.

Resources for Lent in Hexham & Newcastle Diocese: This year during Lent, we are considering what it means to be Missionary Disciples. Reflecting on our calling to 'Go and make disciples', the Vicariate for Faith & Mission has worked with Clergy and Laity to produce daily reflections that offer support as you reflect on the readings for the day. The Lenten Daily Reflections are now available on the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese website at <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/faithandmission/prayerlentresources.php> to view, read, download and print. The Youth Mission Team has produced 'Wait a Minute – It's Lent' videos, which will be available to watch on their [YouTube channel](#)

Other News

The National Novena to St Joseph: will take place from 10th- 18th March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Saturday, 13 March at 10am, Sunday, 14 March at 11.00am, Monday –Thursday (15-18 March) at 7.30pm. If you are unable to attend but would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet.

You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email novenamhm@gmail.com.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Eric George Tucker, Martin Rogan, Joseph Richardson, Terry Akers, Joseph Fullen, Henry Waggott, Mary Ann Brady, John Joseph McCoy, Charles William Featherstone, Hilda Garvin, Paul Whaley, Elizabeth Sedgewick, Maureen McDermott, Paul Brown, Frank O'Keefe, Cannon Joseph Lawrence Hollis, Mary Irving, William Begg, Mary Copeland, Catherine Hart, Peter Francis Clarke, Helen Veitch, Sheila Lysaght, Robert Sewell, Mary Ann Corr, Elizabeth McAleer, Mary Catherine Dodd, Mary Ward, Mary Teresa Shortt, Molly Marshall, Michael Smith.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Neil McKie (snr), Desmond McNally and Alice Bell.

St. Patrick's: Rose Ann Carlin, Catherine Campbell, Mollie Smith, Theresa Jackson, John Paul Walls, Patricia Osbourne, Kathleen Johnson, Bill Crowther, Peter Davidson, Agnes Allardice, Patrick Gallacher, Michael McNally, Anthony Robson, John Robert McArdle, Tony Gallagher, Susan Boyle, Michael Jones, Charles Edwin Clark, Kathleen Veronica McNally, Joan Readman, Patricia Beattie and Lee John Wiles.

St. Pius: James Bartrope, Peter Francis Clarke, John Henry Glasgow, Timothy Hurn, Mrs Martin, Maureen Quinn, John Slane, Jack Steel and Helen Veitch

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Andrew Farley

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISH

We keep in our prayers:

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Tilly Lockey, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Norman Riches, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Joan Kennedy, Tom Slane, Tony Quinn, Julianne Kennedy, John Winch, Eileen Haughey, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, David Oliver, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross and Simon Quinn.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reilly, Judith Hindmarsh, Nora Robson, Veronica Naisbett, Geraldine Donnelly and Michael Shaw.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Ann Hodgson, Paul Hunt, Nancy Malone, Gerry McArdle, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell and Jade Telford.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson.

**POPE FRANCIS – PRAYER TO MARY FOR PROTECTION DURING THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated
in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.
You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide,
so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:
He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –
and deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin

Partnership Prayer

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.
As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede
may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth:
to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.
We pray in trustful confidence
that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen