

## 5th Sunday of Easter - Year B - 2nd May 2021



### Paul – An example of God’s influence changing lives.

Saul, declared that “I once thought it was my duty to use every means possible to oppose the name of Jesus the Nazarene. This I did in Jerusalem; I myself threw many of the saints into prison, acting on authority of the Chief Priests, and when they were sentenced to death I cast my vote against them, my fury against them was so extreme that I even pursued them into foreign cities” Paul went out of his way to persecute Christians but met God went out of his way to confront his persecutor.

Today’s first reading is of Paul’s preaching getting him into trouble in Damascus so he headed to Jerusalem to join with the disciples: they were afraid of him, this was the man who had signed the death warrants of many of their friends and fellow Christians, they could not believe that he now was a disciple of the man whose memory he had tried to eradicate. However, after listening to Barnabas he was accepted and went about preaching “fearlessly in the name of the Lord”. Paul was preaching the same message as the Apostles: Jesus Christ had risen from the dead and freed everyone from the slavery of sin, Paul himself being a perfect living example.

Jesus is risen and his place in the world is in his people, he is part of us. He is present in a special way to his disciples and to anyone who accepts him as Lord and God. We all have a special relationship with him described in today’s gospel as that of a vine, it’s branches and the vine dresser. It tells us that to be a disciple of Christ we must not be separated from the vine, Jesus himself, in order to bear fruit and prosper. Like Paul, it is not too late to change and become part of that vine.

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Website: [www.pontoppartnership.org.uk](http://www.pontoppartnership.org.uk)

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## GENERAL NOTICES AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP

The Rosary During the Month of May: Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary daily during the month of May for the intention of the end to the Pandemic. On Saturday 1st May there was a special celebration for the same intention at the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Continuing on from this, English Catholics particularly, are encouraged to pray the Rosary as a way of joining and uniting in that celebration.

Bookings for weekday Masses: It is still a legal requirement that we have a full contact tracing list before people begin to gather for any public service in any of our places of worship. Our clergy have noted that, particularly since the resumption of daily public Masses, a lot of people have been turning up without pre-booking, we need to stress that pre-booking is **not** optional. If we admit people to services who have not booked, that is supposed to be an exception rather than the norm. If this trend of people turning up without booking continues, we will have to review our policy about whether or not people who have not booked will be admitted under any circumstances.

Requiem Masses and Funeral Services: At the present time, the attendance at these services continues to be strictly capped, and all of these are considered private services rather than public services. It is therefore up to those family members of the deceased person who are organising the services to determine who is or is not invited to attend. The fact that we may list these services publicly on the Mass sheet does not mean that these services are now open to other people. We do this strictly so that those who are prevented from attending because of the restrictions are still able to take part in a spiritual communion of sorts with those who are at the services by praying privately at home at the appropriate time. We are aware that some people might like to come to the Church and congregate outside as a mark of respect, but, again, at the present time, gatherings of people from separate households, even in an outdoor setting, are legally prohibited. Our parishes are liable to fines and potentially other penalties if people are gathering on our property in defiance of the law. Please do **not** come if you are not one of those 30 people allowed to enter the Church building for the funeral.

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

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

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](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.

St Pius X Foundation Governors Vacancies: Vacancies exist for Foundation Governors at St. Pius X Junior School, The Grove. Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop

specifically to preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school and must be practising Catholics. If you are interested and want to know more please contact the school on 01207 503604

Enjoy Summer 2021 on Holy Island with the SVP Ozanam Camp: The SVP have been successfully running summer camps for children on beautiful Holy Island ever since 1954 through many years of changing trends. While originally the children and most helpers occupied tents, they now occupy a purpose built permanent camp, while kitchen and caretaking staff occupy a much improved and much more comfortable Lindisfarne house. It's not just the buildings that have changed because although the camps were originally set for boys, camps for girls were started in the 1980s and from this summer, the SVP will be running mixed camps for the first time. For summer 2021 we are particularly looking for kitchen and caretaking staff for the six summer weeks starting from Saturday 24th July. Joining our friendly team of volunteers is easy so investigate what's involved on [www.svpholyislandcamp.co.uk](http://www.svpholyislandcamp.co.uk) and if you're interested follow the 'volunteer thread'. If you would like to discuss it with someone, then call Peter on 07561190396. Thorough training will be given, and we look forward to welcoming you to the team.

Friends of the Holyland: Palestinian Christians continue to suffer great economic hardship through the effects of Covid and the total lack of tourism in places like Bethlehem where the unemployment rate has reached 70%. School fees alone cost £60-250 per month with no State aid available. The distance from Bethlehem to Nazareth is 84 miles and Mark McNally proposes to cover this distance before Pentecost through a mixture of running-cycling-swimming. Donations to support these efforts can be made either through gift-aid envelopes located at the back of St Patrick's and St Mary's Churches or directly via the website [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate) Many thanks.

### **St Mary's News**

Collection: Northern Brethren Fund - Open until 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Lately Deceased: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Dawson.

Important Notice: for the time being ALL outdoor gatherings are restricted to no more than six people and from no more than two households. This includes funerals and any other meetings on Church grounds. Also, it's worth noting that, if people break the rules, the police may fine them personally and/or hold the parish responsible. In order that you are not caught breaking the rules please leave the premises immediately after Mass.

Legion of Mary: During the Pandemic the 'Legion of Mary' magazines will only be published in June and October this year. The June issue will be a commemorative one.

Memorial Stones: Anyone wishing to purchase a memorial Stone in memory of a loved one please give information in writing, The name for the memorial stone and also the Name, address and phone number of the contact person. Please place in an envelope and either put it through St Mary's Door or hand it to Joe Anderson.

260 Club winners for April: £20 - (225), J Welsh, £10 - (211), T Moran, £10 - (32), D Balmor, £10 - (121), F Cox, £10 - (161), A Reather.

More Volunteers Needed! Once again, Fr. Tom would like to extend sincere thanks to all of our stewards, cleaners and other volunteers for everything they've been doing to help keep St. Mary's open during the pandemic. Those who are helping with organising the weekly rotas have made us aware that all our existing volunteers tend to be on duty at least once a week and that some people are on even more frequently. We don't want to place too many demands on this group, but as the restrictions are (hopefully) progressively eased in the coming months, it is an unavoidable truth that we will probably **need** even more help.

According to the government's present 'roadmap', 'life cycle' events like Baptisms and First Holy Communions will be allowed to resume, as well as Weddings with up to 30 guests, from 17th May. And we have quite a backlog to work through, so it may be a very busy time. It would be hugely helpful if we could recruit some additional volunteers. If you are not already volunteering, and if you think you could potentially help out as a steward and/or a cleaner, please do get in touch with Fr. Tom as soon as possible. Even if your availability might be limited to particular days and/or times, we will try to accommodate that.

### **St Patrick's News**

Recently Deceased: Bridie McWilliams. We pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Gift Aid New Mass Envelopes: The envelopes for the new financial year are now available. They can be collected at the back of church on Sunday and Monday after the morning Mass. They will continue to be available for the next few weeks. Please **DO NOT** use any of your old envelopes after the 28th March. Please save your donations until you have your new envelopes. If you wish to set up a standing order for your donation the bank details for St Patrick's are Sort Code 40-34-18 Account Number 01163817. Thank you.

### **Our Lady and St Joseph's News**

Sudan Feeding Station: The collection for the SVP Sudan Feeding Station to date has raised £2,247. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*'My Jesus I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you, never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.'*

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Thomas Hannah, Mary Gallie, Agnes Shannon, Alma Hanley, Robert Nixon, Michael Joseph Dick, Theophilus Joseph Steele, James Reilly, Winifred Shannon, Lawrence Brannigan, Joseph Grugan, Peter Comiskey, Suzanne Jameson, Francis O'Hagan, Joseph h Bradley, Joyce Donaghue, Michael Nicholson, John Grimes, James Conney.

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

St. Patrick's: Rose Campbell, Cathy Page, Albert Huntley, John Thomas Askew, Margaret Page, Ernest Gill, Peter Killeen, Vincent Page, Margaret McCann, Audrey Kennedy, Peter Hughes, Veronica McKenna, Norah Ward, Kevin McCurley, Teresa Adams, David Stobbs, Hayden Coyle, Jean Cartmel, Kathleen Finnegan.

St. Pius: Emily Bennet and Robert (Bobby) Nixon.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Mary E. Suddick, Robert Fountain, Jack Appleby.

## **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