



The Trinity – A Mystery of Love

We begin all our prayers by saying ‘In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’ We are not just calling on God the Father, we are not just calling upon Jesus the Son, nor are we just calling upon the Holy Spirit. Instead, we are calling upon the *fullness* of God, the perfect relationship of love that is the Holy Trinity.

When Jesus was with his disciples he tried to teach them about who he really was. He talked about his Father in heaven, he talked about himself as the Son and talked about going back to heaven and sending us the Holy Spirit. At the time it was far too much for the disciples to grasp, too much of a mystery.

Only after his death and resurrection did the disciples begin to grasp that Jesus is truly the Son of God. And when the Holy Spirit came down upon them at Pentecost they began to see that God is Three in One – Father, Son and Spirit, living from eternity in perfect love and unity.

The Holy Trinity is a mystery of our faith and it can be puzzling, like it was for the disciples. But today is not a day to worry about maths, numbers or numerical puzzles. We come to understand the Trinity much better by living it, like the disciples did. By our sharing in the life and prayer of the Church, we enter into the love of the three Persons of the Trinity, as Jesus invites us to do, and we allow the Spirit to lead us to the complete truth.

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
502320

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Deacon David Westgarth *Deacon Shaun McGee* *Deacon Chris Callan*

GENERAL NOTICES AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESE

Increased Capacity in Our Churches: At the moment the regulation on social distancing requires that a reduced capacity exist in all churches. However, the latest government roadmap advises that after the 17th May we should reassess our Covid secure numbers. This is in the light of the lower number of Covid cases and the widespread number of people who have been vaccinated.

We are in the process of assessing an increase in the number of people who may attend church per Mass. This can be achieved by cutting our current safety margin from two blocked off pews between active seats down to just one blocked off pew while still maintaining a safe 2m distance between individuals. Therefore, from next weekend (29th and 30th May) there will be increased capacity in churches in the Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate and Moorside areas. In our larger buildings this will mean an increase of up to 30 more spaces per Mass. Exact capacity details to follow in next week's newsletter. St Patrick's will increase to 70, Our Lady and St Joseph (Brooms) will increase to 70, St Pius will increase to 40 and St Mary's to 70.

Bookings For 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 Mass and Funeral Services: At the present time, the attendance at these services continues to be capped according to the capacity of the church, 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.

Consett Incinerator ProposalL: Have Your Say: As many of our local residents will already be aware, the County Council is currently considering a proposal to build an incinerator at Hownsgill Park. For more information, and an opportunity to let our representatives know what you think: 1) you can view the proposal at publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications; and 2) any comments may be sent by email to planning@durham.gov.uk.

Novena To Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour: The Novena to Our Lady, which has been suspended since the pandemic began will resume at 7pm on Friday's at St Patrick's Consett. The first service will take place on Friday 28th May. All are welcome, there is no need to book but contact details will be taken.

Friends of the Holy Land: 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.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/donate Many thanks. All the faithful in our parishes are invited to join the mother Church of Jerusalem in the prayer of intercession for peace and justice in the Holy Land. Please be united in prayer at 7 pm every evening. Current donations collected amount to £311 with a further £130 online. A 'thank you' video from young people in Bethlehem and Gaza can be viewed at www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk where donations can continue to be made up to 30 June. Recent events in the Holy Land clearly demonstrate the need for ongoing support to enable young people to remain in full-time education and secure their future against increasing odds.

[Have you ever considered becoming a teacher and sharing your passion?](#) You can inspire the next generation and become a teacher with Carmel Teacher Training Partnership. Considered an Outstanding provider by Ofsted (2018), CTTP work with 6 lead schools throughout the North East of England, successfully training Primary (5-11) and Secondary (11-16) teachers in many subject areas. You could also qualify for bursaries and funding to support your course. Read more about the CTTP on their website www.carmelteachertraining.com

[Minsteracres re-opening - Volunteers Wanted:](#) If you would like to share your skills or learn new ones, meet new people or simply help us provide our unique service please check us out at www.minsteracres.org or email:info@minsteracres.org for more information.

St Mary's News

[Collection:](#) Lay Training Fund - open until 20th June.

[Meeting For Eucharistic Ministers:](#) The Bishops Conference has authorised the resumption of Communion visits to the housebound under certain conditions. Fr. Tom would like to meet with as many of our Eucharistic ministers as possible for St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary to discuss this matter. The meeting will be in the church at Blackhill on Wednesday 2nd June at 6pm. (Masks are compulsory.) Please try to attend if possible.

[First Holy Communions:](#) Please pray for the children as they prepare to receive the most Blessed Sacrament on Saturday.

[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. Names by end of June please.

[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. All our existing volunteers tend to be on duty at least once a week and some people help even more frequently. We don't want to place too many demands on this group, so it would be hugely helpful if we could recruit some additional

volunteers. If you aren't already involved and 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.

300 Club Winners: £20 (176) J McCrory, £10 (111) A Jenkins, £10 (144) Mrs Ayton, £10 (42) P Nugent, £10 (145) G Golightly.

St Patrick's News

Holy Face Prayer Group: The Holy Face Prayer Group has recommenced on Tuesday evenings, in church, from 6pm onwards. For further details telephone 01207 506425. the latest Holy Face Youtube video link is:- <https://youtube/55Plmlkt38>

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.

Missio - Red Boxes: Amount collected £309.67. Many thanks for your continued support.

St Pius News

Rosary Hour at St Pius X Moorside: 6pm to 7pm Monday 24th May & Monday 31st May Pope Francis has called on us to pray the Rosary this May to invoke an end to the pandemic and the resumption of social and work-related activities. Please join us together in praying with the whole Church. No booking required but we do have a safety limit and social distancing restrictions apply.

Missio - Red Boxes: Amount collected £203.42. Many thanks for your continued support.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Sudan Feeding Station: The collection for the SVP Sudan Feeding Station to date has raised £2,299. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Missio - Red Boxes: Amount collected - £951.00. Many thanks for your continued support.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Mary Campbell, Josephine Toner, John (Jack) Grey, Daniel Robinson, Keith Kennedy, Margaret Jones, Robert S Bell, Thomas Jerome Bell, John Aitchison, John Corr, Ann Hagan, Eunice Shaw, Robert Black, Geoffrey Neasham, Patricia Healey, Amelia Murphy, Father Austin Arthurs.

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

St. Patrick's: Jim Crozier, Rose Mary Moran, Roy Garvin, Ann Wall, Jerome Hillas, Patrick McNicholas, Michael Pearson, Vera Teasdale, Margaret Haggarth, Teresa Clark, Christopher Langdon, Agnes Fowler, Frances Ann Sloane, Mary Murray, Ned Joyce, Mary Graham, Jason Peter Thorpe, Charlotte Irwin, Martin Young, William Miller, James Edward Hunter.

St. Pius: Vincent Armstrong, Ken Carter, Thomas McNestry and Nicky Towns

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, 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

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.'

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