

Mary the Mother of God - Year A - 1st January 2023

Annfield Plain - St. Teresa, Blackhill - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Brooms - Our Blessed Lady & St. Joseph,

the Rosary, Stanley, St Joseph



Byermoor - Sacred Heart,

Consett - St. Patrick, Dipton - St. Patrick, Moorside - St. Plus X, Lanchester - All Saints, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Today's solemnity reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. Therefore, our ideal motto for the New Year 2023 should be *"Through Mary to Jesus!"* This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is also Mother of the Church, because she is our spiritual mother — and we are the Church.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI instituted the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. In his encyclical on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Marialis Cultus*, he wrote: *"This celebration, assigned to January 1st in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the holy Mother ... through whom we were found worthy ... to receive the Author of life."*

The solemnity shows the relationship of Jesus to Mary. The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasise the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. We commemorate the various saints on different days of the year, but Mary is the most prominent of them all. She has a special role and mission given to her by God. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as Queen at the side of Christ the King. She is a powerful intercessor for all of our needs here on earth. In celebrating her special feast day, we acknowledge this great gift for the Church and the world; we call on her to be actively involved in our daily life; we imitate her virtuous life as a great inspiration; and we cooperate with all the graces we receive through her.

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)
01207-502320

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)
01207-502196

Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

General Notices Around the Partnership

Christmas Wishes: Fr. John, Fr. Tom and our parish deacons would like to wish all our parishioners a very happy and holy Christmas season and a blessed and joyous New Year! We have a wonderful Catholic Community here in the Consett area, and indeed throughout the Pontop Partnership, and we feel both blessed and privileged to serve you. As we always do at this time of year, we would like to thank all the people who do so much to assist us with various ministries and jobs. There's always so much to do that it would be impossible for us to meet the standards we aim for without all the help that's so generously given, most of it on a completely voluntary basis. You all know who you are. These words aren't really sufficient to express our feelings, but please accept them as a token of deep gratitude.

Obligation to Attend Sunday Mass: We understand that there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully, tel: 01388 818544/ 0191 3332183. Please telephone the chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit.

Consultation on Admissions Arrangements for St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Lanchester, 2024-25: Schools in the Diocese are proposing some changes to their admissions arrangements for 2024-25. Where changes to admissions arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. The proposed policies for 2024-25 can be found in the policy section of the school website. The consultation period will run from 5 December 2022 to 27 January 2023. A consultation response form is available by request from the school, if you wish to submit comments for consideration.

CAFOD: The church relies on people getting involved. Our church, our world needs you. Could your New Year's resolution be getting more involved in the life of our church? What aspects of church brings you life or joy? Could you give a bit of time to help those parts flourish?

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in your parish, bringing people together to help build a better world or by visiting local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the diocese? Could you support local volunteers or share your office skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with mmaughan@cafod.org.uk

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and all the best this New Year!

Parish Boundaries: The Diocesan Boundaries Committee has made its recommendations with regards to the boundaries for each parish in the Diocese and Bishop Robert has now issued the decrees establishing these boundaries. Please find the decree and map posted on the notice

board at the back of the church. If you wish you can check the new boundary maps online on the link as follows <https://diocesehn.org.uk/parishes-partnerships/parish-boundaries>

The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL): are an ecumenical Charity whose purpose is to support Palestinian Christians through prayer and financially through the promotion of self-help practical schemes 'on the ground' . These are the indigenous Christians who can trace their roots back to the time of Jesus and are concentrated in the Bethlehem area. They are a minority who receive little, if any help from the civilian authorities . Please pray for them and give generously through the retiring collection at all Christmas masses. FHL prayer cards are available at the back of the church. Please take as many as are needed .

St. Mary's News

Collections: This week - Friends of the Holy Land.

Legion of Mary: Will say the Rosary and Legion Prayers on Tuesday Evenings at 6pm.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound since the lockdown, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

Sanctuary Candle: will burn In Loving Memory of Frank Bradley.

CAFOD: would like to say thank you for the monies received from the recent Family Fast collection which totalled £522.03.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Friends of the Holy Land.

Recently Deceased: Peter Crinnion please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Divine Mercy Devotions: The Divine Mercy Devotions are held every Thursday at 3pm.

People's Kitchen: The People's Kitchen supports homeless and vulnerable people and helps fight hunger and loneliness for locals in need. Your donations can be deposited in the cream urn at the back of the church.

Food4u Collection: We are collecting for the Food4u food bank helping local people who are in difficulty. Ideal foods are jars of sandwich spreads, tins of meat such as chilli, curry, steak, mince, custard, tinned vegetables, mens toiletries, There are boxes at the back of church and in the church hall.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Friends of the Holy Land.

Thank you: to the family and friends of Teresa Tate for the sum of £70 for The People's Kitchen.

People's Kitchen: Thank you for your continued donations of coppers and small change which is forwarded to the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. Your donations can be deposited in the named tin at the back of the church.

St Pius X News

Collection: This week - Friends of the Holy Land.

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45 - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary Hour: Monday 30th January at 6pm

Consultation on Admissions Arrangements for St Pius X Catholic School, The Grove, 2024-25:

Schools in the Diocese are proposing some changes to their admissions arrangements for 2024-25. Where changes to admissions arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. A copy has been placed on the noticeboard at St. Pius X Church, Moorside. The consultation period will run from 5 December 2022 to 27 January 2023. A consultation response form is available by request from the school, if you wish to submit comments for consideration.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week - Friends of the Holy Land.

CAFOD: would like to say thank you for the monies received from the recent Family Fast collection which totalled £164.02

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Dora Munroe, Bridget Hedley, Kathleen Lammond, Herbert D Rosario, Geraldine Hird, Michael Lydon, Marjery Elizabeth Green, Teresa Bell, Patrick White, Rita Parisi, Bridget Rafferty, Marie Ellerington, Hilda Watson, Catherine Murphy, Margaret Hogg, Stephen Clark, James Francis McGuigan, Helen Young, Edna May Rutter, Martin Murray, Charles Alderdice, Winifred Mallon, Alan Birtly, Peter Lammond, Anne Doran, Catherine Reather, Michael Curran, Mytanwy Joyce Jay

St. Patrick's: Joseph Hughes, Kathleen Winter, Veronica Sheekey, Alice Dyer, James McCourt, Michael Glancy, Paul Testo, Frederick Panting, Mary Wass, Joe Hegarty, Paul McCourt, Jennifer Enne, Louisa Maughan, Cathy Panting, Joseph Butler, Mary Elizabeth Ridley, Mary Whitfield, Margaret Carter, Margaret (McNally) Million, Colin Gibson, John O'Hanlon, Mary Curran, Anne McInnes, Winifred Callon, Barbara Ann Quinn, Margaret Thompson, Barbara Raw.

St Pius: Rosemary Brady, Colin Embleton Jnr., Kathleen Lamond, Peter Lamond, Michael Lydon, Catherine Renwick.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Edward Grogan, Anthony Fountain, Joseph Liddel Snr. Gerard McCabe, Doreen Peveller, Thomas Williamson

Our Lady of the Rosary: Margaret Mary Nicholson, Elizabeth Bowery, Mark Bradley, Michael Healey, Terry Bowery, Maureen McKie, William Hannah, Michael Baker, Fr. James Burke

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Tom Slane, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Ged Hester, Terry Curran, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Catelyn Howe.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reilly, Judith Hindmarsh, Nora Robson, Geraldine Donnelly, Andrew Bates, Patrick Lynch, Jean Walls, Seamus Doran, Gerard Harpin.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Derek Hicks, Paul Hunt, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell, Jade Telford, Keith Elliott, Billy Glasgow.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson, Elizabeth Foreman.

Pope Francis – For The Ukraine

O God, In this time of violence. We call on you to draw near.
Draw near to the people of Ukraine.
Draw near to the terrified children.
Draw near to the terrified parents.
Draw near to those who have nowhere to go.
Draw near to the elderly, the infirm,
the disabled, the displaced, the orphans.
Draw near to the caregivers and aid workers
Draw near to the helpers.
Draw near. Draw near. Draw near.
In this time of violence-Draw near.
Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence
is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting.
May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

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