

The Baptism of the Lord - Year A - 8th January 2023

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

the Rosary, Stanley, St Joseph

PONTOP
Partnership

Byermoor - Sacred Heart,

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

Baptisms Old and New

On Friday we celebrated the Epiphany, when the wise men from the East revealed that Jesus came to save, not only Jews, but people of all nations. This Sunday, as the Christmas season draws to a close, we remember Jesus' Baptism, when, as a grown man, he took the first critical step towards fulfilling that incredible destiny.

Like John the Baptist, we might question why Jesus chose to be baptised. Our faith teaches us that he never sinned, so he had no need to repent. However, through his divine insight, Jesus knew that, to free us from sin and death, he would ultimately have to shoulder the legacy of all human sin and take our punishment onto himself by dying on the cross. By submitting to a Baptism of repentance, he was signalling his willingness to accept that mission. The Holy Spirit descended to empower him for it. And the Father praised him for being a dutiful Son.

Just as importantly, by receiving the old kind of Baptism, Jesus laid the groundwork for giving us a new and far more powerful Baptism. He was able to transform the rite from a merely symbolic washing away of sin into a sacrament that had true power to save us. After the work of salvation was accomplished—from Pentecost onwards—all Christians would be able to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit that John had prophesied.

We received that incredible gift at our own Baptism. But like Jesus' Baptism, it was only a first step. Just as he did before us, we must take up our own struggle against sin and use the grace of the Holy Spirit to become God's children in truth through the dutiful love that we give to him and to each other.

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

Grateful Thanks: Fr. Tom, Fr. John and all our deacons would like to extend their very warm thanks and appreciation to all our parishioners for the many cards, gifts and good wishes they received during the Christmas season. As per usual, you've all been very generous! We also take this opportunity to reiterate our thanks to all the volunteers who help us out in so many ways in all our parishes. Please keep up the good work, and know that the Lord will reward you for it. Best wishes to all for the coming year.

Love Christmas 2022 – Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Love Christmas appeal a success this year. To all those who made a donation (and helped gather them in): - we raised in excess of £2,400. To those who helped in putting together the gifts: buying everything that went into the gifts, putting together the packages and getting them into the right places: our helpers included individual volunteers from all our parishes, St. Bede's Youth SVP group, and the staff at our four primary schools and St. Bede's. It really was a team effort.

So what help did we give? We distributed 39 “Love Christmas Dinner” bags to families who we thought might benefit from a bit extra; we gave 8 “Love Christmas Hampers” to our Residential Care Homes; we gave gift bags to 13 young people living in temporary accommodation at Towers House and 11 adults with learning needs at Proctor House; and lastly, helped the mothers of 15 children in our local Women's Refuge with something extra for Christmas.

We may not be able to fix all the world's problems but we can show that a little bit of love can go a long way if we work together. Dcn. Shaun

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.

Memorial Mass St Patrick's, St Pius, Our Lady & St Joseph (Brooms): We held a Memorial Mass on December 10th 2022 but unfortunately due to issues with postage many of the letters did not arrive. We have decided to have this Memorial Mass again on the 14th January 2023 at 10am. This Mass is in Memory of loved ones who died from August 2020 to August 2021.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Peoples Kitchen

Recently Deceased: Brian Gregerson, please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Thank you: for your generous support for Friends of the Holy Land which realised £300.

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 church.

St Pius X News

Collection: This week - None

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45 - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary Hour: Monday 30th January at 6pm

Holy Rosary will be said in church on Wednesdays at 10.00am

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 - None

Next week - White Flower (SPUC)

Marist Missions: would like to say a big thank you for the amount of £112.04 raised in the recent collection.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: James Irvine, Catherine Urwin, Ann McGuire, Robert Copeland, Mark Bradley, Wilhelmina Zima (Moira), Veronica (Vera) Hall, Margaret (Peggy) McNamee, John Joseph Kearney, James Bell, Winnie Page, Sarah Kane, Austin Robinson, Peter Hart, John Mellon, Catherine O'Neill, Douglas Kitchen, Ann Graham, Mary Urwin, Margaret McCusker, Margaret Sheekey, Winifred Ward, Kitty Cook, David Adams, Michael Healey, Norah Cramb, Maureen Gill, Frederick (Freddie) Cheeseman, Terry Bowery, Ann Curran, Bessie Smailes Ray, Winifred Atkinson, Doris Doherty.

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: Winnie Askew, Joe Collins, Michael Healey, Margaret Jackson, Sarah (Sally) Kane and Baby Woodland.

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