

6th Sunday of the Year - Year A - 12th February 2023

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

the Rosary, Stanley, St Joseph

Byermoor - Sacred Heart,

PONTOP

Partnership

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

Love beyond limits

This weekend's Gospel Reading is very challenging. Even though Jesus has been questioning the Pharisees' rigid interpretation of the Jewish Law, he takes this occasion to warn his followers that he hasn't come to do away with the Law or any of its commandments. On the contrary, he wants to establish an even higher standard. Whereas the old commandments say that it's a sin to commit murder or adultery, Jesus tells us that it's a sin even to be angry or lustful. The Law allowed for divorce, but Jesus tells us that there's no divorce in God's eyes.

One of the great strengths of the Jewish Law was that it set a *minimum standard*. It established: a) the basic things that people really had to do in order to honour God; and b) the things that they really shouldn't do if they wanted to avoid God's anger. But Jesus taught that, while these kinds of rules might be useful guidelines up to a point, God is more concerned with whether or not we're actually loving the way we should be. The main theme of Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount is that—really—we should all be striving to love the way that God loves. And God's love is truly perfect. It doesn't have a limit. True love, by its nature, is never satisfied with just meeting the minimum standard. It wants to do everything possible. It's willing to go the extra mile. So, we shouldn't set limits on our love. We shouldn't stop where we're comfortable. We shouldn't decide that there are certain kinds of people we can exclude. Whenever we're tempted to draw a line, Jesus encourages us to go beyond it.

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

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.

Partnership - Sacrament of Reconciliation: St Patrick's, Consett; Saturday after 10am Mass. Our Lady and St Joseph's Brooms on Saturday's before the 5.30pm Vigil Mass 4.45pm-5.15pm.

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.

Mass Intentions: Please book Mass Intentions well in advance as we are currently fully booked in all parishes for the next two months. Thank you.

Spain Pilgrimage 15th - 19th May 2023: Our Partnership Spain Pilgrimage is due for payment by 20th February 2023. Payments can be made by card to the Pilgrimage company direct. Please contact Wendy at St Patrick's on 01207 502196 (Monday, Thursday and Friday) for further details.

The Novena to the Holy Face: Commences on Sunday, February 12th. The Mass for the Feast of the Holy Face will be at 10am on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st and will include an opportunity to be blessed with Holy Face Oil. All are welcome.

Brooms Graveyard: It has been brought to our attention that there is a lot of dog fouling throughout the graveyard at Brooms. Unfortunately we cannot police the graveyard but if you take your dog for a walk please keep it on a lead at all times when walking through the graveyard and if your dog fouls please pick it up. Thank you.

Lent Booklets: With Lent beginning on 22nd February Parishioners may want to buy a Lent booklet which can be used throughout the Season. A selection of these are on sale at St Patrick's Consett and Our Lady & St Joseph Brooms.

Social Committee Meeting Tuesday 21st February: We are looking for volunteers to come together to form a Social Committee for our Partnership. A meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21st February at 3pm at St St Mary's.

Brain Tumour Research: Are holding a Coffee Morning in St Patrick's Church Hall on Friday 24th February 10.30am - 1.30pm. There will be a Tombola, Cake Stall and a Raffle. All are welcome.

Around The Diocese

Upcoming Liturgy Course - New Liturgical Leaders of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion: Tuesday 28th February, Tuesday 7th March, Tuesday 14th March, all 10am-3pm St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. Cost: £20 per participant (invoiced to parishes) <https://forms.office.com/e/Lyk0DYKmGP> Attendance must be endorsed by a Parish Priest.

Holy Island SVP Vinnie Camp 2023: Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2023? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island, They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, Quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser

tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island> Applications open from 10th February 2023

Centre for Catholic Studies: The Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) are seeking to appoint a part-time Administrator, 21 hours per week, whose work will focus on CCS events and communications. Do you know anyone who might be interested in applying? Full details are attached, and can also be accessed at [Job Description - CCS Administrator \(22001983\) \(taleo.net\)](#) The closing date for applications is midnight on Monday 20 February 2023.

Is God calling you to be a Priest? The Diocesan Vocations Team have organised an overnight retreat for men aged 18+ to discern whether God is calling them to the Priesthood. Date Friday 3rd March 2023 5.00pm to Saturday 4th March 2023 (after lunch) Place Emmaus Youth Village Pemberton Rd, Allensford, Consett DH8 9BA Cost £50 (including all meals and ensuite accommodation) Spaces are limited. Please contact Fr Shaun Purdy to book a place or for more information: Email vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk Telephone 01670 812 200 Bookings to be made by Thursday 16th February.

St. Mary's News

Collection: Next week – S.V.P.

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.

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

300 Club: a big thank you to all who supported the 300 club in 2022. 2023 subscriptions are now due and Jimmy will be collecting subs after Masses over the next few weekends. New members are urgently needed. Cost £12 a year per number. Cheques payable to 'St Mary's.

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

Sanctuary Candle: If you would like the candle to burn in memory of a loved one please contact the office. This week the candle will burn 'In Loving Memory of Mary Andrews.'

Warm Spaces: we are planning on opening a 'warm spaces (welcome) club' on Thursdays for a few hours and volunteers are needed to help in the following areas: preparation of food, serving teas and coffee, making soup (on premises), organising entertainment and possibly transporting the housebound people. If we have enough volunteers we can work on a rota basis which will mean we are not relying on the same people all the time. If you can help please contact Brian on 07891 511168. Thank you.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Social & Welfare

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.

Warm Space St Patrick's Hall: Every Tuesday 10.30am - 12.30pm we are offering a warm space in the Hall Lounge where we will be offering refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

St Patrick's Ceilidh: To celebrate St Patrick's Day we are having a Ceilidh in St Patrick's Church Hall on Saturday 18th March from 7.30pm to 11pm. Dancing to the Highly Acclaimed band "The Hedgehog's Skin" Tickets are Adults £5/Children £2 each. Tickets are available at the back of church in the Piety Shop after Mass or from the Parish Office.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Cemetery Fund

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.

Singers: Now that we are fortunate to have an organist at Brooms for our Vigil Mass it would be great if we could have some volunteer singers to form a choir. If anyone is interested please see Fr John Bagnall.

St Pius X News

Collection: This week - Flowers

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45 - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary: Will be said in church on Wednesday 27th February at 10.00am

Polish Mass: The Polish Mass will be held in church on Sunday 12th February at 1pm

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week – SVP

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Kevin Parker, Brian Parker, Josephine Southern, Victor Chivers, Rose Grimes, Mary Andrews, Monica McArdle, Mary grant, Boniface Francisco, Daniel McCullagh, William Toner, Katy Bell, Douglas Walter Ringer, Pat Barrass (nee McNally), James Glancy, Anne Carr, John Doherty, Bob Marshall, Patricia Scott, Frank Bradley, Margaret Rita Atkinson, Veronica Carey, Carroll Watson, Frances Hope, Norman Keith Kennedy, Christina Boyle, Bernadette mcGuigan, Anne Armstrong, Fr. Seamus Doyle.

St. Patrick's: Terry Murray, George Dixon, Mary Crozier, Margaret Malone, Lottie Martin, John Routledge, Eric William Malloy, Molly Wight, Rose Clark, Patsy Foley, Tony Gowland, Mary Teresa McCrory, Maureen Hurson, David Flynn, Teresa Smith, Eric Appleton, Patricia Higgins, John Martin, Peter Malone, Peter Hughes, Terry McCabe, Joseph Lockeron, Arran (Christopher) Field, Kevin Joyce, Ellie (Snyder) McNally.

St Pius: Richard Raymond Carr, Martha Carson, Bella Creegan, Roland F Egdell, Albert Glasgow, Mary Grant, Mary Hall, James Haughey, Patricia Higgins, Derek Lee, Stanley Parkin

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bobby Fountain, Joseph Hurst, Joan Callaghan.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Philip Jones, James McGuire, Susan Healey, Mary Patricia Hughes, Tom and Margaret McKie, Mary McGuire Francesca Griffin, George Wood Cunningham

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, Keith Elliott, Derek Hicks, Paul Hunt, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell, Jade Telford.

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