

4th Sunday of Lent - 19th March 2023

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

the Rosary, Stanley, St Joseph



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

Selective Vision

This weekend's readings remind us that, while God always sees and recognises the truth, we human beings often have a tendency to blind ourselves.

In our First Reading, the Prophet Samuel is looking for the next King of Israel amongst the sons of Jesse. While Samuel is impressed enough by the kingly bearing and apparent strength of the older sons, God points him towards the one that even Jesse seems to have dismissed as an afterthought: the youngest boy, David, who's been sent out to look after the flocks. God is looking for humility, strong faith, and an open heart. And these are the qualities that ultimately lead David to become Israel's greatest king.

Similarly, in our Gospel Reading, Jesus gives sight to a man who was born blind. The man himself perceives clearly that, to work such an amazing miracle, Jesus must be from God. The Pharisees, by contrast, are blind to this truth—mainly because they don't want to see it. Jesus has defied their teaching by healing this man on the Sabbath. And this isn't a one-off. He's also been consistently challenging their authority by suggesting that, if they were really open to God, they'd be less concerned with their own wealth and status, and much more focussed on creating a truly just and loving society. They don't want to take a good, hard look at themselves and accept the truth. They don't want to mend their ways. They decide to silence Jesus instead, by any means necessary.

During the Lenten season, we should all take the sort of good, hard look at ourselves that the Pharisees refused to take. We should try to see ourselves through God's eyes so that we can recognise all the different ways in which He might be calling us to improve. Whether we want to face the truth or not, it's there. And we will have to confront it eventually.

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

New Priest in Pontop Partnership: Following the retirement of Fr. Cornelius O'Connor, Fr Charles Ejieji from the Diocese of Orlu in Nigeria has been appointed as assistant priest in the parishes of All Saints in Lanchester and St Teresa in Annfield Plain. We welcome him to the Diocese and pray that he will have a happy and fulfilled ministry here. Fr Charles will reside at All Saints Lanchester. For the interim Fr John Bagnall has been appointed as parochial administrator of the parishes of All Saints in Lanchester and St Teresa in Annfield Plain, while continuing in his present appointments. He will continue to reside at St Patrick's in Consett.

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 and also state on envelope which parish Mass to be said. Thank you.

Lent Food Bank Appeal - St. Bede's School and Pontop Partnership: Our parishes are joining forces with our secondary school to support those in need in our local community. We are collecting for food banks in the area. In school there will be Tin Tuesdays and Toiletries Thursdays and this will be supported by collection boxes in each of our churches. Items needed are tins of fruit, potatoes, rice pudding and similar toiletries such as shower gel, shampoo, shaving foam and razors. Everything will help someone so please be generous

Catholic Mothers North East: A new group for Catholic Mothers will begin to meet at St Teresa's, Annfield Plain on Monday 17th April, 9.30-11am. Join us for coffee, cake, chats, prayer and to share ideas about what the group could do to support each other in Catholic motherhood. All welcome, including children. For more information see the group 'Catholic Mothers North East' on Facebook or email catholicmothersne@gmail.com

Around The Diocese

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration: On Sunday 16th April 2023 beginning at 2.30pm in St. John Vianney RC Church, Hillhead Parkway, West Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne. Litany and Rosary, Divine Mercy Parayers. Led by Fr. Martin Morris. All Welcome.

Catholic Schools Admission Appeals Panels: The Diocesan Department for Education is looking for volunteers to serve on admission appeals panels for Catholic schools. Appeal panel members hear parents' appeal cases when, occasionally, they feel that the school they have been allocated for their child is not appropriate or practical. This is an excellent way to serve Catholic schools. For more information and to obtain an application form, please email: education@diocesehn.org.uk<<mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk>> or phone 0191 243 3313.

St. Mary's News

Collection: This week – SVP Next week – Lenten Alms

Recently Deceased: Joseph Carr. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

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

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 'Suzanne Jameson and Reg Wears'

S.V.P. Coin Boxes: are available at back of church during lent for baby feeding centres in Sudan. Please return boxes after Easter. Thank you for your support.

Kennedy Care Centre: Presents 'The Men In Black', on Saturday March 25th. Bingo, Bar, Raffle. Doors Open 6.30pm. Tickets on sale this weekend. Adults £5 under 16 £2.

Welcome Thursday: the hall will be open from 11.30am with lunch consisting of a choice of 2 soups and fresh baked bread, served between 12 noon & 1pm. Hot drinks will be served throughout the day with cakes & biscuits. Contact Brian on 07891 511168. More information on the notice board. Thank you.

Advance Notice: The 'Summer Fete' will be held on Sunday July 23rd.

Thank You: The family of Adrian Heplewhite would like to thank Fr Tom, and everyone for the gifts of Masses, Cards, Kindness and Support given to us. Also for the generous donations totalling £436.36 collected for St Mary's Special Needs Club.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Lenten Alms Next Week: Lenten Alms

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

Easter Coffee Morning and Raffle: We are having a Coffee Morning after 9.30am Mass on Easter Sunday, 9th April. Donations of chocolate and wine would be greatly appreciated to use as raffle prizes. Raffle tickets are on sale at the back of church after Mass. Any donations can be brought to the presbytery on a Monday, Thursday or Friday. Thank you

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.

Lenten Soup Lunches: The soup lunches will be on each **Tuesday** in Lent following Mass and Stations of the Cross. Come into St Patrick's Hall for a bowl of delicious homemade soup, tea/coffee and a chat. All proceeds go to CAFOD and St Patrick's Church. Everyone is welcome

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week - Lenten Alms Next Week: Lenten Alms

CAFOD: The Family Fast Day collection raised £344.50. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Thank you: on behalf of the family of Anthony Grant for the kind donation of £60 for Brooms Church funds.

St Pius X News

Collection: This week - Lenten alms

Next Week: Lenten Alms

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45 - 6.45pm

Holy Rosary: Will be held in Church on the last Monday of the month - next one Monday 27th March at 6pm.

Stations of the Cross: During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 6.00pm.

Volunteers wanted: on Tuesday 4th April at 6pm to clean the church ready for Easter. Please see Mary Davey for more details.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This Week - SVP

Next week - Lenten Alms

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.

S.V.P. Coin Boxes: Are available at back of church during lent for baby feeding centres in Sudan. Please return boxes after Easter. Thank you for your support.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Robert Sewell, Mary Ann Corr, Elizabeth McAleer, Mary Catherine Dodd, Mary ward, Mary Teresa Shortt, Molly Marshall, Michael Smith, Michael Smyth, Catherine Hannah, Elizabeth McCarte, Lily McCarte, John Kirkup, Elizabeth Hagan, peter Brannigan, Michael Haughy, Mary Batey, Joseph Bell, Norah Lovell, Kathleen Curran, Monica Carey, Michael Burns, Bernard Hagan, Terence Glancy, Gerard McKenna, Michael McQuillan, Peter Donaghy, Garry Gaines..

St. Patrick's: Rose Ann Carlin, Catherine Campbell, Mollie Smith, Theresa Jackson, John Paul Walls, Patricia Osbourne, Kathleen Johnson, Bill Crowther, Peter Davidson, Agnes Allardice, Patrick Gallacher, Michael McNally, Anthony Robson, John Robert McArdle, Tony Gallagher, Susan Boyle, Michael Jones, Charles Edwin Clark, Kathleen Veronica McNally, Joan Readman, Patricia Beattie, Lee John Wiles, Thomas Conroy, Alice McCourt, Catherine Clarke, Terry Reed, Alfie Lister, John McKean.

St Pius: Catherine Birkett, Michael Haughey, Imelda Hunt, Timothy Hurn, Donald Jarman, Mary Ann Mohan, Maureen Quinn and John Slane.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bob Hewitson, Margaret Shannon, Jim O'Neill, Julie Tonks (Cullen), Marian Richardson, Michael Lucy, Margaret Storey, Sarah E. Fountain, Norma Clark, Maria Herdman, Les Slavin, Joseph Liddell Jr. Andrew Farley, Owen Lee, Terence O'Loughrin John Wall, Margaret Turnbull

Our Lady of the Rosary: Canon Laurence Hollis, Billy Begg, Gerry Clarke, Peter Nicholson, Mamie Golightly, Letitia McKie, Susan McKie

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