

## 5th Sunday of Lent - 26th March 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

### Called out of the Tomb

Over the last three Sundays at Mass the Church has focused its readings on how coming to faith in Jesus Christ can change us.

Two Sundays ago, when Jesus met the woman from Samaria at the well we heard that coming to faith is like a spring of living water inside us, welling up to eternal life. Then last Sunday we heard about Jesus healing the blind man and giving him new sight. The man moved from darkness into the clearer light of faith.

This Sunday, in the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead, coming to faith is described as being raised from the tomb. From being trapped in a shroud to being free. From death to life. This is the difference believing in Christ can make to our lives. Yet sometimes our faith can be shaken or challenged.

This happens in today's gospel scene. Jesus' good friend Martha is devastated by the death of her brother Lazarus and she can't understand why Jesus did not arrive sooner to help. Her faith wavers. In this situation we can learn a lesson from Martha. She pours out her sorrow to Jesus and when he calmly challenges her to trust him, she eventually makes a wonderful profession of faith. And Lazarus is raised to life.

Ultimately, today's Gospel shows Jesus as a faithful friend as he is to us. He came to Martha and Mary at the height of their grief, shared their sorrow and gave them hope by announcing everlasting life to those who believe in him. In two weeks we will be celebrating Easter. We will be celebrating because the One who is the Lord of Life has called us to come out of the tomb into the Fullness of His Life.

***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 and also state on the 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](mailto:catholicmothersne@gmail.com)

St. Mary's Convent Residential 18 Bed Home Staff Vacancy: Registered Manager required for 30 hours per week (including weekends and bank holidays). Competitive Salary. Applications and CV to be sent to: Sister Teresa Mary, St Mary's Convent Residential home, Ebchester, Consett DH8 0QD email [stmaryshome@aol.com](mailto:stmaryshome@aol.com)

## Around The Diocese

Diocesan Survey: The investigation commissioned by the Dicastery for Bishops has issued a survey to be completed by parishioners. This is an anonymous survey, all answers are provided in complete confidence, and you are asked to give your own individual views.

The survey will run until **Monday 27 March 2023** and can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/wevQ6zrj1t8SCxNq5>.

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 Prayers. 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. Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear: Isobel Vaughan-Spruce at St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Albion Road West, North Shields, on Wednesday 29 March, at 7.30pm

### **St. Mary's News**

Collection: This 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.

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

Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony: will take place during the 10.00am Mass on Tuesday 28th March. Legion prayers will be said at 9.30am.

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 Frank Bradley

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.

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 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **St Patrick's News**

Collection: This week - Lenten Alms

Recently Deceased: Judith Kennedy and Fred Thomson. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

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, 9<sup>th</sup> April. Donations of chocolate and wine would be greatly appreciated to use as raffle prizes. Raffle tickets are on sale at the back of the 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 and this week the children from St Patrick's School will be leading the Stations of the Cross.

Gift Aid 2023: New Gift Aid Boxes are ready at the back of church. Please do not use your new envelopes until April 2<sup>nd</sup> and destroy unused envelopes from your old box. If your tax situation has changed please inform the Gift Aid Coordinator as soon as possible. Once again thank you to everyone who is able to donate through the Gift Aid Scheme – Last year we claimed more than £5,000 from Inland Revenue.

### **Our Lady and St Joseph's News**

Collections: This 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 the church. During last week another £150 was sent to the charity, making a total of £1,650. Thank you for your support.

### **St Pius X News**

Collection: This 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.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: How do we begin when we want to read and understand the Bible? This eight week course, planned for St Pius, Moorside after Easter will help you to get the "bigger picture" of the Bible. There is a cost of £19.99 to buy the excellent course book and learning materials. If you are interested there is a sign up sheet at the back of the church.

### **Our Lady of the Rosary News**

Collection: This 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 the 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: Janet Mary Dobson, Austin Quinn, Bobby Robson, Norah Sheeky, Frankie Smith, Rose Wilson.

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