

## 5th Sunday of Easter - 7th May 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

### Living The Way

This Sunday's gospel is a very popular reading at funerals as it speaks of the promise of eternal life. Jesus is to leave his disciples soon and be condemned to death. So He speaks to them with words of encouragement, "do not be troubled"; "trust in God"; "trust in me"; a call to total faith in the Father and in himself.

The disciples heard this message with "troubled hearts" in spite of the promise that He is going away to prepare a place for them "so that where I am you may be too". Jesus tells his disciples that they know the way to this place. In response to Thomas Jesus' uses is the phrase "I am the way, the Truth and the Life; no one can come to the Father except through me.

What does this mean, what is the way?

To follow the Way of Jesus is not to go anywhere. It is to become a special kind of person, a person whose whole being reflects the Truth and Life that Jesus reveals to us. It is to be a person who is totally identified with the vision and the values of Jesus. To be such a person is to be a person of Truth and Life. The challenge for all thrown down by Jesus to us is to become "The Way" and our church of today has opened up many opportunities for us to take up this challenge.

The question is; Are you up for it? Are you prepared to become the way of Jesus in your life?

If you are, and live life in this way, then the promise made to the disciples of being taken by Jesus to a place prepared for them after death and living life eternal sharing in the glory of God will be for us as well.

**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.

**Confirmations; Considering Confirmation? Discover the Power of the Spirit.** Saturday June 3rd 2023 St. Mary's Church Hall, Blackhill. There is to be a Family Day with Guest Speakers, Activities Refreshments and Food. All young people (currently in Year 8 or 9) who wish to start the journey towards Confirmation in the coming year, together with their families\*. Sign up forms for the day will be available at St. Bede's School and in church from 6th May. *Each young person must be accompanied by a parent/primary carer (and vice versa)*

**Catholic Mothers North East:** Catholic Mothers North East - our next coffee morning will be Monday 15th May, 9.30-11am at St Teresa's Annfield Plain. All are welcome for coffee, cake, children's crafts and prayer.

**Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2023:** The annual pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Monday 21st August 2023 The cost will be approximately £310.00 standard and £360 ensuite. Apologies for the late notice (due to hospitals etc.). Because I am late with the notice, could those wishing to take part in the pilgrimage please contact me Jim McArdle on 501938 as soon as possible. We have been offered a special deal so I need to give numbers quickly. A deposit of £70 is payable when booking your place.

**Spain Pilgrimage Meeting:** A meeting is to be held on Monday 8th May at 6.00pm in St Patrick's Church Hall Lounge to finalise the Spain Pilgrimage. If you could also bring along your payment for the bus to save collecting money when en route.

**Family Day Trip to South Shields:** Saturday 1st July leaving at 10.30am from St Patrick's Consett and St Mary's Blackhill. Returning at 5.30pm. To book a place on the bus contact St Patrick's 502196 or St Mary's 502320. There's also a sign up sheet at the back of the church. Places are £7 per adult/£3 for children. First come first served.

## **Around The Diocese**

**Coming Soon - A Day for Catechists:** Are you involved with Baptismal Preparation, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, Marriage Preparation, RCIA, Children's Liturgy or other faith sharing initiatives? We are excited to host the largest gathering of Catechists the diocese has seen in recent times. This will be a special opportunity to come together and renew our approach to sacramental preparation and faith-sharing post-pandemic. Whether you are a seasoned catechist or just considering becoming one, we want you to join us. We will be sharing key principles from the New Directory of Catechesis and affirming good practices, as well as providing new ideas and inspiration. Individuals and parish groups are welcome. To register your interest/book a place, please visit [bit.ly/DHNDOC23](https://bit.ly/DHNDOC23).

The Renowned Historian Professor Eamon Duffy: also a frequent broadcaster on radio and television, is visiting Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX, on Saturday 20th May at 11am to give an entertaining and informative lecture about a period and subject which will be new to most audiences. He will tell the fascinating story of Father Robert Benson, the most famous Catholic Priest in Edwardian England, and his extraordinary family. Fr Benson's father was Archbishop of Canterbury, while one brother wrote "Land of Hope and Glory" and the other wrote the Mapp and Lucia novels. Booking is not required, doors open at 10.30am and all are welcome.

The Little Sisters of the Poor: The current economic climate is having a significant impact on our fundraising activities and the charitable donations we rely on to meet the ever increasing daily running costs of the Home. We are working hard to raise vital funds to help with the cost of replacing the three lifts in the Home, which in turn will help the Sisters and Staff deliver essential person centred care at all times. Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to: St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure, online donations can be made by visiting: [www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/) Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are extremely grateful to you for the kindness shown to us.

### **Minsteracres**

On a Journey with the Northern Saints: Monday 22nd - Friday 26th May £340.00. Follow in the footsteps of the Northern Saints such as Aidan, Cuthbert, Oswald, Hilde and Bede and their early Celtic Spirituality and motivation and visit the places where they lived out their faith.

Day of Consolation: Wednesday 24th May 10am - 4pm £30. Developed for people who have experienced bereavement, grief, loss or significant change, giving them an opportunity to find solace. An opportunity to find courage, hope and consolation. Lunch and refreshments included.

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

Collection: This week – Little Sisters of the Poor      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.

Sanctuary Candle: If you would like the candle to burn in memory of a loved one please contact the office. The Candle will burn this week for 'A Sick Person (Patrick Page)'

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

Clock Repairs: During a recent maintenance inspection it was reported that several parts were worn and needing replaced in order to allow the clock to operate. As the cost of work required is in excess of sixteen thousand pounds we are appealing for donations towards this cost. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Thank You: The family of the late Ken Peacock would like to thank Fr Tom for a lovely service and all who have given flowers, cards and support. Also to all who donated so generously to the collection which raised £620 and will be donated evenly to Abigail Lodge and Willowburn.

Welcome Thursday: The church hall will be open from 10.30am on Thursday's for anyone to pop in for a coffee after Mass. We serve lunch from 12 noon normally consisting of 2 choices of soup with fresh baked bread rolls, Corn beef pie, sausage or bacon sandwiches as well as cakes, biscuits, tea & coffee. We will shortly be offering a cooked lunch as well as soup. If needed transport can be provided. We are also looking for more volunteers.

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

**Collection:** This week – N.B.F (sick and retired Priests)

**Recently Deceased:** Nora Robson. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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

**St Pius X 100 Club:** If anyone would like to join or renew their Membership with St Pius X 100 Club, annual subscription £12, by cash or cheque made payable to St Pius X, envelopes are available at St Patrick's Piety Stall. Completed envelopes will be delivered to Christina Parkin in time for the first draw.

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

**Collection:** This week – N.B.F (sick and retired Priests)

**Collections:** The collection for The Little Sisters of the Poor realised £165. Thank you for your support.

**Recently Deceased:** Kathleen McCabe. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

**Thank you:** on behalf of the family of Mr F Thompson for the kind donation of £178 for Willow Burn.

**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, a total of £1,800 has been donated to date. Thank you for your very generous support.

**Unwanted Religious Items:** Rosary beads, small statues, religious books, prayer books and medals. Please leave in the porch at the back of Brooms church.

### **St Pius X News**

**Collection:** This week – N.B.F (sick and retired Priests)

**Benediction and Evening Prayer:** Wednesday evenings 5.45pm - 6.45pm

**Holy Rosary:** Will be held in Church on the last Monday of the month - next one Monday 29th May at 6pm.

**100 Club at St Pius X:** Relaunched Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Only 1 more week to book a place in the draw "if you're not in it you can't win it" Each number costs £1 per month. Subscriptions to be paid in advance 6 or 12 months. Pick up an Envelope at the back of the church, fill in your details and leave your subscription. Thank you. Christina Parkin

**Polish Mass:** The Polish Mass will be held in church on Sunday 14th May at 1pm.

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

**Collection:** This week – Little Sisters of the Poor      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.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

**St Mary's:** Francis O'Hagan, Joseph Bradley, Joyce Donaghue, Michael Nicholson, John Grimes, James Conney, Audrey Cox, Francis Joseph McArdle, Ann Hillery, Pat McGuigan, Kathleen Robinson, Rita Sewell, Kaiden Michael Andrew Harman Richards, Brendan Paul Cox, Thomas Shannon, Kevin Kenny, Lucy Ann Fisher, Margaret Ward, Rose Ann Nelson, Margaret Edgar, Patricia Marie Ganning.

**Our Lady of the Rosary:** James Baker.

**St. Patrick's:** Rose Campbell, Cathy Page, Albert Huntley, John Thomas Askew, Margaret Page, Ernest Gill, Peter Killeen, Vincent Page, Margaret McCann, Audrey Kennedy, Peter Hughes, Veronica McKenna, Norah Ward, Kevin McCurley, Teresa Adams, David Stobbs, Hayden Coyle, Jean Cartmel, Kathleen Finnegan and Patricia Hutchinson, Dennis Aubrey, Valerie Glynn, Anthony Burns.

**St Pius:** Emily Bennett, Ann Hilary and Pat McGilligan

**Our Lady & St Joseph's:** Mary E. Suddick, Robert Fountain, Jack Appleby.

## **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, Ann Hester.

**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, Sienna Jane McNestry

**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