

4th Sunday of Easter - 30th April 2023

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

the Rosary, Stanley, St Joseph

P O N T O P
Partnership

Byermoor - Sacred Heart,

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

The Voice of the Shepherd

Jesus' words about shepherds, sheep and sheepfolds in this Sunday's gospel can be difficult for us to grasp in 2023. This is because agricultural terms are not often used in today's urban society. But the point Jesus was trying to make was just how close he is to his sheep. The shepherd calls his sheep one by one; they know his voice and they follow him. There is an intimate relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, between Jesus and his people.

St John Paul II often spoke of the call of the Good Shepherd as the Universal Call to Holiness. Everyone who has been baptised has been called to holiness. That call is unique to each of us – he calls us one by one. Our journey through life in response to God's loving purpose for us is different from the person sitting next to us.

Some of us live out our vocation in a particular way such as by being married and having a family. Many people respond to the call to holiness through the work they do, perhaps as a teacher or in a caring profession. There are as many ways of hearing the Shepherd's voice and answering it as there are people on this earth.

Traditionally, this Sunday is called Vocations Sunday. It is often used to awaken the idea of a specific vocation to priesthood or the religious life in people's minds. We will always need priests and religious to be of service to the Church and the world. Please pray that more may listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd, calling them to this particular vocation.

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 18th 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 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.

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Job Vacancies: Deputy Director of Education (Leadership) and Deputy Director of Education (Inspection). Both roles are permanent and full-time, term-time. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

The Little Sisters of the Poor at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are finding these difficult economic times, which everyone is facing, increasingly more challenging. It is certainly a worrying and anxious time for us all. 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/ Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are extremely grateful to you for the kindness shown to us.

St. Mary's News

Collection: This week – S.V.P.

Next week – Little Sisters of the Poor

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.

OLOR and St Mary's Parish Council Meeting: on Tuesday 2nd May at 7.15pm in St Mary's Presbytery.

300 Club May Winners: £20 – (87) J McGuigan, £10 – (213) D Quinn, £10 – (149) J Quinn, £10 – (98) A Byrne, £10 – (88) F Bell. Thank you for your support.

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

Thank you: Cancer research would like to thank the family of the late David Malpass and all who contributed, for the amount of £240.93 donated from his funeral collection.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week – Little Sisters of the Poor Next Week: N.B.F (sick and retired Priests)

Recently Deceased: James Keith Connelly. Please pray for him and his 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.

300 Club - Grand Easter Draw Winners:

£80 No. 6 Margaret McArdle £50 No. 11 Joan Wilson £40 No 98 Gerard Donaghy

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week – Little Sisters of the Poor Next Week: N.B.F (sick and retired Priests)

Amendment: Thank you on behalf of the family of Angela Cox for the kind donation of £210 to be shared between Brooms Church funds and The Air Ambulance Charity.

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.

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 – Little Sisters of the Poor Next 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 14th May 2023. Only 3 more weeks 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

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week – S.V.P. Next week – Little Sisters of the Poor

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.

Holy Mass: on Tuesday 2nd May at 10.00am followed by coffee morning in the church hall.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Iris Bland, Geraldine Murray, James Conney, James Grimes, William Kennedy, John Mulhearn, Nicholina Thornton, Rose Clarke, Mary bell, Margaret Fullen, Thomas Hannah, Mary Gallie, Agnes Shannon, Alma Hanley, Robert Nixon, Michael Joseph Dick, Theopolus Joseph Steele, James Reilly, Winifred Shannon, Lawrence Brannigan, Joseph Grugan, Peter Comiskey, Suzanne Jameson.

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: Anne Hodgson, Alison Kirk, Bobby Nixon

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