

1st Sunday of Lent - 18th February 2024

the Rosary, Stanley, St Joseph

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

Fasting and feasting

As we begin this great season of Lent, it is important to take some time to reflect on how we plan to best spend this time to grow as true disciples of Jesus. We often associate Lent with fasting and penances, which are undoubtedly good. However, it is important that if we are going to give something up, we should strive to replace it with something good as well, for Aristotle famously said that “*nature abhors a vacuum.*”

This leads us to the practice of ‘*fasting and feasting*’ in Lent. Through this practice, we are able to cultivate strong discipleship, by fasting from things that are unvirtuous, and feasting on charitable and wholesome acts. Let us take some time to prayerfully reflect on how we can implement the following list this Lenten season:

Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them. Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life. Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify. Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude. Fast from anger; Feast on patience. Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation. Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives. Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others. Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that strengthens.

In essence, let us fast from anything that prevents us from being good stewards, and feast on those practices that strengthen us.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

Deacon Chris Callan

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon David Westgarth (Retired)

General Notices Around the Partnership

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: Just to remind parishioners that Mass intentions need to be requested at least '3 months' beforehand. If not using the Mass envelopes provided could you please remember to name the church in which you would like the Mass said.

Sunderland Empire Musical Six: From the West End to Broadway, the international smash hit musical Six is on its Tour and we have negotiated 30 seats at Sunderland Empire on Wednesday 3rd July at 5pm in the Dress Circle. The tickets have been discounted from £49 to £43. Following the Show the coach will take us to the coast for fish and chips or even a ride on the shows. Numbers are limited on a first come first served basis . If you are interested and would like to go please hand in to St Patrick's Parish Office the Envelope provided at the back of church with your ticket money included on or before the 22nd February 2024. Bus fare collected nearer the time will be approximately £7.50 per person. Contact Christina Parkin 01207 509541. FEW PLACES LEFT

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 5th March 2pm at St Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too as there will be bingo and a raffle everyone is welcome.

The Divine Mercy Celebration: will take place on Sunday 7th April at St Mary's (Our Blessed Lady Immaculate) Church Blackhill DH8 8PQ. The celebration will begin at 2.30pm. Light refreshments (Tea and Coffee) will be served in the Kennedy Centre afterwards. Further details of the Celebration will be placed in parishes throughout the partnership during the coming weeks. Julie Brown and Kathleen Carroll are the named people organising this.

Irish Night: The Partnership presents 'Irish Night' on Saturday 16th March at St Mary's, Blackhill (JFK Centre) 7pm, doors open at 6.30pm. Bar, Bingo, Raffle, Buffet. Tickets £5.

Thank You: Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners who raised £235.40 from St Pius, £761.64 from St Patrick's and £523.00 from Our Lady & St Joseph (Brooms) through the Christmas Collections.

World Day of Prayer: This year's service, prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, is being hosted by Christ Church. It takes place at 2.00pm on 1st March. There will be coffee and tea afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Around The Diocese

LOUDfence. St. Mary's Cathedral and Newcastle Cathedral 3rd-6th March. Welcome to All.

Together with the Diocese of Newcastle, our diocesan family is privileged to be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Marys' Cathedral and at Newcastle Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30 Sunday Mass on the 3rd March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral on the 6th March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be people available for pastoral accompaniment

if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

The Source Returns at St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle: Thursday March 21st from 7pm onwards. If you have a teenage son or daughter who would like to attend The Source we will arrange a bus if there is enough interest. More details to follow.

SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO): The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic lay organisation whose members seek out and help those in need in the community. It would like to recruit an MSO for the Hexham and Newcastle diocese to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between groups and the National Office. This is a part time, home-based role (22.5 hours per week – 3 days equivalent) working as part of the SVP Membership Team. For further information and details how to apply contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at lancep@svp.org.uk. Closing date for applications is Sunday 7th April.

St Mary's News

Collection: This week – SVP Next week - CAFOD Family Fast

Lately Deceased: Joan Sewell. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: This week the candle will burn 'In Loving Memory of Brian and Kevin Parker'.

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

Sunday Mass Times: beginning on Sunday 3rd March 2024 the Sunday morning Mass at St Mary's will change to 9.15am.

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.

St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary Pastoral Council: The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th March at 7.15pm.

Sudan Coin Boxes: As in previous years coin boxes are available at the back of church this Lent. The money is vital to provide food and medicines to Sudan's SVP child feeding centres. Please return boxes at Easter. Thank you for your continued support.

In Need of Support: If you are in need of support from the SVP Society please put your name and telephone number in a sealed envelope marked SVP and place it through St Mary's presbytery door. A member of the SVP will contact you.

Thank You: We would like to thank councilor Kathryne Rooney for her generous donation to The JFK Centre which will allow us to carry out much needed repairs.

Welcome Thursday: The church hall will be open from 10.30am on Thursday's for anyone to pop in for a coffee after Mass. Lunch from 12 noon.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Social & Welfare Next week - CAFOD Family Fast

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

Recently Deceased: Joan Sewell. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Novena to the Holy Face: The Novena to the Holy Face of Jesus for 2024 begins this year on Sunday, February 4th. and also a Holy Face Stall will be available. All are welcome.

[See poster for details]. Maggie Quinn [01207] 506425.

Holy Infant of Prague: Items associated with The Holy Infant of Prague Devotion will be on sale after 9.30am Mass on Sundays at St. Patrick's, Consett at the front of the church.

Lenten Soup Lunches: This year the soup lunches will be on each **Friday** in Lent following 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. Donations of home made soup would be gratefully received.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week – Cemetery Upkeep Next week - CAFOD Family Fast

Recently Deceased: Natalina Herdman. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Collections: Thank you for your generosity, a total of £136 was raised for the St Bede's Lourdes 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. It is two years since our parish supporting People's Kitchen, and together with the £150 recently donated, our parish and supporters have helped raise £3,000. Your support is very much appreciated.

Lenten Soup Lunch: As part of the Lent Season on March 1st we will be serving a soup lunch at the Salvation Army. Volunteers needed. See Angela Allum for more details

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Social & Welfare Next week - CAFOD Family Fast

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 26th February 2024 at 6pm

Stations of the Cross: Fridays in Lent at 6.30pm

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: Starting 21st February at 10am. Tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards

February 100 Club Winners: £30 Sue McGee (47) £20 Jean Murray (6)
£10 Josie McMenamin (27)

A reading of Mark's gospel on Wednesday 27th March: If you would like to read a section of the Gospel please contact Deacon Shaun. (Volunteers from all our churches are welcome)

Children's Stations of the Cross: Wednesday 15th March at 5pm

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

Children's Liturgy: is held on the first Sunday of every month.

Volunteers needed: for Altar Flower Rota any help will be greatly received no experience is necessary. If you can help please speak to Christina Parkin.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week – SVP Next week - CAFOD Family Fast

Margaret Smith. Please pray for her and her 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.

St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary Pastoral Council: The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th March at 7.15pm.

Sudan Coin Boxes: As in previous years coin boxes are available at the back of church this Lent. The money is vital to provide food and medicines to Sudan's SVP child feeding centres. Please return boxes at Easter. Thank you for your continued support.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Christina Boyle, Bernadette McGuigan, Anne Armstrong, Fr. Seamus Doyle, Kathleen French, Sarah Dagg, Glynis Laidler, George Watson, Francis Batey, June Theresa Brown, Terry Wilson, Margaret Smulka, Patrick Vallely, George Wood Cunningham, Francis Leo Slavin, Mary Agnes Rogan, Bridget Glasgow, Gerald Harrop, Mary Anne McElhatton, Kathleen Imelda Bell, Edward (Ted) Malpass, Gerald Armstrong, Catherine (Katy) Toner, James Rogan, Pat Capstick, Monica Redmond, Teresa Susan Kenny.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Margaret Mary Nicholson, Elizabeth Bowery, Mark Bradley, Michael Healey, Terry Bowery, Maureen McKie, William Hannah, Michael Baker, Fr. James Burke

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, Rose Zina Thompson, Ellie (McNally) Snyder.

St Pius: John Angus, Tony Bennett, Martha Carson, Bella Creegan, Brian McKenna, Stanley Parkin, Desmond Robb.

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

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, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Ged Hester, Terry Curran, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Catelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Mary Guy.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reily, Judith Hindmarsh, Geraldine Donnelly, Andrew Bates, Patrick Lynch, Jean Walls, Sienna Jane McNestry, Austin McDonald,

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Keith Elliott, Derek Hicks, Paul Hunt, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr, Jade Telford, Bob Parkin, Muriel Steele.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson

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

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.'

Prayer For Ukraine

O God in this time of violence. We call 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 care givers 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.