

Easter Sunday - 31st March 2024



He is Risen!

Our Sunday gospel tells us about Mary of Magdala visiting Jesus' tomb on that first Easter morning. She and the disciples must have been feeling bereft and alone. Jesus was dead and the world would have felt completely empty without him.

But as we know when she reached the tomb she was in for an amazing surprise. The tomb was empty and there was some incredible news: "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would." By God's incredible power, Jesus had conquered death.

Many great historical figures have led exemplary lives, taught wise doctrines, and even died for the truth. But only one figure has risen again. Among the vast array of humanity's greatest heroes, only about Jesus Christ can we say: "He rose again on the third day, in fulfilment of the scriptures."

We believe that God has cared for his people since the dawn of time. The Old Testament readings that we listened to at the Easter Vigil reassure us of that. But the resurrection of Jesus which we celebrate on Easter Sunday and at every Mass is the ultimate act of God's love for us. Jesus overcoming death tells us that God's love is stronger than human sin, and the life God gives is more powerful than the death humans sometimes inflict on each other. It is what makes us Christians people of hope.

In Christ and in his resurrection, a new hope dawns for all humankind, the hope that if we stay united to him through faith, we will rise with him, rise from *our* tombs, and live with him forever in this life and the never-ending adventure of heaven.

No one else offers such a hope, because no one else has risen from the dead to be able to offer it - only Jesus Christ.

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.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact their parish priest Fr. Tom for St Mary's and OLOR and Fr John for St Patrick's, St Pius and The Brooms.

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.

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 2.00pm. 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.

Partnership Mass for Marriage and Family Life: Deacon Rob Wareing, Diocesan Coordinator for Marriage Preparation and Care, is coming to preach at a Mass for Marriage and Family Life on Saturday 20th April, 10am at St. Patrick's Consett. All from the Partnership are welcome to attend this celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage and thanksgiving for Family Life.

Dates for your Diary: Carfin Grotto - Wednesday 15th May. Holy Island - Saturday 27th July. More details to follow.

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant: Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms Catholic Primary School, Leadgate are looking to appoint two Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants, one appointment to commence as soon as possible, the other in May 2024. 6 hours 15 mins per week (Mon-Fri 11.55am – 1.10pm) Permanent, Term Time Only, Further information can be found on the School Website.

A Massive 'Thank You': from the members of St Bede's Youth SVP who accepted the Pontop Partnership's invitation to take part in a sponsored 'Sleepover' in solidarity with the homeless on Friday 8 March at St Mary's Hall and Church. The Sleepover was led by Charlie Bennet (National Young Vincentians co-ordinator) and members of YMT. Frs Tom, Shaun and John attended a number of the sessions which were thought provoking with games, discussions and art. Miss Eddy served pizza with members of YMT from 1.00am to break the 12 hour fast. A huge thanks to Tony and Tom for all their hard work with necessary documentation, insurances etc. The 17 Youth SVP members thoroughly enjoyed the experience to discuss, reflect and pray for the homeless. A Just Giving page was arranged and together with the Gift Aid, tremendous support from families and parishioners a fantastic amount of £2,346 has been raised. Many thanks for all your support for this opportunity. St Bede's Youth SVP members

Thank you: The Family of the late Austin Lawrie would like to thank everyone for their Mass Cards and Sympathy Cards. We would like to thank Fr Simon and Fr Tom for the uplifting requiem mass and all those who attended Thanks to the organist, the choir and altar servers. Thanks also for the donations to Willowburn Hospice, total amount £975. Thank you all for your generosity. Thanks to the staff at Hollyhill care home, Sunderland Royal Hospital, Durham University Hospital and the Spire Hospital for the excellent way they all cared for Austin.

Partnership Irish Night: A big thank you to all the artists who performed and all those who helped and supported to make it a great night. We made £800 for funds. Thank you. a date for your diary - Summer Fete Sunday July 14th.

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 2nd April 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.

St Mary's News

Collection: This week – Easter Offering Next week - Sick and Retired Priests (NBF)

Lately Deceased: Catherine Richardson. Please pray for her and her Family at this sad time.

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

Planned Giving Envelopes: are available to pick up from the back of the church.

Breakfast Club: After Sunday Mass. Tea, Coffee, toast, bacon and sausage sandwiches.

300 Club Winners: £20 - (95) B Bowman, £10 - (70) C Creegan, £10 - (238) C Waby, £10 - (252) D Storey, £10 - (109) T Kelly.

Appeal for new members of our Parish Hall Committee: To all those who have recently or will be retiring and have some time to spare, would you like to consider stepping forward to become a member of our parish Hall committee? If so please contact Fr Tom.

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.

Welcome Thursday: Although we offer a healthy 3 course meal to all our guests it was not set up necessarily to feed those in need. The majority of our guests are not in this category. We offer a meeting place for all age groups to come and spend time & make new friends in a comfortable friendly environment. For some of our guests it is the only time they leave their homes during the week and they look forward to coming. We can also arrange transport for anyone who needs it.

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week – Easter Offering Next week - Sick and Retired Priests (NBF)

Lately Deceased: Jim McArdle and James Clarke. Please pray for them and their Families at this sad time.

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

Piety: Wide variety of Easter Cards and Birthday Cards. Please come along after Mass and browse.

Easter Coffee Morning and Raffle: We are having a Coffee and Breakfast Morning after 9.15am Mass on Easter Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week – Easter Offering Next week - Sick and Retired Priests (NBF)

The collection for Holy Places raised £90. Thank you for your generosity.

Planned Giving envelopes: have been distributed over the last week, please look on the table at the back of church if you have not received your box of envelopes. Those parishioners wishing to receive a box of envelopes please add your name and address to the list at the back of the church and we will get your box of envelopes as soon as possible. Thank you

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. A further £150 has been sent to the People's Kitchen this last week, making a grand total of £3,150 donated to the charity.

Thank You: The family of Lina Herdman would like to thank everyone for their kindness and a donation of £80 toward church funds.

Reader's Rota: 1st Saturday of the month Anne Temperley, 2nd Saturday Kevin Walls, 3rd Saturday John Nixon, 4th Saturday Pauline Parker. Any 5th Saturday and any time someone is unable to fulfil their turn Christine Wilks **This rota begins on Saturday April 6th**

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant: Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms Catholic Primary School, Leadgate are looking to appoint two Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants, one appointment to commence as soon as possible, the other in May 2024. 6 hours 15 mins per week (Mon-Fri 11.55am – 1.10pm) Permanent, Term Time Only. Further information can be found on the School Website: [Vacancies – Our Lady and St Joseph's Brooms](#)

St Pius News

Collection: This week – Easter Offering Next week - Sick and Retired Priests (NBF)

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

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: Wednesday at 10am. Tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards.

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

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

March 100 Club Winners: £30 - (38) Mary Davey, £20 - (72) Katarina Elliott, £10 - (4) Dn Shaun Mcgee

100 Club Membership is renewed from 1st May payment is £12 for one year (you can pay every 6 months). There are also numbers available if you wish to take one. Contact Christina Parkin on 07719 028193.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week – Easter Offering Next week - Sick and Retired Priests (NBF)

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

Children's Liturgy: will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary church on Easter Sunday 31st March at the 9.15am Mass.

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 or phone 07821601684.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: William Clifford, Marion Whaley, Elizabeth Ann McArdle, Henry George Wynn, Margaret Ralphs, Terry Guy, Edith Elizabeth Kendal Thorpe, James Tams, Marjorie Murray, Michael Gowland, James Francis Lavery, Thomas Cowie, Arnold William Watson, Brenda Madelene Parkin, Elizabeth Dimmick, Margar et (Peggy) McLoughlin, Arthur McClen, Peter Farrell, Mary Richardson, Pauline Charlotte Irving, Kenneth Hylton Peacock, Richard Murray, Ted Mulligan, Elsie Thompson, Maty Catherine Cooksey, Andrew Paul Murray, Annie Brannigan, Catherine Pidd.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Fr. Paul Harrison, Tom Cowie, Mary Florence Nicholson, Arthur Denis Nicholson, Mary McKie, Thomas Bell

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, Judith Kennedy.

St Pius: Eva May Hall, Bobby Robson, Gerard Thompson, Peter Young.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Catherine Cullen, Tony Williamson, Tommy Fountain, Kate Liddell (O'Donnell), Kathleen Appleby, Mary Ramsden, Bridie McWilliams.

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, Joan Whitfield.

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, Ethan O'Neil (12 yrs old).

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.'

A Prayer for Peace by Pope John Paul II

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence
among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer
when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg you to install into the hearts of all human beings
the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country
and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the
road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond
to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice,
to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace.

Amen