

6th Sunday of Easter - 5th May 2024



Big Steps

Every year at Easter we welcome new Christians into the church. It is something that has always happened but, certainly in this area, was not an event that was really emphasised. For nearly two decades now that has changed. We have welcomed over 100 people into our parish communities since Easter 2006. Many of those have become active workers in the service of our communities in many different ways and we thank God, and them, for their contribution.

These new Christians can be seen as spiritual descendants of the Roman centurion Cornelius and his household whose acceptance of the Good News of Jesus Christ we hear about in our first reading this Sunday. Each of them travelled their own journey until at some point they felt the Holy Spirit acting in them. They make a leap of faith to be baptised, if not already as infants, and then to be confirmed.

In a similar way groups of young people from our parish communities, at around the age of 14, are to take their own great step to receive the sacrament of confirmation, so called because it confirms and strengthens baptismal grace. Once again, they allow the Holy Spirit to become active in them, to reach this mature decision and to gain the strength to witness their faith as they become young adults.

For those of us who, once upon a time, made these great steps and witness others following the same path now it should prompt us in two ways. Firstly we should celebrate, welcome and support those receiving these sacraments. Secondly, we can reflect on our own lives, on how we respond to the ongoing call of the Holy Spirit to us. That call is a call to love, the call spelt out in this week's Gospel which reminds us of the great love God has for us and the instruction Jesus gives us: "What I command you is to love one another."

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.

Bible Group: Is held at St Pius every Monday at 6.30p.m.

Kennedy Care Centre: 'Show Night' featuring top local artists, The Seymour Sisters, on Saturday 11th May. Homemade Broth, Stotty, Bar, Raffle and Bingo Doors open at 6.30pm.

Raised on Songs and Stories: The Demi, Consett on Wednesday 22nd May 12-3pm. A great afternoon with Music, Dancing Songs and Food. Please come along, everyone is welcome. Singers and music – Dermot Hegarty and Tony Cochrane.

Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 7th May 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.

Divine Mercy: "Sadly, owing to lack of support, the Divine Mercy Service at 3.00pm on Thursdays at St. Patrick's is cancelled until further notice."

Partnership Trips and Pilgrimages

Carfin Grotto - Wednesday 15th May 2024: Pick up times will be as follows:

(7.15am) - Annfield Plain, opposite Tesco, (7.20am) - St Bedes school Lanchester,

(7.30am) - Leadgate Club, (7.40am) - Crown and Cross Swords Shotley Bridge,

(7.45am) - St Mary's Blackhill, 7.55am) - John Street Consett, (8.00am) - St Pius Moorside.

The Holy Ghost Fathers will be able to provide food and refreshments on the day which will be confirmed next week.

Lourdes Meeting: Our next meeting for Lourdes is to be held on Friday 17th May at 6pm in the Hall Lounge. We will be going to Sambuca afterwards for food if you would like to be included please let Wendy Simmons know 01207 502196.

Six Musical 3rd July 2024: We have negotiated a special Meal Deal from the Seaburn Grand Hotel for Supper at approximately 7pm. They are offering a Fish and Chip Supper plus Apple Crumble with Custard, Tea and Coffee for the price of £12. There is a sign up sheet at the back of St Patrick's Church with envelopes for a £5 non-refundable deposit if you wish to book the meal. Thank you Christina 07719 018193

Date for your Diary: Holy Island - Saturday 27th July. More details to follow.

News From Around The Diocese

Youth Ministry Team: Significance Festival Weekend 28th – 30th June Emmaus Youth Village, Consett DH8 9BA. Festival Fayre with Speakers, Children's Activities, Ceilidh, Live Music. Individual and Parish Groups Welcome. For More information and to book email nsalkeld@ymt.org

Escorted Tour to Dublin & South East Ireland: 23rd June 2024. £1199.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 6 nights' in 4* Accommodation with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on two days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Dublin City, Hill of Tara, Slane Castle, Kilkenny, Japanese Gardens and much more. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Job Vacancies: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

IT Field Engineer (two posts) Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, 9-month fixed term contract. Closing date: 6th May Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Faith Events - Ushaw

Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) – Sunday 5th May: On Sunday 5th May at 4pm, please join us for Sung Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw. Please note that this is not a concert performance, but an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church for the Sixth Sunday of Easter. As the format of this service may be new to some people, we will also be offering some reflections on praying Vespers as a group. All are welcome to join us for the service. No ticket is required.

Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: On Sunday 2nd June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, and starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service. You don't need a ticket for this event, but please sign up at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/> to help Ushaw to estimate numbers. Or you can sign up at the back of St Patrick's Church, Consett please indicate how many cars are likely to be coming to Ushaw, this will help Ushaw to manage car parking requirements.

St Mary's News

Collection: This week – Cafod Sudan Emergency Appeal

Lately Deceased: Lynda Telford and Tom Slane. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

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

Planned Giving Envelopes: are available at the back of the church.

SVP - Ushaw Corpus Christi Procession 2nd June: the SVP is providing a bus for the procession, leaving St Mary's at 2pm. If you would like to go please add your name to the list at the back of St Mary's church.

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

Memorial Garden: if you would like to purchase a memorial stone in memory of a loved one, please fill in an envelope available from the back of church and hand it in to Joe Anderson. Cost £80.

In Need of Support: If you are in need of support from the SVP 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.

St Mary's Summer Fete: will be held on Sunday 14th July. More information later.

SVP Coin Boxes: Please return coin boxes for Sudan. Thank you for your continued support.

The Breakfast Club: Please note - there will be no breakfast club on Sunday 5th, 12th and 26th May.

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. Many 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 – Cafod Sudan Emergency Appeal

Lately Deceased: Maureen Irwin. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

April 300 Club Winners: £20 No. 28 Miriam Hewitson £15 No. 100 Lorraine Weightman
£10 No. 132 Christine Jackson

Piety: We have a wide variety of Mass, Bereavement, Communion and Birthday Cards along with other gifts, rosary beads etc. Please come along after Mass and browse.

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 – Cafod Sudan Emergency Appeal

The collection for The Northern Brethren Fund totalled £292, thank you for your generosity.

Lately Deceased: Bill Robson. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

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.

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.

St Pius News

Collection: This week – Cafod Sudan Emergency Appeal

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 27th May 2024 at 6pm.

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

Children's Liturgy: is held every Sunday.

Red Boxes: Please bring your red boxes to church for counting. Thank you Sue McGee

100 Club: Membership Renewal 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 018193.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week – Cafod Sudan Emergency Appeal

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.

SVP Coin Boxes: Please return coin boxes for Sudan. Thank you for your continued support.

Need of Support: If you are in need of support from the SVP 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: Agnes Shannon, Alma Hanley, Robert Nixon, Michael Joseph Dick, Theopolus Joseph Steele, James Reilly, Winifred Shannon, Lawrence Brannigan, Joseph Grugan, Peter Comiskey, Suzanne Jameson, Francis O'Hagan, Joseph h 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.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Fr. Jim Hughes, Mary Watson, Ambrose Walls, Fr. Noel Donelan, Minnie Bell St.

Patrick's: Rose Campbell, Cathy Page, Albert Huntley, Margaret Page, Ernest Gill, Peter Killeen, Vincent Page, Margaret McCann, Peter Hughes, Veronica McKenna, Norah Ward, Teresa Adams, David Stobbs, Hayden Coyle, Jean Cartmel, Kathleen Finnegan and Patricia Hutchinson, Dennis Aubrey, Valerie Glynn and Anthony Burns, James Martin, Mary Cosgrove, Therese Dixon.

St Pius: Emily Bennett, Ann Hilary, Anne Hodgson, Pat McGilligan, Bobby Nixon, Margaret Grace Toppin.

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

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, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver, Jimmy McGuigan, 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, Mary Mitcheson (nee McGuigan), Marian Williams, Margaret Robinson (nee Denim), Margaret McDonald.

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, Joan O'Keefe, Joan Wilson.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, 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'