

The Presentation of the Lord - 2nd February 2025

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

Stanley, St. Joseph

PONTOP
Partnership

Consett - St. Patrick,

Dipton - St. Patrick, Lanchester - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Better Together

One clear message in this weekend's readings is that community is a critically important aspect of our faith. In our First Reading, Ezra gathers the people of Jerusalem and reads the Torah to them so that they can rededicate themselves to God. Then, in our Gospel Reading, Jesus gathers the people of Nazareth in a similar way and reads a prophecy about the Messiah from the Book of Isaiah. He then proceeds to tell them: 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

As followers of Christ, we are all supposed to share in the sort of work this prophecy speaks about: proclaiming the good news; caring for the poor, the disabled and the downtrodden; helping to free people from bondage to sin and death. But we may not always feel up to the challenge. Individually, we're not very strong, and the whole world can seem to be against us. However, in today's Second Reading, St. Paul reminds us that we do not have to face these difficulties alone. The Church is Christ's mystical body, and if we have a strong connection to Christ and to each other, this can empower us to make a real positive difference—and possibly even to work miracles.

Every time we come to Church, we have the opportunity to gather together, to rededicate ourselves to God as a community, and to support each other in sharing Christ's work. We live in a very individualistic society, and a lot of people seem to have forgotten how vital this collective power is. Perhaps one of the things we should all work on is trying to remind them.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

Deacon Chris Callan

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon David Westgarth

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.

Our Lady & St Joseph Brooms and St Pius Federation are looking to appoint Foundation Governors to support the schools and strengthen the current governing body. A governor should be willing to attend at least one full meeting a term and to visit the school in between meetings to gain a greater understanding of the school, how it functions and progresses towards goals. A governor should have a strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for pupils. If you feel you could fulfil the role for either school, please speak to Father John or contact the schools who can give further information. Our Lady & St Joseph Brooms: 01207 503979. St Pius: 01207 503604.

CONFIRMATION FAMILY DAY SATURDAY 8th MARCH 2025: Calling young people currently in Years 8 and 9! To launch the next Confirmation programme in the Pontop Partnership of parishes we are holding a CONFIRMATION FAMILY DAY at St. Mary's Church Hall, Blackhill on Saturday 8th March. This day will include talks and activities aimed at parents and young people, explaining more about Confirmation.

The Family Day marks a very special milestone in your son/daughter's spiritual journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. All who are interested in Confirmation, parents and young people, it is *imperative* that you attend the Family Day on Saturday 8th March. Arrival will be from 9.30am for a 10am prompt start. The day will end at 4.00pm and free lunch will be provided.

A Liturgical Day of Reflection: for Liturgical Leaders for Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion. Date: Saturday 15 March 2025 - Times: 10.30am-3.00pm - arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am.

Location: St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY
Cost: £15.00 per person. Catering: Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. This Day of Reflection may be self-funded or funded by your parish. You can indicate your payment preference on the online booking form. An invoice will be sent to the payee following the event. Payments can be made by bank transfer or cheque. *Booking Deadline: Friday 7 March 2025.* Booking: please book your place by accessing the online form at bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents or via the parish office sign-up sheet.

Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2025 for the Jubilee Year: The Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Friday 8th to Monday 11th August 2025. The cost will be as follows 3 Nights Single Ensuite £279/Budget £222. 3 Nights Twin/Double Ensuite £558/Budget £444. A deposit of £180 per person is payable on booking by the 31st January 2025. The cost of the bus will be charged at a later date. Envelopes for deposit will be available at the back of the church.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 4th February 2.00pm 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.

Around The Diocese

Year of Jubilee: Formation Opportunity: we are made to walk together, come and discover the 'art of accompaniment' and how our communities can extend God's love to all and walk shoulder-to-shoulder with each other. Session (1) Sat 15th March, Session (2) Sat 12th April 10.00am - 1.00pm Cost £25. Please see the notice board for further information.

St Joseph's Home, Newcastle: The Sisters of St Joseph's Home collect used postage stamps (any country), foreign currency (notes & coins from any country) , old, broken or unwanted pieces of gold & silver & military medals which no longer have meaning for the families. To date they have raised over £21,200 which helps the sisters and residents including retired priests and sisters. If you have any of the above you wish to donate please contact Margaret at St Mary's.

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Flowers

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.

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.

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving Memory' Brian and Kevin Parker.

January 260 Club Winners: £20 - M D'Northwood (167), £10 - B Robinson (120), £10 - B Bowman (95), £10 - T Reather (160), £10 - B Roberts (97). Thank you for your support, new members urgently needed. Subs for 2025 now due.

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

Friends of the Holy Land Appeal: many thanks for the generous response to the appeal which raised £531.23.

Breakfast Club: will be held Sunday 2nd and 16th February after 9.15am Mass in the JFK Centre. Bacon and Sausage sandwiches and Tea/Coffee. All are welcome.

Chair Class exercises: Monday 11am - 12 noon, in the JFK centre.

The Warm Spaces: on Thursday's in the JFK Centre

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Flowers

Church Hall Volunteers: We also need short term Volunteers for the Church Hall to help with setting up for the many groups that use the Hall the more Volunteers we get we will be able to prepare a rota.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 23rd February after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy takes place at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of each month. This is for any children of primary school age, if you or your child may be interested in attending the liturgy, please come along (parents are very welcome to come and accompany their child). The next children's liturgy will take place on Sunday 2nd February. Thank you.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Flowers

Collections: The Welfare Fund collection raised £60. The White Flower Appeal collection raised £165, thank you for your generosity.

People's Kitchen: 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 recent thank you letter from the charity can be viewed on the church noticeboard.

Monthly Mass at St Ives, Leadgate. Bishop Steven has given Fr. John permission to say a monthly Catholic Mass at St Ives Church in Leadgate. The next Mass will be announced in the newsletter. We will be joined by a class from Brooms School. All the Partnership are welcome to attend.

Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms Catholic Primary School: are currently in the process of a consultation for extending the age range of our school from 4-11 yrs to 2-11yrs, with a view to opening nursery provision from Easter 2025. This is an exciting new phase for the school. Further updates to follow once the consultation process has ended.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Flowers

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 24th February at 6pm.

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

Children's Liturgy: If you would like to volunteer to help or lead the Liturgy please see Lisa Hicks.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – Flowers

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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.

Friends of the Holy Land Appeal: many thanks for the generous response to the appeal which raised £130.57.

Little Sisters of the Poor: would like to thank Our Lady of the Rosary coffee morning and parishioners for the kind donation of £100.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: 1. James Rafferty, Mary Malone, John Page, Alan Kerridge, Lilian Kearney, James Edward Guest, Elizabeth Ann Mordue, Anthony Quinn, John Page, Bernadette Clifford, Margaret O'Neil, Julie Ann Murray, Edward Telford, Lucy Candlish, Mary Page, Sheila Clifford, Mary Martin, Ethel Maude Brady, Jim Corr, George Pinkerton, Nicholas Dodds, Michael Robins, Alice Carr, John Clifford, Alice Parnaby, Sarah Jane Murphy, John Doran, Mary Love, Gerard Carney, John William Norton, Thomas Murray, Elizabeth Norton, Hilda Mellon, Joan Eltringham.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Philip Jones, James McGuire, Susan Healey, Mary Patricia Hughes, Tom and Margaret McKie, Mary McGuire Francesca Griffin, George Wood Cunningham.

St. Patrick's: Terry Murray, George Dixon, Mary Crozier, 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 and Theresa Gaines.

St Pius: Arthur Collins, Mary Donaghy, Nancy Hudson, Alan Kerridge, Rubine Lee, Christine Nixon, Mary Page, Catherine Reay, Audrey Renwick, Mary Welsh.

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, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver, Jimmy McGuigan, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Ged Hester, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Katelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Barbara Bennison, Eileen Dunstan, Molly Glancy.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Cheryl Reily, Judith Hindmarsh, Andrew Bates, Jean Walls, Sienna Jane McNestry, Joan O'Keefe, Joan Wilson, Joan Willis, Alan McCullagh.

St Pius: Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Paul Hunt, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr, Jade Telford, Muriel Steele, Ethan O'Neil (13 yrs old), Maureen Welsh.

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 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'