

7th Sunday of the Year - 23rd 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

Sons of the Most High

This weekend's readings feature what must be one of the most challenging teachings in the whole Bible. In our Gospel Reading, Jesus urges all those who follow him: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." This runs very much against the grain for most of us. But we know how serious Jesus was about this principle, because he practised it himself during the crucifixion, praying for the very people who were putting him to death.

In our First Reading, we see the future King David doing something similar. King Saul, who is trying to kill him, falls into his power. David has already been anointed by God and knows that he is destined to succeed Saul. But he also knows that, if he sinks to Saul's level, his rule will be hopelessly tainted. The most important quality for any leader of God's people is to align one's own heart with the heart of God: to trust in God's providence rather than in force of arms; to be merciful rather than vengeful; to be generous rather than self-serving. So, instead of acting against Saul, David uses the opportunity to prove that he is a loyal subject and not the enemy that Saul believed him to be. And this is why David ultimately turned out to be such a good king. Although he made some terrible mistakes during his reign, he always kept his heart open to God.

St. Paul reminds us in our Second Reading that the key to entering Heaven is to follow Jesus' advice about striving to be sons of the Most High rather than children of this world. If we hope to inherit eternal life, we must turn away from the worldly example of Adam, who disobeyed God, and pattern our lives after Jesus, the second Adam, who rejected non-spiritual priorities and always committed himself to doing his divine Father's will.

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.
New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Durham: At St Patrick's, Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8JJ.

- **Session 1:** Wednesday 19 March 2025 (Evening session) 7.00 – 9.00pm
- **Session 2:** Wednesday 26 March 2025 (Evening session) 7.00 – 9.00pm
- **Session 3:** Saturday 29 March 2025 (Day session) 10.30am – 3.15pm

Cost: £20.00 per person (paid by the Parish)

Lourdes Pilgrimage: Would you like to register as a helper for the Hexham and Newcastle 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? The pilgrimage will take place between Friday 25 July to Friday 1 August 2025. Adult and Youth section volunteer registration forms are now open and live until 31st March 2025. Please register via one of the following links.

<https://forms.office.com/e/bdNSkV8HvK>.

New Adult Volunteer Registration Form - If you wish to register as a volunteer for 2025, please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/PbtE9Jd6aS>

Youth Section Registration Form - The Youth Section of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is for those aged 16-21 (on the date of travel) or in full-time education. Please click here to register: <https://forms.office.com/e/m1MQfReuZD>

Feast of the Holy Face: The Novena to the Holy Face begins on Sunday 23rd February 2025, The Feast of the Holy Face is on Shrove Tuesday 4th March. The Feast Day Holy Mass of the Holy Face will take place at 10am in St Patrick's Church, Consett. Holy Mass will conclude with the anointing with the Holy Face Oil. A Piety Stall will be available in the Church with many new items added. All are welcome.

St Patrick's Day Celebrations: Celebrate St Patrick's Day with a traditional Irish Ceilidh which is to be held at St Patrick's Church Hall Consett on Saturday 15th March 7.30pm until 11pm. Dancing to the Highly Acclaimed Hedgehog's Skin Band. **Tickets are £5 for Adults and £2 for children.** Bar and Refreshments are available and there's a raffle too. All are welcome. Tickets are available at the back of church after Mass or from the Parish Office at St Patrick's and St Mary's

Relic Mass of Blessed Carlo Acutis: A relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis (soon to be canonised) is being brought to our diocese. A Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen, followed by Veneration and Adoration, is going to take place at 7pm on Wednesday 26th March at St. Cuthbert's church, Seaham. There is a sign-up sheet at St. Patrick's, Consett to gauge how many people would be interested in attending the event. If there are enough people from the Partnership wishing to go, transport in a minibus will be arranged.

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.

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp- Volunteering is a Work of Heart: new volunteers needed to help in their Holiday Centre on Holy Island for the Summer. Full training and support will be given

and would suit someone wanting to give back to the Community by helping 9–12-year-olds have fun for a week. They are also keen to attract people who would like to help by volunteering in the Kitchen/Dining room and with caretaking. Further information can be found at <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

St Joseph's Home, Newcastle: The Sisters of St Joseph's Home are holding an 'Irish Night' on Saturday 29th March 2025 at 7pm. Ceilidh Band, Irish Stew, Soda Bread, and Desert. Licensed Bar. Tickets £10. Telephone 0191-2731279.

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Funding for Divine Mercy Sunday

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving Memory of Michael and Molly Glancy'.

Lately Deceased: Andrew Fox, please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

SVP Sudan Appeal: Coin boxes are available at the back of church for our annual Lenten Appeal for SVP Baby Feeding Stations' in South Sudan. All monies go directly to the SVP in that country. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Legion of Mary: will say the Holy Rosary and Legion prayers on Tuesday evenings at 6pm.

300 Club: thank you for your support in 2024,. Subscriptions for 2025 are now due, please see Jimmy or Julie. New members urgently needed.

February winners: £20 – (245) M Dale, £10 – (137) P Page, £10 – (15) J Young, £10 (182) J Sharpe, £10 – (195) C Milner.

Family Event Celebrating Shrove Tuesday: on 25th February from 1.30pm – 4pm. Tickets on sale after Sunday Mass or message Elsie 0748439433 to book with name and number of tickets required. Soup, hotdogs and pancakes, plus magician with many competitions along with Karaoke, raffle and tombola prizes. £5 a ticket or four for £16.

Chair Class Exercises: Monday 11.00am – 12 Noon, in the JFK Centre.

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 and make new friends in a comfortable friendly environment.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Church Funds

Lately Deceased: Georgina Rogan and Christopher Muncaster. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

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 March. Thank you.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 4th March 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too. There will be a talk on Small Security Devices.

Healing Mass: Due to popular demand a Mass of Healing with Anointing of the Sick is going to take place at 12 noon on Saturday 22nd March at St. Patrick's Church, Consett. All are welcome to attend.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Church Funds

Collections: The collection for the Welfare Fund raised £125, thank you for your generous support.

Lately Deceased: John Cox and Maureen Costello (Missionary Sister Paula). Please pray

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 donation of £150 has been sent to the charity.

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 held at 10am on Thursday the 20th March. We will be joined by a class from Brooms School. All the Partnership are welcome to attend.

Toddler Group: Brooms School, are looking to start a Toddler Group after February half term for any local families for pre -school children. Our aim is to have one session per week, where parents/carers can come into the hall and enjoy a chat and a cuppa while their children socialise and play. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be, please contact school on 01207 503979 or email: olsj@olsj.bwcet.com

Nursery Update: Our consultation period has now closed, and we hope to open our Nursery after the Easter break. Further updates to follow. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be, please contact school on 01207 503979 or email: olsj@olsj.bwcet.com

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Church Funds

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.

100 Club: Subscriptions are due for commencing the new year on the 1st May. There are some spare numbers available if you would like any please see Christina Parkin.

February Winners: £30 No 33 Ged Collins £20 No 15 Sylvia Smith
£10 No 48 Margaret Hill - Congratulations to all the winners

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week - Funding for Divine Mercy Sunday

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ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: James Rogan, Pat Capstick, Monica Redmond, Teresa Susan Kenny, Robert Lawrie, Audrey Charlton, Rebecca Kendall, Winifred Howe, Amanda Jane Brewer, Anthony Aubrey, Lawrence Boyle, Felix Rogan, Bernard Grimes, Michael Grugan, John Mordue, James Robinson, Catherine Smyth, Bernadette Bell, Vera Quinn, John Richardson, Peter Grugan, Isabella Agnew, Anne Kathleen Jennings, Hugh Adams, William Eccles, Bernadette Maureen Wilson

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, Theresa Gaines.

St Pius: Richard Carr, Roland Egdell, Albert Glasgow, Mary Grant, Mary Hall, James Haughey, Patricia Higgins, Derek Lee, Christopher Moore, Maria Murphy, Florence Ann Parkin.

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).

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'