

1st Sunday of Lent - 9th March 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, Lancaster - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Resisting temptation

In today's Gospel, we find Jesus in the desert, led by the Holy Spirit, where he faces three temptations from the devil:

Material Needs and Hunger: The devil tempts Jesus to use his divine position, to satisfy his hunger by turning stones into bread. Jesus responds by emphasising that true life is not sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God.

Power and Authority: The devil then takes Jesus to a high place and offers him all the kingdoms of the world if he worships him. Jesus rejects this temptation, affirming that worship belongs to God alone.

Testing God: Finally, the devil challenges Jesus to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, suggesting that God's angels will protect him. Jesus responds by quoting Scripture, emphasising that we should not test God.

Jesus faces these temptations as a human, showing us how to overcome them. He responds to each temptation with the Word of God, teaching us to rely on Scripture. Another lesson we can learn from today's Gospel, is that true freedom lies in sharing, loving others, and serving, rather than in material possessions or power. As we journey through Lent, let us also be vigilant against the subtle temptations that come our way. May we follow Jesus' example by relying on God's Word, and choosing true freedom.

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

- **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

Pontop Holy Island Pilgrimage: on Saturday 19th July 2025. Cost Adults £15, Children £5. More information on the notice board.

Pontop Partnership Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto: Saturday 9th April. Cost £20. More information on notice board.

Feast of the Holy Face: 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.

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 from the Church Hall Telephone 07517 929658.

Relic Mass of Blessed Carlo Acutis: 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.

Unwanted Religious Items: wanted for the developing world. Prayer books, Prayer cards, Bibles, Rosary beads (broken and unbroken), Crucifixes, Holy pictures, Statues (not bigger than 24 inches. Items can be left in Broom's porch or can be collected. Phone Catherine 07340922246.

Around The Diocese

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>

Job Vacancy: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancy: **Parish Secretary**, based at Immaculate Heart Church, 1 Church Close, West Monkseaton, Whitley Bay NE25 9PG – 21 hours a week. Closing date: 11 March at 12.00pm. visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Lenten Alms

Spuc collection the recent White Flower appeal raised £267.45. Thank you for your generosity.

Lately Deceased: Andrew Fox, John Page and Ann Marie Glover (nee Bell). Please pray for them and their families 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.

Religious Items Sale: the Ukraine Sisters will be selling religious items after Mass on Thursday 13th March. There will be no Exposition on that day.

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

Whistle Testers: Saturday April 5th starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £5. Bar, Bingo and Raffle. Tickets available from the church hall and Julie. Phone 07840404213.

Chair Class Exercises: Monday 11.00am – 12 Noon, in the JFK Centre. Sunday Breakfast Club: will be held today after Mass, and on Sunday 16th March. Tea, Coffee, Bacon Sandwiches, Toast. All are welcome

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 – Lenten Alms

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 6th April. Thank you.

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.

New Missals: I've been informed by CBC that the new missals will be in this month. There are six people who are on my order list. If you asked me to order a missal for you or have cancelled a missal would you please let me know at the Piety Stall on Sunday after Mass as I will be placing an order on Monday 10th March.

Lenten Soup Lunches: This year the soup lunches will be held 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.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 8th April 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Lenten Alms

The collection for Church Funds realised £142, thank you for your generous support.

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..

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 in to 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 All are welcome even if they have no current links with the school. Any donations for toys/books (in good condition) for toddler age would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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 – Lenten Alms

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 31st March at 6pm.

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

Stations of the Cross: Friday at 6.30pm.

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. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – Lenten Alms

Spuc collection the recent White Flower appeal raised £114.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Mass and Coffee Morning: for the 11th of March has been cancelled and will now be held on Tuesday 18th March.

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.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: James Clifford, Teresa Maureen Campbell, Norah Luck, Judith Anne Hagan, Frances Anne Kelly, Joseph Clifford, Margaret Regan, Adeline (Addie) Dick, Peter Murphy, Deborah Frances Clarke, Thomas Hewitson, Peter Walls, Teresa Lillian Nattrass, Helen Marie Tucker, David Christopher Chivers, Jackie Graham, Catherine Hester, Robert Rodgers, James Mullion, John Toner, James Welsh, Theresa Bell, Peter Ward, Mary McArdle, Mary Clarke, Anthony Martin.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Canon Laurence Hollis, Billy Begg, Gerry Clarke, Peter Nicholson, Mamie Golightly, Letitia McKie, Susan McKie.

St. Patrick's: 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, Peter Dodds, Mark Murphy, Carol Flynn, James Clarke, Jim McArdle, Claire Watson and Ann Clarke.

St Pius: Josephine Kerr, Donald Murphy.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bob Hewitson, Margaret Shannon, Jim O'Neill, Julie Tonks (Cullen), Marian Richardson, Michael Lucy, Margaret Storey, Sarah E. Fountain, Norma Clark, Maria Herdman, Les Slavin, Joseph Liddell Jnr. Andrew Farley, Owen Lee, Terence O'Loughrin, John Walls, Margaret Turnbull, Angela Cox, Aileen Bartle, Teresa Akers.

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, Ian Clarke.

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, 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'