

2nd Sunday of Easter - 27th April 2025

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

Stanley, St. Joseph

Consett - St. Patrick,

PONTOP

Partnership

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

Made for Belief

This year, during the Easter Vigil, several new members from our Partnership area were received into full communion with the Church. They were all asked to declare, "I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God."

This Sunday's gospel reading tackles a problem that the new members may have faced in the past or will face sometime in their lives: the very human problem of doubting our faith.

Because we are human most of our knowledge comes from the physical side of our nature. We see, hear touch etc. then we evaluate. We can be like the disciple Thomas in today's gospel. But this gospel reading reminds us that faith is trusting in God, not finding physical proofs.

At times having questions and doubts can mean we are honestly thinking about our faith. Ultimately it can make our faith in God stronger. As we know, Thomas does come to believe. And Doubting Thomas' faith *did* grow and deepen. Having come through a time of disbelief Thomas went on to become one of the greatest believers of the early Church.

What Jesus says in today's gospel is crucial for those of us who are believers yet sometimes have doubts: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

As many of you know this Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. Mercy was the hallmark of Jesus' life on earth. Throughout the gospels it was with mercy that he treated all people, with love and understanding. The famous picture of Jesus which we associate with the Divine Mercy has these words at the foot of the image, 'Jesus I trust in you'.

When things aren't going well in our life and we feel the Lord is absent it is helpful to remember to always trust in Jesus. Because in the end we weren't made for unbelief.

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

Rest in Peace: With the whole Church, and others throughout the world who were touched by his ministry, we join in giving thanks to God for Pope Francis' life of service, and especially his last twelve years as our Pope. And we pray for the repose of his soul. We also pray at this time for the College of Cardinals who will be meeting soon to choose his successor. May the Holy Spirit bless and guide them.

Thanks: Fr. John, Fr. Tom, and Deacons Shaun, David, and Chris would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parishioners for their cards, Easter eggs and other gifts, and good wishes at Easter. Huge thanks to all who contributed to make our Triduum and Easter celebrations so wonderful. And, as always, thanks to all those who help us so much throughout the year in various ministries and other roles. We feel blessed to work with you and for you.

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 Fr Tom at St Mary's 01207 502196 or Fr John at St Patrick's 01207 502320 to arrange this.

What is Gift Aid: By signing a Gift Aid Declaration we can reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate to the parish. If for example you were to give £5 a week through Gift Aid the parish would obtain an annual income tax refund of £65. You don't have to be paying a lot of tax to join the Gift Aid Scheme – only sufficient to cover the basic rate tax the parish will reclaim. Providing you pay tax on your salary or pension you can join the scheme. If you are a taxpayer and not in the Gift Aid Scheme the parish is effectively losing out on “free money” from the Government.

Am I Eligible - In order to sign a Gift Aid Declaration you must be a UK taxpayer, and donate either by standing order or by weekly envelopes so that your contributions can be recorded

Help Support a Good Cause: St Teresas Annfield Plain Community Allotment Project: has been shortlisted for the Tesco Blue Token scheme. Voting is until the end of June. Every vote counts! Please spread the word & remember to ask for your blue token after each shop! Voting will be taking place in the following Tesco stores: Consett, Annfield Plain & Blackhill.

Divine Mercy Celebration: will be held in St Mary's Church Blackhill on Sunday 27th April 2025, beginning at 2.00pm until 3.30pm. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the church hall (JFK Centre) Everyone is welcome.

Raised in Songs and Stories: Playing in the Demi on 13th May at 12.30pm. singing, dancing, food and great craic.

Consett Rotary: Invite you to join them to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory In Europe at St Patrick's Church Hall on Saturday 10th May 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Pie and Pea Supper, Bingo and More. For Tickets contact Rob Grinter on 07792 602142 email robgrinter@gmail.com

Alnwick Coach Trip: A day trip to Alnwick is to be held on Wednesday 7th May. The cost will be £15 per person and must be paid when booking a place. There is a sign up sheet at the back of church and an envelope to deposit your £15 payment. If you wish to go to Alnwick Gardens and also reserve a mobility scooter please ensure that you book your visit ahead of the date of the trip.

Holy Island: Saturday 19th July 2025. There are still places available for our annual trip to Holy Island. The cost is £15 per adult/£5 Child. Envelopes are available at the back of St Patrick's and St Mary's.

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>

National Catholic Leadership Programme: This programme is for serving Deputy Headteachers in Catholic Primary and Secondary schools who are considering the role of headteacher in the next two years. It is fantastic training for the role of Catholic Headteacher, delivered by inspirational leaders across our Diocese. Please contact education@diocesehn.org.uk for further information.

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Sick & Retired Priests

Lately Deceased: Maria Jopling and Betty Kelly. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: Will burn In 'Loving Memory of Sara Jayne Quinn'

In Need of Support: If you need 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. Please ring 07377259724.

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

300 Club Winners for April: £20 - T Reather (217), £10 - R Kelly (153), £10 - S Cunningham (189), £10 - M McDermot (178), £10 - C Waby (202). Thank you for your support.

Thank You: Jimmy and Maureen McCrory would like to thank Fr Tom, the parish, Wednesday coffee morning and all the Partnership for the prayers, good wishes and kind thoughts for Jimmy during his recent illness. God Bless you all.

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 – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Sick & Retired Priests

Lately Deceased: Margaret Mary Gowland. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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 11th May. Thank you.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 6th May 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 27th April after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

St Patrick's Hall - Lunch Club Lunch to be held on Monday 12th May 12 noon at a cost of £4 for the meal there will be bingo and a raffle too. Limited seats available. Contact the Hall Number on 07517 929658 to book.

Thank You: On behalf of our family and myself, please accept our sincere thank you for the masses, cards, verbal good wishes and the hugs that we have received since Joan died. We appreciate the love and support that we have experienced from our friends in the Partnership and St Patrick's marvellous community. John Willis.

Soup Lunch: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the delicious tasty soups and a special thank you to the Servers and of course all the people who joined in the lunch after the Stations of the Cross in Church. We raised an amazing £657 which will be split between Cafod and St Patrick's church.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Sick & Retired Priests

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.

Nursery Applications: Brooms School are thrilled to announce that applications are now open for places for our nursery which will open on Monday 28th April for 3 year olds only initially. Please contact the school on 01207 503979 for an application form and to arrange a visit if you wish.

Toddler Group: Brooms School Toddler Group will operate every '*Wednesday in term time from 9.15am – 10.30am.*' Refreshments will be provided for a small donation but there will be no charge to attend. All are welcome.

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 on Thursday 15th May at 10am.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Sick & Retired Priests

Recently Deceased: Mary Kennedy. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 28th April at 6pm.

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

Stations of the Cross: Friday at 6.30pm.

100 Club: Subscriptions are due for commencing the new year on the 1st May. There are spare numbers available if you would like to support your church please see Christina Parkin. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Sick & Retired Priests

Lately Deceased: Maria Jopling. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Catherine (Katie) Bell, Joan Mary Dawson, Tom Slane, Thomas Anthony Slane, Mary Katherine McArdle, Elizabeth Mildred Lenaghan, Gerald Rogan, Rose Toner, Honor McDonald, Ann Rafferty, Mary Christina Watson, Basil Whitfield, Angela Bell, Mary Anne Donnelly, (Baby) Jennifer Theresa Young, Peter Robson, Edwin Rimmer, Agnes James, Hugh Harper, Ann White, Thomas McGovern, Florence Ashton, Jean Mary Dawson, Lynda Ann Telford, Ann Loughran, James Conney, John Devanney (snr), John Campbell, Mary Monica McGuckin, John Armstrong, Veronica Liddle, Patrick O'Neill, Marie Joyce Wilson, John Glancy, Mary McKie, Rose Grimes, Margaret Corr, Iris Bland, Geraldine Murray, James Conney, James Grimes, William Kennedy, John Mulhearn, Nicholina Thornton, Rose Clarke, Mary bell, Margaret Fullen.

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

St. Patrick's: Albert Huntley, Peter Hughes, Veronica McKenna, Norah Ward, Kevin McCurley Teresa Adams, David Stobbs, Hayden Coyle, Jean Cartmel, Kathleen Finnegan, Patricia Hutchinson, Dennis Aubrey, Valerie Glynn, Anthony Burns, James Martin, Mary Cosgrove, Therese Dixon, Joseph Grugan, Margaret Robinson, Shaun Andrew Gettings and Angela Rose.

St Pius: Joseph Agnew Snr., Thomas Bushby, Philip Croney, Maria Santos Gomes DeFreitas, John Evan Diver, Jack Gettings, Margaret Hull, John William Kerr, Jens & Maureen Meyer, Margaret Monaghan, Gerard Murphy, Vincent Murphy, Joe Veitch, Andrew Whales, Margaret White.

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, 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'