

Easter Sunday - 20th 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

Ultimate Victory?

We're probably all familiar with the basic storyline where a hero beats incredible odds to triumph over evil and rescue his true love. Sometimes the hero even seems to have given his life in the process. But then, having cheated death somehow, he suddenly reappears. And then, he and his beloved live happily ever after. This sort of thing is so common in fairy tales, romances, and even action-adventure stories that it's almost the ultimate cliché. (But even the most cynical among us surely root for that happy ending!)

And, actually, this is essentially the same narrative that plays out during the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Our Lord. Although the crucifixion seemed like utter defeat at first, it turned out to be an amazing victory. Jesus, our hero, allowed himself to be crucified in order to prove that, despite all our sins, God really does love us. Instead of punishing us, he chose to offer us forgiveness and to take our punishment upon himself. Likewise, through dying and then coming back, Jesus proved that even the power of death is no match for God's life-giving love. If we want to live happily ever after with God, Jesus has opened the path for that to happen.

But this brings us to the part of the story that's still unresolved. Now that we know how much God really does love us, will we finally choose to love him back with our whole hearts? Now that we know that his love really is sufficient to fulfil all our needs, and even to save us out of death, will we stop being selfish and seeking our happiness in worldly things instead? God has done everything he can to show us that we are his true love. He wants to share his life with us. But his victory will not be complete, and we cannot live happily ever after, until we show him that we feel the same way about him.

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.

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.

After Easter Quiz: - Saturday 26th April 7.00pm in St Patrick's Hall. Bar and Raffle. “You have to be in it to win it”. To enter a team please ring or text Bernadette on 07814 700242.

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.

Ebchester Convent: Afternoon Tea Thursday 24th April Afternoon Tea from 1.30pm. 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.

Blessing of Polish Easter Food: The annual blessing of Polish Easter Food service will take place at 12 noon on Holy Saturday, 19th April, at St. Patrick's Church, Consett. All are welcome.

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 – SVP

Next week - Sick & Retired Priests

SVP Sudan Appeal: Please return coin boxes for Sudan at Easter. All monies go to SVP baby feeding stations and health centres. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Sanctuary Candle: Will burn in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, St Raphael and St Jude.

Thank You: Wednesday Coffee Morning: for the generous donation of £200 to the Easter flower fund, and to all who have contributed over the past year.

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 & Retired Priests

Next Week - Sick & Retired Priests

Recently Deceased: Jean Malone. 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 4th 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.

The Easter Offering envelopes: inside the Planned Giving boxes have the correct date (April 20th) but are incorrectly labelled as Christmas Offering envelopes. Please use these envelopes to give an Easter Offering to the parish, thank you.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Sick & Retired Priests

Next Week - Sick & Retired Priests

Collections: The recent collection for Holy Places raised £127, thank you for your support.

The Easter Offering envelopes: inside the Planned Giving boxes have the correct date (April 20th) but are incorrectly labelled as Christmas Offering envelopes. Please use these envelopes to give an Easter Offering to the parish, thank you.

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.

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.

Nursery Applications: Brooms School are thrilled to announce that applications are now open for places for our nursery which opens 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.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Sick & 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 Winners: March - Mary Kerr (19) £30, Eileen Shaw (39) £20, Maureen Collins (3) £10
April - Christina Parkin (25) £30, Lisa Elliott (49) £20, Rebecca Moore (81) £10

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 – SVP

Next week: Sick & Retired Priests

SVP Sudan Appeal: Please return coin boxes for Sudan at Easter. All monies go to SVP baby feeding stations and health centres. Thank you for your continued support.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Gerard Scott, Kathleen McKenna, Jill Errington, Edna Tucker, Joe Coleman, Margaret Guy, Mary Howarth, John Routledge, Geraldine Clarke, Beatrice May Williamson, Mary Robson, Margaret Alderson, Teresa Anne McNeill, Walter Forster, James Copeland, Yinka Odubela, Mary Glaister, Bernard Rodgers, Teresa Watson, Imelda Hogg, Cecilia (Cissie) Glasgow, Yvonne Morgan, Henry Edward Glasgow

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: James Conney, Thomas Reynolds, Bernadette McAloon, Patrick Dent, Brian Murray, Lawrence Watson, Francis McGuigan, Keith Hutton, John Donoghue, Janet Robson, David Adams, Gerard Lydon, Jim Brolly, Margaret Naughton, Teresa Maughan, Francisco Rodrigues, Sylvia Dimambro, Mary Owens, Jean Huntsman, Angela Mackin, Mary Ramsden, Veronica Morgan, Peter Young, Catherine Lee, Maureen Rodgers, Anthony Price, James Keith Connelly and Nora Robson, Joseph McGuigan, Gerard Storey, Maureen Irwin.

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: Catherine Cullen, Tony Williamson, Tommy Fountain, Mary Ramsden, Kate Liddell (O'Donnell), Kathleen Appleby, Bridie McWilliams.

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, Maria Jopling.

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'