

4th Sunday of Lent - 30th March 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. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Why Rejoice?

Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is also known as Laetare Sunday, a word which means rejoice. The word is taken from the opening antiphon of today's Mass.

So in the middle of the Lenten season, while we are on a journey with Jesus to his passion and death, we may ask – what do we have to rejoice about?

If we do have doubts, we just need to look at today's gospel, which is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. It is a story of forgiveness. God's forgiveness is not a cold, half-hearted forgiveness, but a warm and generous one. The story of the Prodigal Son doesn't give us a licence to sin. But it does show that if, through human weakness or temptation we do sin, then we can come back. We can make a fresh start. This is the great lesson of this parable.

Today's parable reveals how steadfast is the heart of God. God's heart doesn't blow hot or cold. The Lord never closes his heart to any of his children. No matter how far from home they may wander, no matter what they do, if they come home, the one thing they can be sure of is a warm and generous welcome.

From this we can see that God's motive for sending Jesus among us was the motive of love. This is very good news and if we didn't know it before now, now is the time to take this to our hearts and to let it bring us joy.

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.

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

An Afternoon Reflecting on REMBRANDT'S Painting of the "THE PRODIGAL SON." As part of our Lenten devotions, this event will take place in St. Patrick's Hall, Consett, on Monday, March 31st, 2025, from 1.30 pm until @ 3.30pm. *Refreshments available from 1pm. Event will include a talk; music; bookstall and a time of Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome

Help Support a Good Cause: St Teresas Annfield Plain Community Allotment Project has been shortlisted for the Tesco Blue Token scheme. Voting starts from the 1st week in April 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.

Carfin Information: Wednesday 9th April -The bus will leave St Bedes at 7.30am. Picking up at St Patricks (John Street) then St Mary's Blackhill. There will be Lunch and Drinks Served in the Holy Ghost Father's Hall as last year which will cost £6.50 per person if the money can be paid in advance by dropping off at St Patrick's presbytery by Friday 4th April. If you can also let Wendy know if you have any allergies or if you are vegetarian.

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 – Lenten Alms

Next week - Lenten Alms

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the soul of Billy Mulhearn and for all his loved ones who are mourning him at this 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.

Memorial Mass: A Memorial Mass for Peter Hopper, celebrated by Fr Paul Hopper will be held in St Mary's church on Saturday 5th April at 10.00am. All are welcome.

Whistle Testers: Saturday April 5th starting at 7.30m. 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

Next 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.

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 1st April 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 30th March 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 7th April 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.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Lenten Alms

Next week - Lenten Alms

Collections The recent collection for the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham realised £124, thank you for your 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. 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 Service will be a Lenten Service held at 10am on Thursday the 10th April at 10.00am. We will be joined by a class from Brooms School. All the Partnership are welcome to attend.

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.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Lenten Alms

Next 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

Next week Lenten Alms

Lately Deceased: Mary Paul. Please pray for her and her 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.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: James Glasgow, Susan McKie, Barbara Jane Cook, Malcolm Hester, Mary Anne Price, Mary Worral, John James, Eva Barrie, Rose Ellen McCrory, William Clifford, Marion Whaley, Elizabeth ann McArdle, Henry George Wynn, Margaret Ralphs, Terry Guy, Edith Elizabeth Kendal Thorpe, James Tams, Marjorie Murray, Michael Gowland, James Francis Lavery, Thomas Cowie, Arnold William Watson, Brenda Madelene Parkin, Elizabeth Dimmick, Margaret (Peggy) McLoughlin, Arthur McClen, Peter Farrell, Mary Richardson, Pauline Charlotte Irving, Kenneth Hylton Peacock, Richard Murray, Ted Mulligan, Elsie Thompson, Maty Catherine Cooksey, Andrew Paul Murray.

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: James Bartrope, Peter F Clarke, John Henry Glasgow, Michael Haughey, Timothy Hurn, Donald Jarman, Mrs Martin, Mark Murphy, Maureen Quinn, John Slane, Jack Steel, Helen Veitch.

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, 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'