

3rd Sunday of Easter - 4th May 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

Inspired Choice

In case you hadn't noticed there is something important happening in this coming week. On Wednesday the 7th of May, Cardinals from around the world will be gathering in Rome to find a successor to Pope Francis. It isn't just Pope Francis that they're finding a successor too, in reality they are finding the next successor to Saint Peter.

As they prepare to make their journey to the conclave, the encounter that Saint Peter has with the risen Christ must surely be in all their minds. The challenges that Jesus gives to Peter are twofold: the question of whether Peter loves Jesus and the instructions to feed his flock. They are challenges for all of us in our lives as well. Do we first of all love God and then do our best to look after those who need our love?

In making their choice in the days, possibly weeks, to come the cardinals will be looking to find someone who can best answer those challenges on behalf of the whole Catholic Church. All of them in their own lives, in their own way, are already symbols of the self-giving love that Jesus demands. Amongst their number is our next Pope. Perhaps whoever is chosen will reflect on the end of the dialogue between Jesus and Peter when Jesus says "When you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

Our prayer must surely be that the Holy Spirit truly inspires the decision and that the latest successor to Peter is ready for the challenges that await 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

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.

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.

Alnwick Coach Trip: The day trip to Alnwick will leave Consett on Wednesday 7th May at 8.30am followed by St Marys, Blackhill. There are still some places available at the cost of £15 per person but you must let Wendy know by Monday 5th May. The Coach will leave Alnwick at 4.30pm for the return home.

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>

'Hope in a Time of Darkness' – A Lecture by His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP: Monday 23rd June 2025; 7:45pm Galilee Chapel, Durham Cathedral. Durham Cathedral

Institute is delighted to be hosting this year's Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, hearing from speaker **Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe** and respondent **Prof Anna Rowlands**. For more information and to book tickets, please visit <https://durhamcathedral.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173659458>

Please send any queries to ccs.admin@durham.ac.uk.

New Liturgical Leaders of Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion: An introductory course, over six sessions, which helps new Liturgical Leaders of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion to begin learning about this ministry. Begins 13 May 2025. Location: St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. Cost: £30.00 per person
REGISTRATION To book a place please ask your Parish Priest or telephone the Parish Office

Refresher session for existing Liturgical Leaders of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion: For existing Liturgical Leaders of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion to support them in their ministry. Please note that participants must already be commissioned in this ministry to attend this session. To be held on Monday 23rd June 2025. Location:

St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY Cost: £15.00 per person
REGISTRATION To book a place please ask your Parish Priest or telephone the Parish Office

Vacancies: Bookings Administrator for the Youth Ministry Trust, based at the Emmaus Village, Consett – full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 14 May

Choral Director, Newcastle for the Diocesan Schools Singing Programme – full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 12 May

Cleaner, St Augustine Parish Centre, Darlington - part-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 13 May Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Little Sisters of the Poor

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

Lately Deceased: Sheila Grant. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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.

Memorial Stones: Anyone wishing to purchase a Memorial Stone in memory of a loved one at a cost of £85 can pick up a form from the back of the church and give it to Joe Anderson or hand it into St Mary's office. Please hand in by the end of May to avoid disappointment.

Sunday Breakfast Club: today in the JFK Centre after Mass. Tea, Coffee, Toast, Bacon and Sausage Sandwiches. All are welcome.

Wednesday Coffee Morning: on Wednesday 7th May will begin at 10.00am with celebrations for 'VE' day.

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.

Parish Council Meeting: Our next joint parish council meeting for St Mary's and Our lady of the Rosary will take place in the Presbytery at St Mary's on Tuesday 6th May at 7.15pm

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Little Sisters of the Poor

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 25th May 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.

300 Club Easter Draw: No. 91. £60 Rita Manning, No. 87. £40 Mark McNally
No. 85. £30 Daniel Laxton, No. 21 £20 Margaret Stobbs

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Little Sisters of the Poor

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 £150 has been sent to the charity this week.

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

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations: Brooms School will be holding a coffee and cake afternoon on Thursday 8 May 2025 at 2.30pm in the school hall to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. This is a lovely opportunity to have a cuppa and a chat. This is an adult only event and we look forward to welcoming our local community and parishioners to this event.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Little Sisters of the Poor

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 26th May 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 - Little Sisters of the Poor

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, Angela Rose.

St Pius: Emily Bennett, Sydney Brown, Henry Foster, Ann Hilary, Anne Hodgson, Alison Margaret Kirk, Joan McDonald, Pat McGilligan, Bobby Nixon, Margaret Grace Toppin.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Fr. Jim Hughes, Mary Watson, Ambrose Walls, Fr. Noel Donnelan, Minnie Bell.

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'