

SS Peter and Paul, Apostles - 29th June 2025

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

Stanley, St. Joseph



Consett - St. Patrick

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

Unlikely Lads

Saints Peter and Paul were very different characters. Saint Peter was a fisherman, a working man, with all the attitudes and behaviours we see in the Gospels as he accompanies Jesus. He was solid but prone to outbursts and occasional doubt. Saint Paul was perhaps a more measured character, reflecting the fact that he was a Pharisee to start with. He didn't just doubt the message of Jesus at the start but actively persecuted those who proclaimed it. So how do we end up celebrating them in a joint Feast Day? A feast important enough to take the place of the usual Sunday celebration.

They certainly both had very important jobs given to them. as we hear in our Gospel today it is on Peter that Jesus founded his church, the church that we belong to today. After his dramatic conversion Paul became a missionary to the Gentile world of the Eastern Mediterranean.

In the fullness of time both of them end up martyred and buried in Rome. Perhaps this feast serves as a reminder to us that it is not individuals that are important but how they fulfil the missions given to them by God. In their own way each of them spread the Gospel message.

These two great saints are united in their martyrdom, their witness to Jesus. When we contemplate their lives, to quote St. Augustine of Hippo, "Let us love their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their confession of faith, their preaching." They also remind us that God rarely chooses the "perfect" to do his work. When we are asking ourselves if we are good enough to take the message of Jesus to others, remember the forgiveness both these saints needed and received.

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.

Holy Island: Saturday 19th July 2025. There are still **places available** for our annual trip to Holy Island, with an hour or two stop off at Seahouses for fish and chips. shopping or a visit to the local. The cost is £15 per adult/£5 Child. Envelopes are available at the back of St Patrick's and St Mary's. Please ensure that you pay as soon as you book a place to ensure that we have enough money to pay for the bus, or if already booked and are not able to go please let Isobel or the parish office know as soon as possible.

Ways of Praying - Thursday Evenings: Join us at St. Pius X as we explore 'Ways of Praying' with Fr. Stephen Wang. These are a series of 12 videos and discussions giving practical wisdom and spiritual encouragement from Fr Stephen to help you grow closer to God. These sessions will guide you in deepening your prayer life and strengthening your faith. They follow on from the acclaimed Sycamore videos. Doors open at 6:30pm with time available for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6:45pm. Tea and Coffee from 7:10pm. Evening ends approx 8.30pm. If you want to know more contact Deacon Shaun at shaun.mcgee@diocesehn.org.uk

Men's Social Group The idea of a men's social group in the Consett/Blackhill/Leadgate area of Pontop Partnership has been spoken about for some time. The lounge of St. Patrick's Hall, Consett would be available for monthly evening meetings where we could have quiz nights, listen to interesting guest speakers, perhaps a BBQ night or just to get together in fellowship. If you would be interested, please let Fr. John or Fr. Tom know. Maybe we could call ourselves 'The Friday Fellas'?

Stakeholder Update: *families at St. Bede's; families in our feeder schools; parishioners:*

Dear Parents and Carers - As many of our families will be aware, this year is a special year within the Catholic church as it has been decreed as a Jubilee Year. The focus for the Jubilee Year is Pilgrims of Hope and we are encouraged to explore the themes of forgiveness, reconciliation and pilgrimage. One way schools are being encouraged to engage with the themes of the Jubilee Year is to reflect on their school's mission statement and I am pleased to share with you some of the important work we have completed as a school community to do this.

This Jubilee Year has given us the opportunity to prayerfully consider what it means to be a Catholic school in today's world. As a result, we have developed a refreshed set of **Core Values** that will guide everything we do at St. Bede's – from the way we learn and teach, to how we treat one another and serve our wider community.

These **Core Values** now form our mission statement. We have worked with students and staff to create these values and sought to use both a mnemonic ST BEDE and carefully chosen wording so our values are accessible and memorable for all in our community.

These values are rooted in the Gospel and are reflected in our new **St. Bede's School Prayer**, written by members of our school community and to be used regularly in prayer and worship.

Around the Diocese

The Little Sisters of the Poor Summer Fayre: planned for 5th July, has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Diocesan Education Mass: School Directors and Governors are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for their dedication and service to Catholic education. The Mass will be at 6.30pm on Thursday 10th July at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle and will be celebrated by Bishop Stephen. Details are on the attached poster.

Day of Reflection for Readers: Led by Fr Paul Jenkins on Saturday 12 July 2025, Times: 10.30am-3.00pm - arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am Location: St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY Cost: £15.00 per person. This Day of Reflection can be self-funded or funded via the parish, which can be indicated at the time of booking. Below is the link to the online booking form to share with others in your parish newsletter if possible. I have also attached to this email a paper booking form, and posters for display. <https://forms.office.com/e/sruUxAzAfE>

Vacancy - Parish Secretary: A Parish Secretary is required for Newcastle parishes for 17 hours per week. The hours are split as follows:

English Martyrs, Newcastle and St Cuthbert's, Newcastle: 6 hours per week.

St Robert's, Newcastle and All Saints, Newcastle: 11 hours per week. The closing date for applications is 11th July 2025. If you require further information please visit

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/> or contact human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk or 0191 243 3301.

Youth2000 Holy Hour of Adoration: praise and worship, sacrament of reconciliation, plus some social time afterwards, to be held at Durham University Chaplaincy on Saturday 5th July at 2pm. Aimed at age 18-35. All welcome.

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Peter's Pence

Next week - Lay Training Fund

The Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'for John and Nell McGough and Dms of McGough and Smith Families'.

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

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.

Summer Fete: will take place on Sunday July 27th beginning at 1pm. There is a box at the back of church for gifts of items for tombola, bottles, cuddly toys, books, toys and cakes, no jumble. We really need volunteers to help on the day and the week before the Sunday.

Men in Black: Men in Black show on Saturday August 16th in the JFK Centre. Tickets £5. Bingo, Raffle, Refreshments and Bar. Doors open at 6.30pm.

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 – Peter's Pence

Next week - Lay Training Fund

Recently Deceased: Moira Murray, 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 6th July. The liturgy will take a break over the summer holiday and return in September. Thank you to those who support and lead the liturgy.

Sunday Missals: Would the parishioners who ordered the new Sunday Missal please collect them from the Piety Stall asap. The cost is £16. Thank you

Dr. Andrew Downie Many of you will remember Fr Andrew Downie, who was parish priest at St. Patrick's and St. Pius before Fr John. Fr Andrew has completed his PhD in Durham University's Department of Theology and Religion and will be graduating on Wednesday, 2nd July. He has asked to give the news to the parishioners of St Patrick's and St Pius X. Rev. Dr. Downie says, "I was still their parish priest when I started my studies, and they were very supportive and encouraging as I set off down the road. So please pass on my thanks to them."

We wish him many congratulations!

Celebration Breakfast Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 29th June after 9.15am Mass the children who have recently made their First Holy Communion will be invited into the hall with their family to join our regular monthly coffee morning for a Celebration Breakfast. Bacon and Sausage Sandwiches will be available along with tea, coffee and juice. There will also be a celebration cake for the children. We hope you can join us to mark the completion of our programme this year. All are welcome.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Peter's Pence Next week - Lay Training Fund

The collection for the Lay Training Fund raised £135, thank you for your support.

Recently Deceased: Peter Walls, Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

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: Places are still available for 3yrs for the remainder of the summer term in our nursery provision and for nursery and reception for September 2025. Please spread the word, visits are very welcome, please contact the school for further information and to arrange a visit on 01207 503979.

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.

NHS Big Tea Event: Brooms School are holding a Tea/Coffee Afternoon on Monday 7 July 2025 at 2.30pm in aid of the NHS. All parishioners, families and community are very welcome.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Peter's Pence Next week - Lay Training Fund

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 30th June at 6pm.

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

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – Peter's Pence Next week - Lay Training Fund

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Katie Cassidy, Monty Hopton, Rose Hopton, Janet Kennedy, Norah McBride, Ann Parker, Michael Outerside, Susan Wass. Leonard Corrigan, Irene McArdle, Winifred Nixon, Ellen (Nell) McGough, Baby Megan Hobkirk, Vincent Kelly, Thomas Coleman, Ronald Williamson, Rachel Brannigan, Margaret Jane Burke, Mary Milburn, Daniel McCourt, Mary Anne Wanless, Patricia Armstrong, Helen Coulthard.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Dixon, Gerry Corr, Larry McKie, Ellen Clifford, David Barron, Vincent Robson.

St. Patrick's: James Crozier Snr, Josephine Darroch, Maurice Byrne, Mary Hannant, Mary McArdle(Burns(Bernadette McGurk, Peter Harpin, Rita Hughes, John Crawley, Anthony Bough, Ann Dickinson, Malcolm Wright, Joanne Storey, Andrew Rowlands, John Bell, Marjorie Whitton, Elizabeth Carr, Mary Innes, Vincent Vallely, Thomas Williamson, Hugh Thompson, Veronica Naisbett, Elizabeth Anne Greer, Charles Smith, Fred McAloon, Ruth Armstrong, Ronald Birkett.

St Pius: Mary Carney Snr., Yvonne Carter, Alice Elizabeth Collins, Helen Coultard nee Daly, James Cregan, John Henry Glasgow, Robert Glasgow, Joseph McElhone, William McGee, Marie Mohan, Thomas Murphy, Catherine Nixon, George Wilfred Robb.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: June Williamson, Catherine Williamson, Paul Richardson, Teresa Toole, Peter Grogan, Billy White, Patricia McCabe, Richard Manley-Reeves, Rosa Rigby.

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, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Katelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Barbara Bennison, Eileen Dunstan, Molly Glancy, Ian Clarke, John McDonald.

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.

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'