

17th Sunday of the Year - 27th July 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

Can we talk?

It is a simple question that disciples ask Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray”, or, how can we talk to the Father like you do? He responds both by telling them how to and then goes into more depth. They seem to be asking for a formula that will make sure they are doing things properly. This perhaps reflects an Old Testament mindset. What are the rules here, what actions do we need to take to make sure everything is correct. Jesus does indeed give them a simple formula, the prayer that has been handed down to us as the “Our Father.”

We know that when we say the Our Father we can be sure we are saying acceptable words. If all else fails when we are trying to pray then this prayer will keep us right. But Jesus goes much further than a formula. In his parables about waking up a sleeping friend because we need to feed a guest or making sure we give children good things rather than something harmful Jesus is pointing us towards the loving nature of His Father.

We are being pointed beyond our daily concerns, the immediate shortfalls we can suffer, to a higher place when Jesus says “Ask and it shall be given unto you.” What we are being told to ask for is for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If that is what we seek, that is what we shall find, that is what will be given to us.

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

Fr. Charles - New Appointment: Last weekend a statement from Bishop Stephen was read out at the Sunday Masses which took place at All Saints, Lanchester and St. Teresa's Annfield Plain. Bishop Stephen wrote: "I have appointed Fr. Charles Ejieji to serve as Parish Priest in the two parishes in Seaham, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Cuthbert's and at St. Joseph's, Murton. We thank him for his splendid ministry in Lanchester and Annfield Plain. I am pleased to appoint Fr. Vernatius Edih as Parish Priest of Lanchester and Annfield Plain, so there is continuity in ministry. I know you will make Fr. Vernatius welcome as your new Parish Priest. The changes will take place later in the summer. We keep everyone involved in these changes in our prayers."

It will be very sad to see Fr Charles leave Pontop Partnership, but we thank him for his dedicated, very kind and caring ministry while he has been with us. Fr Vernatius Edih has been resident at All Saints in Lanchester since January this year, so the parishes of Lanchester and Annfield Plain already know him. We wish Father Vernatius Edih every success, blessing and support as he becomes the new parish priest.

Ways of Praying - Thursday Evenings: **There will be a 2 week break resuming on Thursday 31st July.** Join us at St. Pius X as we explore 'Ways of Praying' with Fr. Stephen Wang. 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 are interested, please let Fr. John or Fr. Tom know. Maybe we could call ourselves 'The Friday Fellas'?

Walsingham Pilgrimage 8th – 11th August: The bus for Walsingham is now due for payment the cost this year is £85 per person which includes a tip for the driver. If you could drop the payment into Wendy at St Patrick's by Friday 25th July. Please note the pick up times to leave for Walsingham on Friday 8th are 8.30am at St. Mary's Blackhill and 8.40am at John Street Consett. There will be an early 8am Mass at St. Patrick's Consett on that day. Also please note that there is limited room on the bus if you could keep your luggage to a minimum using a small case. Thank you

Holy Souls Prayer Group: The first meeting of the Holy Souls Prayer Group will be held on 1st August at St Patrick's Consett at 10.30am. Please bring with you your Rosary Beads and any written names of your deceased family and friends.

St Mary's Convent Ebchester: Thursday 31st July at 1.30pm Afternoon Tea and Raffle. All are Welcome.

Around the Diocese

Visitation of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of SS. Jacinta and Francisco: will visit St. Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle on Saturday, 13th September, 2025.

Leaflets available with more information at the back of the Church.

"Alive In Hope: A Church For Mission": A Jubilee Day in our Diocese, will take place at Cardinal Hume Catholic School on Durham Road, Gateshead, NE9 6RZ, on Saturday, 27th September, from 10am-3pm. This will include: Exposition; Guest Speakers; a choice of Seminars; Music and a Marketplace showcasing Catholic groups and organisations. Free entry, BUT registration is required. Please bring a packed lunch. For more information see the leaflet at the back of Church and/or email: formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Job Vacancy: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint an IT Field Engineer. The IT Field Engineer works with the Technology Services Manager in the delivery of the Diocesan Technology strategy across our Diocesan and Parish communities. This includes close collaboration with Clergy, staff and volunteers to assess requirements, provide technical guidance, in-person support, project delivery and hardware configuration. The role provides an opportunity to contribute to the mission and values of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle by leveraging technology to support and empower the Diocese and Parish communities. The closing date for applications is 09:00 Friday 1st August 2025. This role is exclusively available to internal candidates.

Job Vacancy: The Education Department at St Cuthbert's House are looking for an Education Operations Manager to support the Director and Deputy Director of Education in current and future educational needs through the development, engagement, and preserving of our Catholic education. The successful candidate will be the interface to ensure our Education Department is proficient and productive and that resources are allocated effectively to enable us to support the delivery of a high-quality Catholic education. If you are interested in finding out more, please email annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk for an Applicant Pack.

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Flower Fund Next week – St Mary's school - Buddy Bench

The Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving memory of Michael and Molly Glancy'

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

Thank You: "The parish would like to offer their sincere thanks to S&D Services home garden specialists for relaying the paving stones at the entrance to the hall saving the parish over £2,000"

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.

300 Club July Winners: £20 - (233) David Hopper, £10 - (49) Mary Oliver, £10 - (37) L Smith, £10 - (256) C Nevin, £10 - (125) K Brown. Thank you for your support, new members needed.

"Welcome Thursday:" is taking a break over the summer to allow our hard working team a chance to take a holiday and will resume on Thursday August 21st. Thank you for your continued support.

The Breakfast club: will be having a summer break and will return on Sunday September 7th. Thank you to all volunteers and patrons for your continued support.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Garden Care

Next week - Garden Care

Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy takes place at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of each month. The liturgy will take a break over the summer holiday and return in September. Thank you to those who support and lead the liturgy.

Tea on Tuesday: Will be taking a break for July and August and will resume on Tuesday September 2nd.

Recycling for good Causes: There is a box at the back of the church in which you can recycle any Jewellery, coins and currency, mobile phones, cameras, gadgets and stamps. When the box is full it will be collected and the money raised from the items in the box will be used for Good Causes. Our last collection raised £84.05 for Cafod.

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

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Cemetery Fund

Next week - Cemetery Fund

The collection for the Brooms Cemetery Fund, raised £90, thank you for your generosity.

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.

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.

Cemetery Fund: The fund is open for donations until the end of September. If you Gift Aid your contribution please add your planned giving envelope number to the cemetery fund envelope. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Garden Care

Next week - Garden Care

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

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday 23rd July 5.45pm - 6.45pm.

Shaun and Sue: would like to thank everyone for the kind wishes, cards and gifts they received for their 40th wedding anniversary.

Children's Liturgy: We will be having a break over the summer Holidays and return in September.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – Flower Fund

Next week – St mary's shool - Buddy Bench

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: John Leslie Kendall, Kevin McGinn, Margaret Beg, Mark Worrall, Thomas Heseltine, Joan Williamson, Ellen Hogg, Mary Mitcheson, Margaret Peveller, Mary Bernadette Bell, John Joseph Robinson, John James Hester, Janet Ramsay, Margaret Carney, Paul Williams, Richard Atkinson, Bernadette Maria Nichols, Kathleen Campbell, Peter Hopper, Malcolm Hester

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

St. Patrick's: Thomas Murray, Larna Hobson, Gus McArdle, Andrew Hanson, Maureen Fox, Ronald Harris, Brian Murphy, Margaret Joan Furness, Oswald Johnson, Dennis McDonagh, Moira Dyer, Patricia Colburne, Kathleen Goldsmith, Rose McElhatton, James Stanyer, James Bramwell, Mary Anne Mulligan, Lawrence Boyle and Dorothy Malone.

St Pius: John Agnew, Elizabeth Carr, Betty Dodds, Don Murray, Ronnie Nixon, Charlie O'Donnell, John Paull, Charlie Smith.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Noel Clarke, Mary Williamson, Betty Dodds, Jimmy Hayes, Kirsty Dixon, Bernadette McKenna, Gerard Cullen.

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, Simon Quinn, Joseph Parisi.

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, Michael Cooke, Terry Maguire, Sean Kennedy.

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'