

## 20th Sunday of the Year - 17th August 2025

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

Stanley, St. Joseph

# PONTOP

Partnership

Consett - St. Patrick,

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

### Fire upon the Earth

We all remember Jesus saying in the Upper Room, 'Peace be with you.' Yet, here in today's gospel he is saying, 'Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.'

Is this a contradiction? The answer is no, because we understand that if we stand firmly for the values of Jesus Christ, it is likely we *will* meet opposition and cause division. Jesus met it to the point of crucifixion. In today's first reading Jeremiah the prophet meets opposition too, as he is abandoned to his enemies.

If Jesus had flattered people and said only 'nice' things to them, he could have made himself popular. But he chose to disturb people because they needed to be disturbed. He taught that the Kingdom of God was open to everyone – saints and sinners, Jews and Gentiles. Jesus' tolerance brought him into conflict with the narrow-minded religious establishment of his day. His sense of justice also brought him into conflict with those who exploited the weak and the poor.

Jesus Christ is not out to set people fighting, especially families. He is simply saying that the Christian message, of its nature, will provoke disagreement and opposition, even within families. He is also saying if you want to be a follower of his, you have to have the courage of your convictions, even if it unsettles others.

There can be a tendency to tame the message of the gospel, to reduce it to pretty words and feel-good experiences. When that happens, the fire has gone out and its light has grown dim. As Christians of today we are called to keep that light shining brightly and to hold firmly to what we believe.

**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

**RCIA – Journey in Faith:** Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith? Are you wanting to deepen your understanding of Faith? Whether you are a practising Catholic, non-Catholic, or just curious about Jesus and the Christian faith, the above RCIA course could be for you.

1. *For those who live in the Consett, Moorside or Leadgate areas* we are starting the course on Thursday 4th September at St Pius X church, Moorside, where we will meet from 6.30pm until 8.30pm. Anyone interested should contact the parish office at St Patrick's Consett on 01207 502196. Looking forward to seeing you there.

2. *For St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary* contact Fr Tom on 01207 502320.

**Ways of Praying - Thursday Evenings:** 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](mailto:shaun.mcgee@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Men's Social Group – 'The Friday Fellas'** Thank you to those partnership members who have expressed an interest in attending a monthly men's social group in the lounge of St. Patrick's Church Hall on a Friday evening, 6.30 – 8pm. The first meeting will be held in September, date to be announced soon in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you!

**Job Vacancy Caretaker:** 7.5 hours per week, some unsociable hours required. £12.21 per hour. Based at St Patricks Hall, Consett. To undertake a range of caretaking and security duties including opening and lock up for Hirers, setting up tables and chairs for user groups and clearing furniture after bookings when required. You will follow all security procedures, and you must be fully aware of Health and Safety procedures and policies For further information and to apply please email [stpatrickshallconsett@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickshallconsett@gmail.com) or contact the Hall Mobile Number on 07517 929658. Closing Date Friday 29th August 2025.

**Beamish Day Out:** We are looking to organise a trip to Beamish on 24th September. Adults £19, Seniors £16.50 and children £8 based on a group booking of 15 or more. Coach price to follow. A Sign up sheet will be available at the back of the church St Patrick's and St Mary's from Sunday 17th August.

**Father Charles:** Before he leaves for his new parishes in Seaham and Murton, Father Charles will be celebrating his final Masses at St. Teresa's Annfield Plain on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 4.15pm and All Saints Lanchester on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 9.30am. All are welcome to attend. Father Charles would like to thank the people of Pontop Partnership for their kindness and support and the local clergy for their fraternity and brotherhood. He says the few years he has been in the partnership have been "a great time for me." We give thanks for Fr. Charles' faithful, friendly and compassionate ministry during the time he has been at All Saints and St. Teresa's and wish him every blessing as he begins his new role in our Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.

## 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](mailto:formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk)Diocesan Vacancies

## Diocesan Vacancies

Head of Safeguarding: - Salary Scale from £46,000 to £52,000.

The closing date for applications is 31 August 2025. See notice board for Job Advert.

Interested applicants should contact Annie Leaver, Head of HR, on [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk) for an Applicant Pack.

HR Administrator – Salary Scale from £25,000 to £26,345

The closing date for applications is 09:00 Wednesday 20 August 2025. See notice board for Job Advert. Interested applicants should contact Annie Leaver, Head of HR, on [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk) for an Applicant Pack.

Surveyor - The Property Team are looking for a Surveyor to join their busy team at St Cuthberts House. You will assist in the care and maintenance of all Diocesan land and property, so as to ensure a high-level of professional support is offered to our parish communities and Diocesan schools. This is a 6 month fixed term contract reporting to the Head of Property.

For a copy of the Job Description please contact [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk)

Education Operations Manager - Salary £35,000 to £37,323. Closing date 9.00am on 3 September 2025, applications received after this time cannot be accepted. If you would like to discuss the role or for an applicant pack, please contact [catherine.craig@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:catherine.craig@diocesehn.org.uk) or [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk)

## St Mary's News

Collections: This week – SVP

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

Fundraising for Starving Children: Eileen Willis would like any ideas parishioners have in aid to raise funds for the starving children in Gaza. Please come along to Orchard Cottage Spa grounds, Shotley Bridge DH8 0TN (near cricket club) on Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Tea, biscuits and any ideas you have. Everyone welcome, thank you! Eileen Willis.

Welcome Thursday: will resume on Thursday August 21st. Thank you for your continued support.

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

Baby changing facilities: we are hoping to provide baby changing facilities in the toilet at the rear of the church and would like to appeal to anyone who has a baby changing unit in good condition that they no longer require and would like to donate it to the church. It would be greatly appreciated. For any more information contact Julie Stephenson on 07840 404213.

### St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Children's Liturgy

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 31st August 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

Collections: The retiring collection for the Welfare Fund raised £96. 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 £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.

Mass at St. Ives. The next Mass Fr John will celebrate at St. Ives Church in Leadgate will be at 10am on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August. All are welcome to attend.

### St Pius News

Collections: This week – Children's Liturgy

Recently Deceased: Joan Angus (living in Peterborough since 2012). Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 25th August at 6pm.

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 – SVP

## ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Brian Peter Tate, Hugh Gerard Kearney, Mary Winter, Bridget McCourt, Thomas Carr, Georgina Gibson, Obadiah David Westlake, Ronald John Byrne, Thomas Toole, Joseph Bell, Maureen Lambert, Elizabeth Louise Elliot, Bryan Michael Dixon, Thomas Paterson James, Peter Grogan, Monty Hopton, Ellen Black, Rose Batey.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Patrick Healey (snr), Joseph Clifford, Margaret Bowery, Irene McKie, Fr. John F Gunning, Teddy McKie, Cassie McKie, John Rossi

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, Dorothy Malone.

St Pius: Mary Patricia (Pat) Collins, Mary Fortunato, Raymond Penman, William Young.

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, 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, 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'*