

21st Sunday of the Year - 24th 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

Less gets you more

When you were a child, do you remember being told how to catch a monkey? If not, this is what you do. You put a pile of peanuts inside a cage, close the door and wait until the monkey turns it up. Tempted by the tasty treat it puts its arm through the bars and grabs a handful. The problem for the monkey is it is so fixated on grasping the treat that it can't pull its hand back through the bars. Approach carefully with net in hand and you have caught your monkey. It was usually trotted out to warn us of the perils of greed.

When Jesus talks about striving to enter through the narrow door there is something similar being described. Rather than being trapped because we will not let go we may be excluded from passing through.

As we go through life we accrue habits and preferences and not all of them are useful. In many cases they are burdens that weigh us down and yet we really will not let go of them.

Imagine walking home carrying shopping bags full of stuff you really don't need and shouldn't have bought. Then when you get to your house you can't get through the front door because you don't have the sense to put them down. (And it's chucking it down just to make things worse.)

If we take the message of this Gospel passage to heart we have to try to put down all those "virtual" bags branded "Greed", "Anger", "Pride" and so on. We aren't going to get through the narrow door hanging on to them. Also, just like the monkey with its fistful of peanuts we might end up being dragged somewhere we don't want to go.

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

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 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 is available at the back of the church St Patrick's and St Mary's from Sunday.

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 30th August at 4.15pm and All Saints Lanchester on Sunday 31st 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.

Mobile Phones: Kind Request to please remember to put your mobile phones on silent when you are in church. Ring tones and messaging sounds disturb people who are trying to pray.

St Mary's Convent Ebchester: Thursday 28th August 1.30pm Afternoon Tea with Raffle. Also Hawaiian Themed Summer Garden party Saturday 13th September at 1.30pm with Raffle, Bottle Stall, Ice Cream Van, Games and more. 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**Diocesan Vacancies**

Diocesan Vacancies

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 or annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – No Collection

Lately Deceased: Kathleen Hopton. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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 10th at 7.30pm. Tea, biscuits and any ideas you have. Everyone welcome, thank you! Eileen Willis.

Men in Black: A big thank you to all who supported and helped to make it such a great night. A profit of £850.20 was made. Thank you all.

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 pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of one of our parishioners we now have a brand new baby-changing table together with mattress, several packs of nappies and a potty in the toilet area to the rear of St Mary's church.

Thank You-65th Wedding Anniversary: Joe and Ann Quinn wish to thank Father Tom for his Blessing, also Rosealeen and Eileen for their gifts and the Wednesday coffee morning team. May God Bless you all.

Buddy Bench: Thank you to all who contributed to the 'Buddy Bench' for St Mary's school. The wonderful sum of £257.80 was collected with contributions of £100 from the Wednesday coffee morning and £100 from the SVP. Thank you. Eileen..

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Welfare Fund

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.

Thank you: Michael and Jayne Dimambro wish to thank everyone in the Parish who helped to make Michael's 70th birthday so special. Thank you also for the many cards and generous gifts.

300 Club Membership 2025/2026: Thank you to all who subscribed in 2025/2025. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. The first draw will take place at the end of October 2025 and then on the last Saturday of every following month. Subscriptions are £1 per number to be paid yearly at £12. envelopes are available at the back of the church please put through the presbytery letter box. Last year we collected £1,452. £910 was given out in prize money and £542 was donated to the church funds. For further information speak or telephone one of the organisers; Clare 591842, Christine 504870 or Josie 07483 807239

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This week – Cemetery Fund

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.

Pie and Pea Supper: Friday 19th September at Leadgate Cricket Club from 7.30pm. tickets £3 in aid of Brooms Church. There's also a Raffle and Bingo.

St Pius News

Collections: This week – Welfare Fund

Recently Deceased: Greg Murphy. Please pray for him and his 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 – No Collection

Buddy Bench: Thank you to all who contributed to the 'Buddy Bench' for St Mary's school. The wonderful sum of £80.20 was collected. Thank you. Eileen

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: John McKenna, Thomas Whitfield, Raymond Hanley, Arthur Robinson, Thomas Christopher Kiernan, Martin Regan, Theresa Newbould, Winifred Lishman, Margaret Costello, Sister M Patrique O'Donnell, Thomas McAleer, Anne Smith, Richard Zima, Marie Rose McNally, Peggy Grayson, Brian Anthony Skelton, Dominic Johnson, Margaret Byrne, Lawrence Armstrong, George Fisher, Frank Sheekey, Joanne Hird.

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'