

22nd Sunday of the Year - 31st August 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

Humility & Welcome

In today's Gospel, Jesus turns a simple meal into a masterclass in humility and welcome. At a Pharisee's table, he notices how guests compete eagerly for honour, and gently urges them to take the lowest seat - reminding us that *"all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted."*

Jesus then shifts the focus from self-promotion to self-giving. He instructs hosts to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind - those who cannot repay the favour. In doing so, he reshapes our understanding of generosity: true hospitality does not keep score, but offers dignity without expectation.

This message still speaks powerfully to us. In our own gatherings: family dinners, office lunches, online forums - how often do we seek attention, or cling to *"our place"*? Jesus calls us instead to notice those on the margins, to pull up a chair for the overlooked, and to see in every person the face of Christ.

As you go through this week, perhaps look for one concrete way to live this Gospel. Perhaps it's sharing a meal with someone who feels alone, quietly stepping aside to let another shine, or simply offering your time without strings attached. In every humble gesture, God meets us and raises us up.

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.

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!

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: Hawaiian Themed Summer Garden party Saturday 13th September at 1.30pm with Raffle, Bottle Stall, Ice Cream Van, Games and more. All are welcome.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 2nd September 2.00pm at St Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too as there will be bingo and a raffle everyone is 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**

Little Sisters of the Poor: Pie & Pea Supper. St Joseph's Home in Newcastle is having a Pie & Pea Supper on Wednesday 24th September at 7pm. Bingo, Raffle and Entertainment. Tickets at £8 each, are available by ringing the Little Sisters on 0191 2731279

Diocesan Vacancies

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

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – No Collection

Next week - SVP

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

Lions Club Raffle: Tickets on sale in the next few weeks. Please could you bring a few books home to sell to family and friends. £5 a book or, £1 Ticket, see Jimmy or Julie. Profits go to our parish funds. Thank you.

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

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

Thursday Welcome Group: has resumed on Thursdays with lunch and entertainment.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Church Flowers

Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy takes place at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of each month from Sunday 7th September. Please encourage your children to join in as they will enjoy learning and understanding about the Gospel. A special thank you goes to those who support and lead the liturgy.

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.

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.

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 – Church Flowers

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

Children's Liturgy: Our Children's Liturgy commences on Sunday 7th September. If you would like to volunteer to help or lead the Liturgy please see Lisa Hicks.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – No Collection

Next week - SVP

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Margaret Byrne, Lawrence Armstrong, George Fisher, Frank Sheekey, Joanne Hird, Thomas Seaton, Theresa Marie Hutchinson, Richard Nevin, Patricia Brittan, Bernard Mullen, Jean Smith, Jane Johnson, George Batey, Gerard McElhone, Hilda Eve Davis, Wilfrid Barry Britten, Patricia Bell, Robert Parkinson, Catherine Leighton, Ellen Hanlon, Helen Marie Murphy, Kathleen Comiskey.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Hilda Mary Greash, Mary Underhill, Agnes Telford, Anne Robson, Margaret Healey, Elizabeth Haggon, Peter Paul Smith, Margaret Corr, Vincent Farrell, Maurice Paul, Denis McNally, Marian Golightly, Fr. David Condon, Jim Haggon, Bridie Walker.

St. Patrick's: Nancy McGurk, Sheila Campbell, David Agnew, Audrey Whales, Denis McNally, Joan Holliday, Theresa Hudson, Maurice Rose, Peter Lockeron, Thomas Henderson, Yvonne Clare, Catherine Smith, Christina Scott, Ivan Wright, Mary Lydon, Alma Byrne, Denise Hunter, Winifred Gettings, Joseph Rennoldson, Joan Malpass, Mary Hutton, Dorothy Convery, Maureen O'Neill, Gerald Burns, Nora Gowland.

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

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Catherine Clark, Joseph Gill, Alby Allen, Ann Lucy, John Price, Tony McCallum, Sheila Henderson, Bob Parkin.

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.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: John Watson.

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'