

## 23rd Sunday of the Year - 7th September 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, Lancaster - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

### The challenge of true discipleship

The Catholic Church has traditionally seen salvation as a challenging spiritual journey in which we all actively strive to follow the path of holiness laid out for us by Christ while at the same time relying on God's grace to help us every step of the way to Heaven. But a lot of people these days—including many Baptised Catholics—seem to subscribe to a doctrine that could be called 'user-friendly Christianity'. They don't see the need for a real personal journey that requires them to actively practice their faith or to make a sincere and consistent effort to enter ever more deeply into a true communion of life and love with Christ. By the logic of user-friendly Christianity, since Jesus has already saved us, Heaven is a *fait accompli*. All we need to do is believe in him as our Saviour and call upon his mercy and grace at the end of our lives.

But in our Gospel Readings over the last few weekends, Jesus himself clearly seems to express a dim view of the user-friendly approach. Two Sundays ago, he advised us to try entering Heaven by the narrow door because many people who take God for granted will find themselves locked out. Last Sunday, he urged us to imitate his example of humility—which is a real challenge at the best of times. And this Sunday, he tells us in no uncertain terms that we cannot be his disciples unless we're prepared to give up everything else—to take up our own crosses and really follow after him.

Ultimately salvation is about sharing Christ's life, first in this life, and then in the life to come. That means we must share his work, his priorities and—above all—his love. The only path that leads to the Resurrection is the one that Jesus himself took: the way of the cross. God will empower us to walk this path if we choose it. Other paths may seem more user-friendly for now, but the destination probably won't be very friendly at all.

**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* the course has commenced and is held on a Thursday 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.

**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.

**Mens 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.

**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 Teresa's Music Night:** Friday 3rd October. An evening of music from 3 musical acts. With a varied repertoire from 50's, 60's & 70's to Spanish Classical Guitar and folk. Tickets will be on sale from the back of the church. Tickets £6 which includes light refreshments. Doors open 6:30pm music starts at 7pm.

**Education Sunday:** Next weekend is Education Sunday and the Diocesan Department for Education is asking parishes to pray for our Diocesan Catholic schools, their pupils and staff. In addition, they are using the opportunity to make an appeal for governors at the end of Mass. They are inviting headteachers, school or Catholic Education Trust staff and governors to make the short appeal. The narrative has been provided. Please contact Rebecca Daghish [rebecca.daghish@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.daghish@diocesehn.org.uk) if you are able to support. Thank you.

**St Patrick's Hall - Lunch Club** Lunch to be held on Monday 8th September 12 noon at a cost of £4 for the meal there will be bingo and a raffle too. Limited seats available. Contact the Hall Number on 07517 929658 to book.

**Bereavement Mass:** To be held on 8th November 2025 at 10am at St Patrick's Church Consett for those family and friends that have died in the previous twelve months and their funerals have been held at St Patrick's Consett, St Pius X Moorside and Brooms Our lady & St Joseph Leadgate. This is an opportunity for families and friends who have experienced bereavement to gather and receive prayerful support from the parish community and from one another. As part of the celebration of this Mass, the names of those who have died will be read out after



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 28th September 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

**August's 300 club winners:** 1st £20 - No. 159 Margaret Curran 2nd £15 - No. 180 Clare Murray 3rd £10 - No. 82 Karina Peters 4th £10 - No. 67 Elizabeth Mallet

**Christmas Fayre:** Our Christmas Fayre will be held on 22nd November from 1pm. We are looking for donations of Bottles of Wines & Spirits, Tombola Prizes (no bric a brac required).

### **Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News**

**Collections:** This week – Cemetery Fund                      Next week - Catholic Education

**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 are £3 in aid of Brooms Church. There will be a bingo and raffle too.

### **St Pius News**

**Collections:** This week – Church Flowers                      Next week - Catholic Education

**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:** SVP    Next week - Catholic Education

**Holy Mass:** on Tuesday 9th September: at 10.00am with the Holy Rosary being said beforehand at 9.30am. Following the Mass there will be a coffee morning in the hall. Tea/coffee snacks and a raffle.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Jane Guest, Brian Patrick Lavery, Raymond McIntyre, Anne Robson, James Francis McGurk, Joseph Thompson, Jenny Welch, Mary Agnes Cudden, Thomas Donaldson, Thomas Page, Marion Telford, Gerald Campbell, Frank Kearney, Fr. Wayne Roxburgh, Kathleen Margaret Longhorn, Brian Winter, Hilda Ward, Pauline Smith, John Joseph Smith

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'*