

## Exaltation of the Cross - 14th 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, Lanchester - All Saints, Moorside - St. Flus X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

### People of the Cross

I had a friend called Jeff who, as an adult, became a Catholic. It was in his forties that Jeff's Christian faith became very important to him.

However, Jeff was diagnosed with several types of cancer and his decline was rapid. Week by week his family and friends could see him losing weight and we all knew his diagnosis and treatment came too late. He entered the hospice and his family and I would visit him there. Jeff's mother gave him a wooden holding cross. In his final days the cross was the only thing Jeff could recognise and he died holding it tightly.

On some deep level, when our other senses are failing, we can recognize the power of Christ's cross because we know love is behind Christ's death on the cross. When all else fails love remains.

And it is love that, on this particular Sunday, we hold onto as surely as my friend Jeff held that crucifix.

Because, fundamentally, we Christians are a people of the cross. This does not mean that we celebrate suffering. It means that we are people who recognize the cross as the greatest sign of the greatest sacrifice, the greatest love, the world has ever known.

It may seem strange to some people that we celebrate it, that we "exalt" Christ's cross—an instrument of death.

But this is the great mystery of the cross: Jesus Christ transformed that instrument of death into a source of life. That is what we celebrate today. We are a part of it. And it is a part of 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.

**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.

**Friday Fellas Men's Group:** The first get-together of the Partnership Men's Group named the 'Friday Fellas' will meet in the lounge of St. Patrick's Hall, Consett on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 6.30 to 8pm. We hope to have a monthly schedule of interesting talks, quizzes etc. and, in December, a Christmas meal together. You may bring your own refreshments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October and alcohol is permitted. Everyone is welcome.

**Beamish Day Out 24th September:** Adults £19, Seniors £16.50 and children £8 based on a group booking of 15 or more. A Sign up sheet is available at the back of the church St Patrick's and St Mary's. Please let Fr John know if you need transport and also if you can give people a lift

**St Teresa's Music Night:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 are on sale from the back of the church. Tickets £6 which includes light refreshments. Doors open 6:30pm music starts at 7pm.

**Education Sunday:** This 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.

**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.

**Job Vacancy:** Parish Secretary, Parish of All Saints, Lanchester and St Teresa, Annfield Plain £ 6,322.68 per annum (£13.51 ph). Part-time, 9 hours per week; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am -12.00 noon. Thursday 25th September 2025 at 12.00 noon. Further information available from [humanresources@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:humanresources@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Fundraising for Gaza Appeal:** Christmas Fayre Saturday 8th November at the Kennedy Care Centre. Tables to hire are £10 each.

**Religious items:** Wanted for the developing World. Rosaries, Holy Pictures, Statues no bigger than 12" Prayer books and bibles. Drop of at your local Church. We can also arrange collection.

## Around the Diocese

"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

Little Sisters of the Poor: Pie & Pea Supper. St Joseph's Home in Newcastle is having a Pie & Pea Supper on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. Bingo, Raffle and Entertainment.

Tickets at £8 each, are available by ringing the Little Sisters on 0191 2731279

Helping Hands Needed for Care Home Garden: Do you enjoy being outdoors and lending a helping hand? St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) are looking for volunteers to help tend their extensive garden. The garden is a special place for the residents, a space for peace, fresh air, and community. Contact Sr Brigitte or Anne Whale (Tel: 0191 2731279).

## St Mary's News

Collections: This week – Catholic Education      Next week - Evangelii Gaudium Home Mission

Sanctuary Candle: will burn for 'Terry Curran – Birthday 18<sup>th</sup> September'

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

Starving Children: Sunday Breakfast Club will be raising money for the starving children in Gaza and be selling tickets for the next few weeks. £1.00 a ticket. Thank you.

Gaza Breakfast Appeal: The proceeds from the Breakfast held on Sunday 7th September for the Gaza Appeal raised £123.50.

Thursday Welcome Group: has resumed on Thursdays with lunch and entertainment. Thank you for your support.

Secret Birthday Gaza Appeal: £1 pick your date. First Prize is a bottle of Whisky from Sunday 14th September.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 1st Novmber: Eileen Willis is having a Christmas Fayre in aid of the Gaza Appeal to be held at the Church Hall (Kennedy Care Centre). Tables to hire are £10 each.

## St Patrick's News

Collections: This week – Catholic Education      Next week - Evangelii Gaudium Home Mission

Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy takes place at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of each month. 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. Money raised from the items in the box will be used for Good Causes.

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: 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.

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).

Lions Club Raffle: Eleanor Glasgow is selling tickets at the back of the church on Sunday. £5 a book or, £1 Ticket. Profits go to our parish funds. Thank you.

Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux: The Feast of St. Therese falls on Wednesday October 1st this year. The annual 'Blessing of the Roses,' in connection with St. Therese, will take place at the 10am Mass on the day before, Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a Novena display to St. Therese at the side of the main altar, commencing Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>.

New Card Donation Portal: We have decided to move into the 21st Century and have installed a Card Portal Contactless or Chip & Pin Donor Terminal at the back of the church. This will allow you to swipe your card donating your chosen amount. You can even gift aid your donation. The portal accepts all major payment cards and it is user friendly and secure.

First Holy Communion: A letter has been sent out with the year 4 children at St Patricks' Primary School Consett. Informing them and their families about the First Holy Communion Programme which begins on Monday 15th September at 7.00pm in St Patrick's Church Consett. This is an invitation for the parents and the children who will receive their First Holy Communion during which we will outline the programme. For children who do not attend St Patrick's School forms can be picked up from the Presbytery at St Patrick's Church.

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

Collections: This week – Catholic Education Next week - Evangelii Gaudium Home Mission

Lately Deceased: Astrid Reeve who was the organist at Brooms who retired to Woosingham. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

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 from the parish has been dispatched this week.

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.

Mass at St. Ives Church: Please note that major structural repairs will begin at St. Ives Church on 15th September. For safety reasons, and because building noise and work will be ongoing, we have had to cancel this month's Brooms Mass, which was scheduled for 10am Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please check this newsletter for a new Mass date in October.

### **St Pius News**

Collections: This week – Catholic Education Next week - Evangelii Gaudium Home Mission

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

Children's Liturgy: Our Children's Liturgy is held every Sunday. 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 - Catholic Education Next week - Evangelii Gaudium Home Mission

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Maurice Page, Eugene Clifford, Benjamin Townson, Theresa Kegan, Michael Joseph Corrigan, Thomas Watson, Mary Thatcher, Catherine Waggott, Kathleen McCusker, Michael Telford, Catherine Harper, Irene Cheeseman, Mary McKenna, Sheila McGuigan.

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, Teresa Easton.

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'*