

26th Sunday of the Year - 28th September 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, Lancheater - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Seeing with the eyes of mercy

This Sunday's Gospel presents a striking contrast between two lives: the rich man, clothed in luxury and feasting daily, and Lazarus, a poor beggar covered in sores, longing for scraps from the rich man's table. After death, their fortunes are reversed - Lazarus is comforted in the bosom of Abraham, while the rich man suffers in torment.

Jesus' parable is not just about wealth and poverty - it's about *seeing* and *responding*. The rich man isn't condemned for being wealthy, but for his blindness and indifference. Lazarus lay at his gate, visible and suffering, yet ignored. The rich man failed to see Lazarus as a fellow human being, a child of God.

This story challenges us to examine our own lives. Who are the "Lazaruses" at our gates? They may not be lying on the pavement, but they are around us - in the lonely, the overlooked, the struggling. Do we notice them? Do we respond with compassion?

The parable also reminds us that earthly status does not determine eternal destiny. What matters is how we live with what we have - whether we use our blessings to bless others. The rich man had every opportunity to show mercy, but he chose comfort over compassion.

Interestingly, even in the afterlife, the rich man still sees Lazarus as someone beneath him - asking Abraham to send Lazarus to serve him. His heart remains unchanged. This is a sobering reminder that conversion must happen *now*. We cannot wait until it's too late.

Jesus ends the parable with a powerful truth: we have Moses and the prophets - we have the Word of God. We know what is right. We are called to live with mercy, justice, and love. If we do not listen now, even a miracle won't change our hearts.

This week, let us ask for the grace to see with the eyes of mercy. May we notice those in need, respond with compassion, and live generously. Let us not be gatekeepers of comfort, but door-openers of grace.

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.

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.

Mass for the Deceased: for St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary will be held in St Mary's church on Tuesday 4th November at 6.30pm.

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 3rd 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 3rd October and alcohol is permitted. Everyone is welcome.

Holy Souls Prayer Group Please note - due to there being a Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Consett on the morning of Friday October 3rd the Holy Souls Prayer Group will be meeting at the slightly later time of 2pm on the same day.

Daughters of Divine Love – Missionary Sisters. On the weekend of the 4th and 5th October a Sister from the Daughters of Divine Love will be making an appeal at the 5.30pm Brooms Vigil Mass, the 9.15am St. Patrick's Consett Mass and the 11.15am St. Pius Mass.

The Daughters of Divine Love are an international Congregation founded in Africa in 1969 and have experience of working overseas. The appeal will be for some financial help as their part of the Missionary Church here in England and Wales.

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 are on sale from the back of the church. Tickets £6 which includes light refreshments. Doors open 6:30pm music starts at 7pm. **Free Transport** with pick up at St Mary's Blackhill at 6.15pm and John street Consett at 6.20pm. Return bus around 10/10.15pm.

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. Please contact Catherine Williamson 07340 922246.

Date for your Diary: Wednesday November 19th A trip to Edinburgh Including Christmas Market more details to follow next week.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Robert Sedgewick, Marian Golightly, Bridget Platt, John Luck, Joseph Malone, Robert Bell, Margaret Copeland, Ethel Maud Munro, Canon Francis Kearney, Sylvia Walters, Pauline Maria Toner, William Norman Black, Mary Lisle, Thomas Edward Davis, James Clifford, Thomas Lisle, Mona McGuckin, Joseph Anthony Cattermole, Joseph MCCarte, Mary Bennett, John Edward Foy, Hannah Conney, Philip Murray, John Storey, Marjorie Carey.

Our Lady of the Rosary: John Wilfred Smith, David Bradley, Neil McKie (snr), Desmond McNally, Alice Bell, Bill Storey, Jenny Clark, John Jack Walker.

St. Patrick's: Madge Davis, Richard Harrop, Nancy McCourt, Mary Hogg, John Andrew Boyle, Hannah Conney, Michael Slee, John Lee, Kevin Curley, Kitty Westgarth, Bryan Woods, Sheila Gibson, Terry Carr, Jane Pratt, Terence Sewell, Maria Rodrigues, Horace George Burr, Marie Rafferty, Michael Byrne, Joseph McKenna, Mary Wilson, Philomena Lee, David Webb, Margaret Alice Bowman, Joan Richardson and James Kenneth Makin.

St Pius: James Bramwell, Doreen Brown, Matthew Carter, Billy Cosgrove, Hazel Cousins, Hilda Eve Davis, Arthur Donaghy, Pauline Evans, William Fairbairn, Jane Haughey, Ella Kerr, John Kerr, Margaret E Newton, Bob Parkin, Gerard Pinkney, Thomas Phillips, Hilda Ratchford, Paddy Thorpe, Benjamin Townson, Nicholas Townson, Ann Watson, Jenny Welsh, Bernard White

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'