

27th Sunday of the Year - 5th October 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

Empowered by Faith

All three of our readings this weekend assure us that our faith can empower us. But unfortunately, it's fairly easy for human beings—fallen from grace and infected by pride, as we all are—to misunderstand how this process works. For example, we might read Jesus' statement in our Gospel Reading about the faith of a mustard seed having the power to uproot trees and cast them into the sea. And we might think this means that, if we only have sufficient belief in God, we will be able to ask him for anything we want and expect that he will do it for us. But that's **not** what Jesus actually meant. Which is why he hastens to remind his disciples that they are **servants** and not **masters**.

True faith is not about dictating to God what he should do and then expecting him to do it. On the contrary, it starts with the proposition that God always knows what is best, and always does what's best, and that he always does it at the right time and in the right way—even without **any** prompting from us. If we truly believe this, we will be empowered in the sense of not giving way to fear and discouragement even when we look around us and see a world where the power of evil often seems prevalent. In our First Reading, the Prophet Habakkuk is confronting exactly this sort of situation. And God assures him that he will deliver the victory of justice and righteousness at the proper time. In our Second Reading, St. Paul is writing to his protégé Timothy from prison where he awaits martyrdom. Despite being in what seems like a hopeless position, Paul is not discouraged. And he urges Timothy to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to keep doing God's work without fear, no matter what.

So, no, having faith does **not** empower us to work miracles on demand whenever we want to. But it does enable God to work miracles **for** us—and **through** us—when he sees that the time is right for miracles to happen. Faith makes us agents of God. And God **will** triumph in the end.

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: Many thanks to those parishioners who came along to the first meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group on Friday 3rd October. The next meeting in the lounge of St. Patrick's Hall will be on Friday 31st October and then every last Friday of the month.

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.

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.

Edinburgh Trip: Wednesday November 19th a trip to Edinburgh Including Christmas Market cost will be £20 per person. Further information for booking will follow in next week's newsletter.

Partnership Christmas Lunch: Tuesday December 9th 12 noon to be held at the Jolly Drovers, Leadgate. £5 deposit per person on booking. 2 Courses £24.95 or 3 Courses £29.95. Menus are available (starter to be chosen when paying a deposit) at the back of church along with envelopes which can be handed into the Parish Office at St Patrick's and St Mary's. Please Book Early Number of Places are Limited.

Around the Diocese

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).

Diocesan Vacancy - Cleaner: - A cleaner is required to provide cleaning services throughout the Church, the church halls and the parish house at English Martyrs, 176 Stamfordham Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 3JR. Part-time, 9 hours per week; Some flexibility is available –

times to be negotiated at interview. Salary - £5,896.80 per annum Deadline for applications is 12 October 2025 at 12.00 noon. Details can be found <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

St Mary's News

Collections: This week – CAFOD (Family Fast) Next week – SVP

Lately Deceased: Anne Young. 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.

Thank You: The family of the late Patrick Smith would like to thank Fr Tom, the altar servers, readers, organist and choir, for making the Requiem Mass for Pat so beautiful. Thank you also to the volunteers in the JFK centre who looked after us all so well, and to all who attended the funeral giving so generously at the collection which raised £352.91 to be shared between St Mary's church funds and CAFOD.

Sunday Breakfast Club will be operating after Mass on Sunday 5th and 19th of October.

Tea/Coffee, Toast, Sausage and Bacon sandwiches.

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

Lions Club Draw: Thank you to all who are helping to sell the Lions Club tickets. Could you please hand the money and stubs to Jimmy as soon as possible. Proceeds to parish funds.

Music Night: on Saturday 15th November with music and singing by the 'Whistle Testers'. More information later.

Fundraising for Starving Children Appeal: Christmas Fayre in aid of the Gaza appeal on Saturday 1st November at the Kennedy Care Centre. Tables to hire £10 each.

Sponsored Walk: As part of the Gaza appeal we are looking for volunteers to join in a sponsored walk on Saturday 11th October at 10.30am starting at Shotley Bridge Station and finishing at Ebchester. Children and dogs are welcome.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week: Daughters of Divine Love Next week - CAFOD Family Fast

Lately Deceased: Thomas (Tommy) McDonald and Julia McElhone. Please pray for them and their families at this sad time.

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 26th October 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.

Red Mission Boxes: Please bring your box to Church for counting. I would be grateful if you could make sure your name is on the box, together with a note of which church you attend to enable the boxes to be returned once emptied. Thank you. Sue McGee.

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). We would also like donations of nearly new (or new) toys and games. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the back of the church for the Bottle Draw at £1 each.

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.

New Card Donation Portal: We have decided to move into the 21st Century and have installed a Card Portal Contactless or Chip & Pin Dona 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.

Congratulations: Congratulations to Gerard and Jennifer McCreesh on their 60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary for the 2nd October. Best wishes to them both from all their friends and parishioners from St Patrick's Church. Our apologies that it did not appear in last week's newsletter.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: Next week - Daughters of Divine Love Next Week - CAFOD Family Fast

Collection: The collection for Church Flowers raised £116, thank you for your generous support.

People's Kitchen: 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 has now closed and thanks to your very generous support raised a grand total of £1,593.

Astrid Reeves: Some Brooms parishioners will remember Astrid Reeves, who was the Brooms church organist for some years. Her funeral Mass will take place at Our Lady & St. Thomas church, Wolsingham at 10am on Monday 6th October.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week - Daughters of Divine Love Next week - CAFOD Family Fast

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.

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday evening 27th October at 6.00pm.

Red Mission Boxes: Please bring your box to Church for counting. I would be grateful if you could make sure your name is on the box, together with a note of which church you attend to enable the boxes to be returned once emptied. Thank you. Sue McGee.

September 100 Club Winners: £30 Jacinta Billingham (80) £20 Shaun McGee (4)

£10 Ann Warnaby (36)

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

First Holy Communion: Parents meeting on 9th October 5.00pm at St Pius Church. The Welcome mass will be held on Sunday 12th October at 11.15am.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – CAFOD Family Fast

Next week - SVP

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Richard Benedict Breslin, Mathew Storey, Lenny Guy, Malcolm McAloon, Catherine Norton, Hilda McCusker, Hugh Toner, Lily Clifford, Louise Chivers, Rose Ellen Cullerton, Ian Stuart Waites, Rose McCarte, Alan Clare, Mary Clarke, Jean Lawrie, Barbara Clifford, Kathleen Blakey, Jean McArdle, Annie Eley, John Grugan, David Bradley, Michael Williamson, Hugh McCusker

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, 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: Michael Richardson, Owen Clark, Madge Price, Joseph Christopher Fountain, Richard O'Connor, Rose Callaghan, Jack Shannon, Austin Fail, Ann Gill, Rosemary Naylor, Marie Hughes, Brian Farley.

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, John Haney.

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, 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'