

29th Sunday of the Year - 19th October 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

The Power of Persistence

The Power of Persistence Imagine being powerless. Which is how the woman in the parable Jesus uses in this weekend's gospel finds herself. To be a widow at that time was to find yourself in an incredibly weak position. You had no influence and no one cared what you thought. So when she took her grievance to the judge he simply did not care.

We can perhaps wonder why she kept going. Was it that this was her only hope of a decent life? Maybe it was that she wouldn't be able to live with herself if this grievance wasn't resolved. We just do not know. What we do know is that she kept going, she persevered.

Jesus is preparing his disciples for the tough times that lie ahead. as it says in the gospel he wants them to always pray and to not lose heart. It seems clear that he is using this parable about the widow and the judge to demonstrate that even in the most difficult of times it is worth keeping going. He wants them to be ready for the times ahead that may not seem as hopeful as they are now. This message applies as much to us today as it did to the disciples back then. It is true that when life is going well we may find it easy to be thankful for the blessings we receive. (although perhaps not as thankful as we should be.) It is also true that our problems seem so large that we just give up even to the point where we don't think it's worth praying anymore.

The widow teaches us that we need a faith that keeps on knocking at the door, a faith that keeps us turning to God. We need to trust that one day the answers to our prayers will come.

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: In memory of loved ones who have died over the last year from St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary parishes, 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 next meeting in the lounge of St. Patrick's Hall will be on Friday 31st October and then every last Friday of the month.

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. **SORRY FULLY BOOKED**

Partnership Christmas Lunch: Tuesday December 9th 12 noon to be held at the Jolly Drivers, 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.

SVP Christmas Cards: are on sale on the piety stall at the back of church, including the National Youth SVP Christmas card winner from St Bede's. (Leyla, Year 12)

SVP Information: The Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) is a Charitable Voluntary Community Group based at St Mary's Blackhill who serve the West Derwentside Partnership with support and kindness. They are available for home visits and assistance. If you feel that you need the help of the SVP their telephone number is 07377 259724.

World Day of Prayer: Coffee Morning Saturday 25th October at 10am at Consett Methodist Church. Tickets £1 available from Geraldine Brown or Bernadette Bowley at St Patrick's. All are Welcome.

Make Your Giving Go Further with Gift Aid: Did you know that if you're a UK taxpayer, your donations to the parish can go even further at **no extra cost to you**? With Gift Aid, the government adds 25% to your gift, helping us support our church, ministries, and community projects even more! It's simple to sign up and makes a huge difference:

Your regular donations go further. You help the parish care for our community and facilities.

It costs you nothing extra! Sign up today by contacting your local parish Gift Aid Organiser or visit

<https://forms.office.com/e/BrxQTPnn3a?origin=lprLink> Together, we can strengthen our parish and continue our mission to serve God and our community. Thank you for your generosity!

Service of Blessing of Graves. On Saturday November 1st Father John will lead a prayer service at Blackhill Cemetery which will include Holy Rosary and reflections from scripture. Gather for a prompt start at 2.30pm outside the house at the main entrance. Car parking is very limited because we cannot block inward or outer traffic flow of other visitors. Nearest bus stop is the Cricketers Pub on the X45 bus route from Consett Bus Station. Come prepared for any adverse Autumn weather conditions!

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 4th November 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.

Gaza Fundraising: Thank you to everyone for your support and generosity in all of our parishes in the Pontop Partnership as well as people of other faiths. We have raised £1430 so far for the starving children in Gaza. Including £200 from guess Santa's birthday won by Annette Hendry and £300 from the sponsored walk which was a great success with monies still coming in.

English Martyr's 70th Birthday Reunion: are meeting for a drink in the Steel Club Lounge on Thursday 23rd October 7-11pm. All welcome. Thank you Eileen Willis.

Around the Diocese

"All Saints' Day: Brunch by the Sea" – 1 November 2025: An invitation for women in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle to come together to share brunch and a time of prayer and reflection led by Sr Sheila McNamara. '11am – 1pm on Saturday 1st November at St Cuthbert's, Albion Road West, North Shields, NE29 OJB'. Please bring pastries, fruit or other to contribute to the bring and share brunch table. To RSVP or for more information please contact: Mary (mmadziva@ymt.org) or Amy (formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk).

Little Sisters of the Poor – Christmas Fayre: The Little Sisters of the Poor will be holding their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8th November from 12-3pm at St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle. There will be lots of stalls, raffles, home baking and refreshments. All are welcome.

St Mary's News

Collections: World Mission Sunday

Next week: Clergy Training Fund

Lately Deceased: Robert Young. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: Will burn In Loving Memory of 'Abby Devanney'

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

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

Music Night: K.K.C. presents 'Whistle Testers' on Saturday November 15th, doors open 6.30pm. Bar, Bingo and Raffle. Tickets £5. There is a box at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate a raffle prize. Thank you all.

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

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week: World Mission Sunday

Next week – Clergy Training Fund

Lately Deceased: Robert Henry Young. Please pray for him and his family 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.

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.

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.

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

Knitted Baskets: Knitting patterns and wool are available at the back of St. Patrick's to make Christmas Gift Baskets. Thank you and well done to those who have already made some!

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 26th October after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: Next week - World Mission Sunday Next week – Clergy Training Fund

Collection: The collection for CAFOD raised £320, thank you for your very generous support.

Lately Deceased: Melvyn Ayton. Please pray for him and his 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 has been sent to the charity 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.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week - World Mission Sunday Next week – Clergy Training Fund

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.

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.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – World Mission Sunday Next week – Clergy Training Fund

Holy Rosary: will be said on Tuesday 14th October at 9.30am, Mass at 10.00am, followed by the Coffee Morning, tea/coffee/raffle

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Joseph Dunne, Francis Grimes, John Williams, Michael Cant, Michael McNally, Raymond Allan, Maureen Fox, Martin Glancy, Peter Donnelly, Sister Brendan (Madge Page), John Guthrie Aitchison, Gerald Kenneth Toole, Ernest Dennis Haswell, Abi Devanney, Thomas Oliver Gleghorn, Charles Dewhurst, Eleanor Mulligan, Margaret Corrigan, Gerald Smith, Kelly Ann Dunstan, William Bell, James Williams, William Alton Storey, Edward Brown.

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: Thomas Bushby Snr., William Creegan, Ethel Dickinson, Ged Kilty Jr., Joseph McNally

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, 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'