

30th Sunday of the Year - 26th 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, Lanchester - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

The heart that God sees

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable that cuts straight to the heart of what it means to be truly righteous before God. Two men go up to the temple to pray - one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stands tall, listing his religious achievements and comparing himself favourably to others. The tax collector, on the other hand, stands at a distance, unable to lift his eyes to heaven, and simply prays, *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."*

Jesus concludes with a powerful reversal: *"I tell you, this man went home justified, rather than the other."* It's a striking reminder that God sees not just our actions, but the posture of our hearts.

The Pharisee's prayer is full of pride. He's not really speaking to God - he's speaking about himself. His righteousness is self-made, and his confidence comes from comparison. The tax collector, however, comes with humility, aware of his need for mercy. He doesn't defend himself or make excuses. He simply asks for grace.

This parable challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we approach God with humility, or do we rely on our own sense of goodness? Do we compare ourselves to others, or do we stand before God in truth?

It also reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy. The tax collector, despised and rejected by society, is the one who receives justification. God's grace is not earned - it is received by those who know they need it.

In our prayer life, in our relationships, and in our service, let us seek the humility of the tax collector. Let us come before God not with pride, but with openness. For it is the humble heart that God lifts up, and the contrite spirit that he draws near.

This week, may we pray with honesty, live with humility, and extend mercy to others as we ourselves have received it. And may we remember that the most powerful prayer is often the simplest: *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."*

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.

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: Thank you to everyone who contributed. At the back of the church is a poster explaining the ministry of 'The Host Apostolate'. I will begin collecting next spring. If anyone wants to offer monetary gifts the details are on the poster.

Edinburgh Trip: **Is now fully booked.**

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Flying from Newcastle on Sunday 28th June return Sunday 5th July 2026. Cost £839 sharing, £979 single room. More details on the notice board or ring Margaret on 07944288655.

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

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.

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 Mary's Convent Ebchester - Afternoon Tea Thursday 30th October. Plus Raffle, all are welcome.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): Is a caring and committed charitable organisation serving the West Derwentside Partnership area, based at St Mary's, Blackhill. SVP offers both practical and spiritual support to those who may be facing challenges or feeling isolated. If you know of a family or individual who might benefit from a regular visit in their own home, sheltered housing or a care home—whether for a friendly chat, a helping hand, or spiritual companionship. You can email us at: PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk or leave a message with

your name and contact number on 07377 259724. We also warmly welcome anyone who feels called to join us in making a meaningful difference in our community. Together, we can bring hope, comfort, and kindness to those who need it most.

Around the Diocese

Tradition v Change?: The Nicene Creed and the Development of Doctrine: - Does faith change, or does it stay the same? In this 1700th anniversary year of the first Ecumenical Council of Nicaea [which formulated the Nicene Creed we proclaim at Mass] Professor Karen Kilby from Durham University will explore the Council, the Creed and the question of development of doctrine on Tuesday 4 November at 7pm in the Holy Name Hall, Jesmond NE2 3JX.

"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 0JB'. 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).

Significance Grand Draw: Thank you to all who have supported the Draw which closes on Friday 14th November. Ticket stubs and payment should be returned to Significance, Emmaus Village, Pemberton Road, Allensford, Consett DH8 9BA. Cheques payable to Significance. Payment can also be made by bank transfer: Significance Sort Code: 52-30-44 Account Number: 46107363. Please put your name as reference. The Draw, which will be live streamed, takes place on Youth Sunday 23rd November at St Mary's Hexham. Please email significance316@gmail.com for further information or to buy tickets.

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week -Clergy Training Fund Next week – The Clergy Training Fund
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: The Kennedy Care 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. Any donations of bought or home baked goods are needed for our 1st November, Christmas Fair, raising money for the Children of Gaza Appeal. Please list ingredients for any home baked goods. Home baked goods can be dropped off on the day from 10am onwards. Many thanks to all.

Flowers For Christmas: Christmas flower demonstration by Val Guest in the JFK Centre on Wednesday 12th November at 2pm. Cost £9 (includes refreshments). There will also be a raffle for a flower arrangement/ hamper raffle and other donated gifts.

300 Club October Winners: £20 (75) M Cowie, £10 (247) P Nevin, £10 (85) V Smith, £10 (176) J McCrory, £10 (125) K Brown. Thank you for your support.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week: Clergy Training Fund Next week – Clergy Training Fund
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.

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.

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. We are also looking for volunteers on the day please, any help is greatly appreciated.

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!

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: Next week - Clergy Training Fund

Next week – Clergy Training Fund

The collection for 'World Mission Sunday' raised £120, thank you for your generous support.

Lately Deceased: John Watson. 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 - Clergy Training Fund

Next week – The Clergy Training Fund

Lately Deceased: John Watson. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time

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.

100 Club October Winners: £30 (37) Maureen Collins £20 (2) Fr John Bagnall
£10 (57) Cathy Embleton. Thank you for all your support.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This week – Clergy Training Fund

Next week – The Clergy Training Fund

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: William Bell, James Williams, William Alton Storey, Edward Brown, Michael Carey, Maureen Mulholland, Christina Stella Elliot, Ernest Platt, Polly Alexandra Smith, Ann (Nancy) Miller, Margaret Mary McDonald, Mary Toner, Margaret Black, Steven Black, Rose Ellen Agnew, Nicholas Boyle, Elizabeth Page, Peter Cassidy, Genevieve St Clare Clarke, Maureen Connor, Brian McKean, John McDonald, Mary Croney.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Anne Graham (nee Barron), Ted McKie, Annie Kelly, Lyndsay Morton, Ray Watson, Eileen Mary Carr (nee Nicholson), Joseph McKie, Mary Davison.

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:

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'