

Our Lord Jesus Christ The King - 23rd November 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 King who reigns from the Cross

As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, we are invited to contemplate a paradox: a King crowned not with gold, but with thorns; enthroned not on a majestic seat, but on a cross. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is mocked by soldiers and scoffers, yet it is in this moment of suffering that his true kingship is revealed.

The scene is stark. Jesus hangs between two criminals. One joins the crowd in derision, but the other sees something deeper. *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* In this simple plea, we hear faith, humility, and hope. And Jesus responds with royal authority: *"Today you will be with me in paradise."*

This is the kind of King we follow - one who reigns not through domination, but through self-giving love. His power is not in military might or political control, but in mercy, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life. Christ's throne is the cross, and his crown is love poured out for all.

The Feast of Christ the King reminds us that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, yet it transforms this world. It is a kingdom where the last are first, the humble are exalted, and sinners are welcomed home. It is a kingdom that challenges us to live differently - to serve rather than be served, to forgive rather than retaliate, to love even when it costs us.

As we close the liturgical year, this feast invites us to renew our allegiance to Christ. Not just in words, but in how we live. Do we recognise his kingship in our daily choices? Do we allow his mercy to shape our relationships, our priorities, our hearts?

Let us be like the repentant thief - honest about our needs, bold in our hope, and trusting in the King who saves. And let us proclaim with our lives that Christ truly is King - not just of the universe, but of our hearts.

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.

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.

Confirmation Group Social Evening: As part of their Confirmation journey our young people are planning a social evening on Saturday 29th November at 7pm in order to raise funds for their chosen charities, 'Water Aid and Willowburn Hospice.' They warmly welcome you to share their food, chat and entertainment at St Mary's Church Hall, Blackhill.

Love Christmas: This weekend we launch the 2025 Love Christmas campaign. It is across the whole partnership this year and collection envelopes are available in all our churches. With the help of your generosity we aim to make Christmas a little bit better for those across our community who need a helping hand. Last year we distributed "Love Christmas Dinner" bags, Toiletries gift bags for young people living in temporary accommodation, Gift bags for adults with learning needs and lastly, helped the mothers of the children in our local Women's Refuge with something extra for Christmas. Your generosity helped to make a big difference to a lot of people, please be as generous as you can this year.

Carols by Candlelight at Brooms: Join us on Sunday, 30th November (the First Sunday of Advent) for a beautiful evening of music and reflection. Carols begin at 3:30 pm (Doors open at 3:00 pm). Everyone is welcome! After the service, enjoy refreshments and browse a selection of handmade Christmas gifts created by St Bede's Youth SVP, with proceeds supporting the Pontop Partnership SVP.

A festive date for your diary: The annual Churches Together Carolcade will take place this year on the evening of Wednesday 17th December. Full details in next week's newsletter.

Partnership Christmas Lunch: LAST CHANCE 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.

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.

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock: 25th-29th May 2026 Gillingham's Coaches, departing local destinations. 5 days/4 nights (Belfast, Bundoran, Knock and Belfast). DBB. £640 per person sharing a double room. £790 single occupancy. Full day at the Shrine with Mass, guided tour and prayer opportunities. 2 half day visits included: Belfast Titanic Museum and Cong 'Quiet Man' village, Mayo. Optional evening Mass at Clonard Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Contact: Michael, 07787 726306, Lestrine: 07778 656662.

Friday Fellas Men's Group: The next meeting in the lounge of St. Patrick's Hall will be on Friday 28th November

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): Is a caring and committed charitable voluntary 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.

St Mary's Convent Ebchester: Christmas Fayre Saturday 6th December at 1pm, Santa, Tombola, Raffle, Festive Food and Treats. St Mary's Convent also has two rooms available for more information telephone 012307 560288.

Around the Diocese

World Youth Sunday Collection: This weekend we celebrate World Youth Sunday, when the Church gives thanks for the life and faith of our young people. The retiring collection will support the work of the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT), our Diocesan Youth Service.

Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church - please consider taking one home this week and bringing it back for next Sunday's collection. Your generosity helps young people to encounter Christ and grow in faith.

Holy Island Term Time Volunteer Opportunity: Holy Island SVP Vinnie's Camp are looking for volunteers to help in their Kitchen or with caretaking at our centre on Holy Island.

Commitment time would vary from a weekend, to half a week, a full week which includes accommodation. Without more term time volunteers our Summer SVP Vinnies Camps would not be possible and many schools in the North East would not have access to reasonably priced residential holidays for their children. Applications open in December on our website: <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> If you are interested or want more information please email barbart@svp.org.uk.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Friday 31st July – Friday 7th August 2026 **Celebrating our Centenary Year.** Being the Centenary year since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Joseph Thorman, we have had increased interest in people wanting to go to Lourdes in 2026. It would help our Tour Operator (Tangney Tours) greatly if you could fill in the pre-registration form on their website if you are contemplating travelling with them. This will assist in helping with travel arrangements and hotels. Please note, this is pre-registration, it does not mean you have booked your place. Please follow the link below.

<https://www.tangney-tours.com/dioces.../diocese-newcastle-2/> or phone 01732 886 666

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week - Catholic Youth Next week – Daughters Of Divine Mercy

Lately Deceased: Maureen Glencross. 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.

Sanctuary Candle: will burn In Loving Memory of 'Frank Bradley'.

Gaza Appeal Remembrance Tree: You might wish to remember a deceased loved one during November by making a donation in their memory and hanging a dove in their name on our remembrance tree. It will be situated in the entrance to our hall, and you can access it on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. All donations will go to CAFOD specifically to aid relief efforts in Gaza. Instructions, doves, pens and envelopes will be with the tree. Thank you.

Light a Candle on the Christmas Tree: remembering a loved one, cost £2 per name/s. All Names read out on 21st December Sunday Mass. Please see Joan Devanney.

Whistle Testers: Thank you to the 'Whistle Testers' for performing at The Kennedy Care Centre on Saturday, and a big thank you to all who helped and to those who attended. A profit of £960 was raised.

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

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Peter Walls, Susan Boyle, Ellen Kierman, Thomas Page, Philomena Jackson, Roseann Lavin, Ellen Willis, Joseph McKie, Margaret Higham, Mary Margaret Loughran, Jean Eva Hunter, John McGough, Sadie Seaton, Teresa Georgina McNally, Betty McArdle, John Corr, Rose Hodson, Elizabeth Joyce Gibson, Edward Ryans, Sheila Patricia Hoy, Martha Grimes, Margaret Grayson, Mary Murphy, Wilfrid Quinn, Jennie Winter, Kathleen Hillery, Gerard Irving, Clara Winifred Anderson, Veronica Bradley, James Daly, Jennifer Ann Gallagher, Gerald Anthony Bradley (Tony).

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

St. Patrick's: Dominic McGurk, Mary Burnage, Mary Theresa Hughes, Joseph Raw, Flora Nimmons, Tommy O'Neill, Mary Donaghy, Alan Foley, Gerard Slavin, Moira Reed, Brian Rogan, James Fail, James Kerr, Ellen Parker, Nancy Collins, John Harpin, Stephen Fenwick, John Haggon, Bill Kennedy, Betty Mitcheson, Jeanne Marie Philips, Frances Ronald Lovett, Margaret McArdle, Maureen Rose, Peter Boyle, Terence Curran.

St Pius: Alfred Bennett, Susan Boyle, Thomas Cooke, Arthur Donaghy, Richard Forbes, Patricia Jarman, Marie Mathews, Gerald McArdle, Ella Willis.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Ged Doughan, Sydney Fountain, Norman Henderson, Laura Mallon, Graeme Dimmick.

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, Sienna Jane McNestry, Joan O'Keefe, Joan Wilson, Alan McCullagh, Terry Maguire.

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'