

## 2nd Sunday of Advent - 7th December 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

### The Prophet's Call

We are living in a dark time of the year. The mornings are dark and the evenings turn dark very early. Light is scarce, and we've yet to reach the shortest day. It's within this time that we light our second Advent Candle.

Advent is often described as a season of hope. Because year after year we journey in hope toward December 25th, when we will once more celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world.

But Advent is not only a season of hope. It is something else too. Advent is also a challenging season. It is a time to make changes in our lives.

This Sunday's gospel reading is a fiery one. It may remind us of the stirring sermons we used to hear for those who remember the old-style parish missions.

The disturbing figure St. John the Baptist looms out of the desert. Knowing the one who was to come, he preaches repentance and a change of heart. John the Baptist says to all he meets, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."

In the remaining weeks of Advent, it might be fitting to keep two thoughts in our hearts. Yes, we wait in hope and joy for the coming of Jesus, but we also remember that his coming offers us a challenge to change. If we do try to change then we will be preparing well for the Lord to come to us and to come to others through us.

Then we will truly be following the prophet's call that all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

***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.

**Love Christmas:** the 2025 Love Christmas campaign has been launched. 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. Please be as generous as you can this year.

**Decembeard – for Bowel Cancer UK.** Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December this year Fr John is going to stop shaving and grow a beard. The reason why? He is asking you to sponsor him to support the charity Bowel Cancer UK. The money raised during Decembeard will help stop people dying of bowel cancer by funding vital services and lifesaving research. Donation envelopes will be available soon in all parishes. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**A festive date for your diary:** The annual Churches Together Carolcade will take place this year on the evening of Wednesday 17th December 6.30pm starting at St Patrick's and ending at Consett Methodist Church where refreshments will be served.

**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:** 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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. You can email us at: [PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk](mailto:PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk) or leave a message with your name and contact number on 07377 259724.

**Thank you:** To everyone who joined us for Carols by Candlelight at Brooms last Sunday. Your presence made it such a joyful and uplifting beginning to Advent. Students from St Bede's and Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary School shared poems and Scripture readings, while our primary pupils sang Little Donkey and Away in a Manger. Our St Bede's Youth SVP students hosted a wonderful stall featuring candles in china cups and saucers, bookmarks, decorations, and key rings. A generous parishioner, Mrs Dixon also donated knitted animals. All proceeds went to the St Vincent de Paul Society serving the West Pontop Partnership of Parishes.

**St Mary's Convent Ebchester:** Christmas Fayre Saturday 6th December at 1pm, Santa, Tombola, Raffle, Festive Food and Treats.

**Friday Fellas Men's Group:** The final 2025 meeting of the Friday Fellas will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

December in the lounge of St. Patrick's Church Hall, between 6.30pm and 8.00pm. Thank you to all the fellas who have made the group such a success so far. New members are always welcome.

Pontop Confirmation Group: We would like to thank everyone who so generously supported our warm 'Entertainment Evening' with your time, talent and good company. An incredible £650 was raised for Water Aid and Willowburn Hospice.

Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival: Congratulations to Eileen Willis who received a Highly Commended Rosette for the Peace Tree in the recent Festival.

### **Around the Diocese**

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 – Advent Alms

Next week – Advent Alms

Sanctuary Candle: will burn In Loving Memory of David Alderson

Sunday Breakfast Club: This Sunday after Mass with Bacon Sandwiches.

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

300 Club: Thank you for your support. New members are needed for 2026. Yearly subscription £12 a year for each number. Please see Jimmy.

St Mary's Special Needs Nativity Play: on Friday 12th December at 7.15pm followed by tea/coffee and sweet mince pies in the JFK Centre. All are welcome to come and join us.

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.

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

Christmas Day: Welcome Thursday will be providing Lunch on Christmas Day, if you know of anyone who might be spending the day on their own please let them know they are welcome to join us. We would be very grateful for any donations towards the cost of the food and providing all guests with a Christmas present. If anyone is interested in helping or would like to book someone in for lunch please contact me on Whatsapp. Brian 07891 511168.

### **St Patrick's News**

Collections: This Week: Advent Alms

Next week – Advent Alms

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.

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!

Family Christmas Quiz: December 13th, St Patrick's Hall, 6.00pm start. Come along and show

how much you know about Christmas! Mixed teams of all ages. Raffle and prize for the best decorated table, £5 per team

Christmas Concert Consett Citizens Choir will be holding their annual Christmas Concert in St Patrick's Hall on December 14th at 2.30. It will be followed by mulled wine and festive treats. Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection.

Wonderful Opportunity: St Patrick's parishioners are warmly invited to browse and purchase some of the beautiful candles, keyrings, and bookmarks lovingly crafted by St Bede's Youth SVP. These items will be available after Mass on Sunday, 14 December, and all proceeds will go in aid of the West Pontop Partnership SVP. Please give generously

### **Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News**

Collections: This week - Advent Alms

Next week – Advent Alms

Collections: The collection for Youth Ministry realised £232, thank you for your generosity.

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.

Admissions 2025–2026 at Our Lady and St Joseph Primary School: We are delighted to announce that Our Lady and St Joseph Primary School currently has spaces available across the school, not just in Nursery and Reception. Our school is a lovely, welcoming, and nurturing community, where every child is valued and supported to achieve their best. We are proud of our Good Ofsted rating and our Good and Outstanding Catholic Schools Inspection grading, reflecting our commitment to high standards and strong Catholic ethos. Please contact the school office to book an appointment with Mrs Jarvis, Acting Head of School. Contact: 01207 503979 Email: [info@olsj.bwcet.com](mailto:info@olsj.bwcet.com)

Brooms at St. Ives. The next Mass at St. Ives Church, Leadgate will be 10am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. All are welcome to attend.

### **St Pius News**

Collections: This Week - Advent Alms

Next week – Advent Alms

Lately Deceased: Patrica Dackhombe. Please pray for her and her 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: will be held on Monday 21st December a

Date for your diary: Advent Service at St Pius on Sunday 21st December at 3pm.

Blue Christmas Candles in Memory of a Loved One. Seven-day blue candles will be on sale at St. Pius Church for £5 each. They are to be lit and labelled in memory of your chosen loved one and remain alight throughout Christmas. Forms will be available from this weekend at the back of St Pius Church and the candles will be lit at the St. Pius Advent Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 3pm.

Exposition on Wednesday: Commences at 5pm until further notice.

### **Our Lady of the Rosary News**

Collections: This Week - Advent Alms

Next week – Advent Alms

Christmas Coffee morning: On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December in the hall after 10am Mass. Cake, biscuits, raffle. All are welcome. Holy Rosary at 9.30am in church.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Joseph Kelly, William Glasgow, Dorothy Eileen Reilly, Alexander Jackson, Adrian Hepplewhite, Anthony Worrall, Teresa Cartmell, Jacky Eccles, Alan Cartmell, Ellen Mulholland, John Dodd, Peter Jopling, Marion Shaw, Ivy McGuigan.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Maureen McDonald, Winnie Williams, Jack McNally, Peter Jopling, Father John, Rose McNally, Jim McKie (jnr), Jim Robinson.

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, Jack McNally

St Pius: Jack Atherton, Martin Carney, Molly Carter, Thomas Creegan, Harry Graham, Pat Hockaday, Joan McGee, Jessie Milner, Michael Mohan, Anne Orr, Jean Wray.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Mary Wilks, Wilf Herdman, Kathleen Grogan, David R. Fountain, Thomas A. Williamson, Rose Jackson, Kathleen Walker, Maureen Coates, Sr Mary Anthony, Robert Foreman, Jim Dodd, Teresa Tate, Imelda Cullen.

## **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'*