

3rd Sunday of Advent - 14th December 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. Plus X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Desierto Florido

As we reach the third Sunday of Advent there is a call to rejoice. It might be reasonable to ask "Why now?". After all, the event that we are happy about, the incarnation of Jesus, hasn't happened yet. Christmas is just under two weeks away, we aren't quite there.

But it is in human nature to celebrate in hope. If someone gets a new job or a promotion we congratulate them, well before we know if it all works out. Perhaps the most obvious, and relevant, is when we hear the news that a baby is on the way. It can and should be a time of great joy, a new person will join us sooner rather than later. We know there can be many dangers along the way but that generally doesn't stop us, we celebrate in expectation, prepare in hope.

The prophet Isaiah likens that joy to the blossoming of flowers in the wilderness, the "desert bloom". It brings to mind those films of plants bursting into life, from seed to flower, in a matter of hours after the rains fall. Brown and dusty lands turning into yellow, pink, white and purple overnight.

Of course what happens is that when the rains cease the flowers die back and everything goes back to normal. Perhaps the message for those of us who only approach Christ around the time of His birth is that if we wish to sustain our joy, to allow it to grow deeper roots, we need more regular contact. We need to allow our faith to be watered and fed through the year. We need to make the joy of the season a permanent presence in our lives.

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.

Northern Catholic Calenders: are on sale at the back of church price, ringbinder £4.

Northern Cross Newspapers: are on sale at the back of church Price £1.50.

Love Christmas: the 2025 Love Christmas 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 1st and 31st 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: 25th May 2026 - 29th May 2026 5 days/4 nights. DBB. £640 per person sharing double still available. No single vacancies. Information of deposit and payments issued after the New Year. Contact: Michael, 07787726306, Lestrine: 07778656662

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 or leave a message with your name and contact number on 07377 259724.

Friday Fellas Men's Group: The final 2025 meeting of the Friday Fellas will be on Friday 19th 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.

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. 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/Sausage Sandwiches. tea and coffee, Raffle

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.

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.

Homeless Appeal: Thank you to everyone who has donated clothes etc, for the homeless there has been such a wonderful response that we are closing the appeal until after the New Year.

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!

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, 14th December, and all proceeds will go in aid of the West Pontop Partnership SVP. Please give generously.

Thank you: To Michael James who kindly installed a hand rail on the altar next to the reading pulpit.

Christmas Fayre: Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to our recent Christmas Fayre we raised an amazing £1313.52.

300 Club November Winners: 1st No 123 £20 Maria Robinson, 2nd No 106 £10 Matthew & Alex Smith, 3rd No 49 £10 Jean Murray, 4th No 149 £10 John Rodgers.

Recycle for Good Causes: There is a box at the back of the church with information on what can be contributed. There was £63.90 raised for Cafod in the last sack sent off.

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.

Lately Deceased: Maureen Henderson. Please pray for her and her 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.

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. Please contact the school office to book an appointment with Mrs Jarvis, Acting Head of School. Contact: 01207 503979 Email: info@olsj.bwcet.com

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

St Pius News

Collections: This Week - Advent Alms

Next week – Advent Alms

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 22nd December at 6.00pm

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 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

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: 1. Mary Murray, Baby James Logan Butler, Hilda Tyerman, Susannah Toole, Sarah McAleer, Martin Batey, John Ramsey McGinn, Josephine Farclough, Violet Grant, John Shaw, (Baby) Sharmaine Murphy, Esther Dunn, Dorothy Anne McKean, Peter Darroch, Rose McNally, Joseph Cain, Richard Hannah, Mary Ellen Kiely, Hannah Marie Parkin, John Grimes, Frank Gowland, Anthony Neal Redmond.

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: Molly Williamson, Catherine Boyle, James Brown, Robbie Vallely, Cathy Lumb, Kathleen Page, John Rogan, David Cameron, Finbarr Taylor, Rose Jackson, Catherine McDonald, Teresa Rogan, Edward Patrick Murray, Doreen Donaghy, Maureen McCrory, Freda McNicholas, Terence O' Rourke, Eric Cheeseman, Laura McCann, Michael Shaw, Peter Crinnion, Michelle Johnson, Veronica Robinson, Sarah (Sadie) Jackson, Veronica Elizabeth Renwick, Edna Halliday, Austin McDonald, 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.

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'