



Ecce Agnus Dei

In today's Gospel (John 1:29-34), John the Baptist points to Jesus and proclaims, *'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'* These words are familiar to us from every Mass, yet they carry profound meaning. John identifies Jesus not simply as a teacher or prophet, but as the sacrificial Lamb – the one who will offer himself for our redemption. This title recalls the Passover lamb of Exodus, whose blood saved Israel from death. In Christ, that saving act is fulfilled perfectly: his blood brings freedom from sin and opens the way to eternal life.

Notice John's humility: *'I myself did not know him... but for this purpose I came baptising with water, so that he might be revealed to Israel.'* John's mission was not about himself, but about revealing Christ. His example challenges us to ask: Do our words and actions point others to Jesus, or to ourselves? In a world that prizes self-promotion, John reminds us that true greatness lies in directing attention to the Lord.

The Responsorial Psalm echoes this call: *'Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.'* To behold the Lamb is not passive; it invites a response. Like John, we are called to witness – to recognise Christ's presence and share him with others. This begins with openness: listening to God's voice, surrendering our plans, and allowing his Spirit to guide us.

As we continue in Ordinary Time, let us make it anything but ordinary. Each day offers a chance to behold the Lamb of God in the Eucharist, in Scripture, and in the faces of those around us. May we, like John, testify: *'I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'* And may our lives echo that truth with joy and conviction!

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Deacon Chris Callan

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

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.

Canon Bob Spence RIP: We are sorry to share the sad news that Canon Bob Spence died on January 7th. Please remember him in your prayers and pray for the repose of his soul. Funeral arrangements will be shared when finalised.

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 Calendars: 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.

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: There will be a meeting at Lanchester Parish Centre, Kitswell Road Lanchester, Thursday 22nd January, to clarify any concerns and make payments of the deposit by cheque if possible. or cash if need be. Unfortunately the parish account cannot process BACS. Cheques made payable to All Saints R.C. Church. Single deposit £250 and Double/Twin £200 per person by 30th January. The balance to be paid by 30th March. 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. Over the past month, the SVP has been active, carrying out valuable work within the community. Several members delivered the Love Christmas food parcels, along with hampers and much-needed vouchers, bringing practical support and encouragement to local families during a challenging time. Members have continued to offer direct, hands-on assistance. One family was supported through the provision of a bed and bedding, alongside the regular visits that offered both practical help and personal encouragement and friendship. The Mini Vinnies from St Pius, St Mary's, and Our Lady & St Joseph's, Brooms also made Christmas cards to accompany the boxes of biscuits to those receiving Holy Communion and to individuals who were visited, helping to share kindness and festive cheer. The Conference also provided 50 bars of chocolate, which were distributed to prisoners together with Christmas cards from St Bede's YSVP, coordinated through Deacon Chris. It was a truly uplifting example of different groups working together as one Vincentian family. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from a visit or is in need of support, please do let us know. Likewise, if you would like to join us and help make a meaningful difference within the West Pontop Partnership area, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Friday Fellas Men's Group: The January meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group will meet one week earlier this month. We will meet at 6.30pm in St. Patrick's Hall Lounge on Friday 23rd January. Our speaker this month will be local historian Brian Harrison.

Gift Aid: Donor acknowledgement letters relating to the parish Gift Aid claim 2024-25 are now available. If you require a copy please let the Parish Gift Aid Administrator know and your individual letter will be printed for you.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 3rd February 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.

Job Vacancy St Patrick's Hall Consett Caretaker: 7.5 hours per week, some unsociable hours required. £12.21 per hour. Based at St Patricks Hall, Consett. To undertake a range of caretaking and security duties including opening and lock up for Hirers, setting up tables and chairs for user groups and clearing furniture after bookings when required. You will also identify repairs needed throughout the building and report these to the Hall Trustee. You must be fully aware of Health and Safety procedures and policies and ensure that all chemicals used in performance of the job are securely stored. You will also be required to adhere to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR 2016. For further information and to apply please email stpatrickshallconsett@gmail.com or contact the Hall Mobile Number on 07517 929658

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

Ushaw Historic House: The Friends of Ushaw committee, are holding a fundraising wine tasting evening at Ushaw Historic House, Durham (former RC priest training of the North), on 12th February - if you are interested the cost is £28pp for members of the Friends, £38pp standard ticket. There is a B & B at Ushaw too. To book [here's the link -](#)

<https://ushaw.org/whatson/wine-tasting>

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – White Flower Appeal (SPUC) Next week - Leprosy Appeal

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'For Joanne and Gerard Storey'

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

300 Club: 2026 Subs: are now due. Collecting after Masses for the next few weeks. New members are urgently needed, only £12 a year per number. Please see Jimmy or Julie.

Collection for Gaza: Thank you to all who contributed to this appeal, either by giving their time with fundraising or by donating generously. An amazing amount of £3577 was raised and has been forwarded to CAFOD to help the starving children in Gaza.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – White Flower Appeal (SPUC)

Lately Deceased: Veronica O'Neill. Please pray for her and her 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.

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.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 25th January after 9.15am Mass. All welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon/Sausage Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Church Hall Volunteers: We require Volunteers for the Church Hall to help with setting up for the many groups that use the Hall the more Volunteers we get we will be able to prepare a rota. Please contact the Hall Mobile Number 07517 929658 for more information.

300 Club Christmas Draw: 1st £80 No 111 Catherine Westgarth, 2nd £60 No 70 Mary Saunders 3rd £40 No 90 Josie McMenamin, 4th £30 No 102 Teresa O'Neill.

Thank You: Peter and the family of the late Jean Walls would like to say a big thank you to all the people who attended her funeral with special thanks to Fr John for being the celebrant and for being so cooperative in our choice of music, to Jean and Christine for their readings and Alison and Kate for their poem, also to Cath Welford the Organist and the Tuesday Ladies. It was a service that had everyone saying that Jean had a lovely send off. Peter and the family would also like to thank all those who sent cards and floral tributes and a personal thanks to all those offers of help to Peter if and when required.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – White Flower Appeal (SPUC)

Collection: The collection for Pax Christie realised £75, thank you for your support.

Thank you: The family of the late Maureen Henderson would like to thank Fr. John and all those who attended the Requiem Mass, for their generosity at the collection which raised £500 for Middlesbrough Diocese Lourdes Fund.

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.

Mass at St. Ives: The next Brooms Mass at St. Ives will take place at 10am on Thursday 29th January. All are welcome.

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 – White Flower Appeal (SPUC)

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 26th January at 6.00pm

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

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – White Flower Appeal (SPUC) Next week - Leprosy Appeal

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Lily McElhone, Diones Dixon, Teresa Anderson, Mary Bell, Nellie Carr, Theresa Welford, Annie Crowther, Gerard Wilkinson, Ellen Graham, Arthur Austin Corr, Robert Orr, Elizabeth Kelly, Victor Anthony Breen, Dominik Parebski, Margaret Rogan, Edward Malpass Eileen Turner, William Austin Cheeseman, Celia Bell, Anne McGeary, Patricia Cassidy, Margaret Ann Corr, Jenny Quinn, Joseph McGuigan.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Edward Grogan, Anthony Fountain, Joseph Liddel Snr. Gerard McCabe, Doreen Peveller, Thomas Williamson, Brian Gregerson, Austin Laurie, Terese Hannon, Jade Elizabeth Robinson, Janice Hall.

St. Patrick's: Joseph Hughes, James McCourt, Michael Glancy, Paul Testo, Teresa McClean, Frederick Panting, Mary Wass, Joe Hegarty, Paul McCourt, Jennifer Enne, Louisa Maughan, Cathy Panting, Joseph Butler, Mary Elizabeth Ridley, Mary Whitfield, Margaret Carter, Margaret (McNally) Million, Colin Gibson, John O'Hanlon, Mary Curran, Anne McInnes, Winifred Callon, Barbara Ann Quinn, Margaret Thompson, Barbara Raw, Neda Ross, Patrick Edward Smith, Moira Paul, Ann Harrop, Geraldine Donnelly, Mary (May) Brown.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Harry Askew, Winnie Askew, Clare Atton, Rosemary Brady, Paul A Brown, James L Butler, David Calford, William Carson, William Cleverly, Joe Collins, John Corrigan, Gerard Cumiskey, Colin Embleton Jnr., Edward Fergus, Billy Glasgow, Margaret Glasgow, Ellen Graham, Thomas J Hall, Michael Healey, Alan Hill, Lilian Innes, Margaret Jackson, Sally Kane, Dennis JK Kennedy, Jean Kennedy, Theresa Kerridge, John Kilty, Helen Kipling, Kathleen Lamond, Peter Lamond, Mary Lydon, Michael Lydon, Terence McKenna, Vera Murray, Robert Orr, Joan Peacock, Hannah T Pryor, Catherine Renwick, John Robson, John Townson, Rita Travell, Lawrence L Watson, Baby Woodland.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Edward Grogan, Anthony Fountain, Joseph Liddel Snr. Gerard McCabe, Doreen Peveller, Thomas Williamson, Brian Gregerson, Austin Laurie, Terese Hannon, Jade Elizabeth Robinson, Janice Hall.

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, Kathleen Bowman, Teresa Kelly, Ronan Lawson (Aged 7).

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, Katrina Tuckwell.

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'