

The Baptism of the Lord - 11th January 2026

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, Lancaster - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Love First

When we hear about Jesus being baptised by John a lot goes on to be just described in one paragraph. John's initial reluctance and the insistence of Jesus that it should happen; there is a lot to think about there. Then the baptism itself: how can you spiritually clean the one who is without stain? Are we led to the symbolism of the act: pointing to the time Jesus will spend in the tomb before his resurrection? Question upon question.

We then encounter the immense power of God displayed as the heavens are opened and the spirit of God descends upon Jesus like a dove. The dove, a symbol of new beginnings, just like the one that told Noah the flood was over and life would begin anew. The dove, a sign of hope for those who have been, who still are, drowning in darkness.

And then those words, the voice from Heaven: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Just pause a while. This is the first we hear of the adult Jesus, the very beginning of his ministry. He hasn't done anything yet but still we hear the words of affirmation from the Father. In all the power and the glory there is a very simple message in there that applies to all of us. God loves us. Not for what we have done or who we are, He just loves us. He loves us like a parent loves their child. The world keeps telling us to prove ourselves. Every single day. But the voice of heaven interrupts and reminds us that love comes first before anything else.

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.

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

'Decembeard' - in aid of Bowel Cancer: Many thanks to all the generous donors in our partnership who sponsored Fr John's beard-growing in aid of Bowel Cancer UK in the month of December. The total raised was an amazing £1,415. Your donations will help to save lives and improve the quality of life for everyone affected by bowel cancer.

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 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.

Around the Diocese

Diocesan Vacancy: Education Business Manager - Salary Scale from £35,000 to £37,323
B The closing date for applications is 12 noon Sunday 1st February 2026 although we reserve the right to close the post early. Shortlisting will be undertaken 13th February 2026, with interviews scheduled for Thursday 19th February 2026. More information on the notice board.

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 – Pax Christi Next week - White Flower Appeal (SPUC)

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In loving memory of Michael Welsh and Anne and Gordon Jennings'

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.

St Patrick's News

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

Christmas Flowers: Many thanks to our generous parishioners for their donations of money and poinsettia plants to help make St Patrick's altars look beautiful over Christmas. Your kindness is much appreciated.

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.

Crib Figures: Sincere thanks must go to Mary Robinson who painstakingly restored and repainted the crib figures for St. Patrick's Consett. She did an expert and beautiful job on them all. The crib looked especially wonderful this Christmas and we hope the figures will be used for many years to come.

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.

Card Donation Portal: We have at the back of the church 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.

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.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

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

Thank you: The family of the late John Watson would like to thank Fr. John and all those who attended the funeral, for their generosity at the collection which raised £152 for McMillan Cancer Care.

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

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Austin Robinson, Peter Hart, John Mellon, Catherine O'Neill, Douglas Kitchen, Ann Graham, Mary Urwin, Margaret McCusker, Margaret Sheekey, Winifred Ward, Kitty Cook, David Adams, Michael Healey, Norah Cramb, Maureen Gill, Frederick (Freddie) Cheeseman, Terry Bowery, Ann Curran, Bessie Smailes Ray, Winifred Atkinson, Doris Doherty, James Akers, Baby Sherrie Lowden, Elizabeth Lewins, John Peter Kilty, John McKenna, Ann Neasham, Gerald McArdle.

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: 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: 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.

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'