

# 1st Sunday of Lent - 22nd February 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, Lancaister - All Saints, Moorside - St. Flus X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

## Testing Times

This weekend's readings give us two powerful stories about temptation:

In our First Reading, we hear how Adam and Eve fell from grace. Even though they were living in a situation of perfect abundance, they showed less than perfect faith in God's love and providence. God places only one restriction on them and tells them that his intent is to keep them safe. But they lose trust very quickly when the serpent lies and tells them that God's real purpose is to keep them inferior so that he can rule over them. They saw God often, and had the ability to speak with him directly, so they could have confronted him and asked him to explain. Instead, they chose to take matters into their own hands and suffered the consequences.

In the Gospel Reading, by contrast, the devil tries three times to lead Jesus astray, but he defeats each test, not by relying on his own power, but by placing absolute trust in his divine Father's love and providence. Even though he is hungry at the end of a long fast, he refuses the devil's suggestion to feed himself by turning stones into bread. When the devil transports him to the top of the Temple, he refuses to force God to protect him by leaping off. Finally, when the devil offers him a life of worldly power and pleasure instead of the challenging life of sacrifice that his Father is calling him to, he refuses that too. In each instance, he quotes the Word of God from the Scriptures to affirm his faith. He chooses the path of love and duty over the path of selfishness.

We all have our own choice to make every single time we're confronted by temptation. Do we listen to the voice that tells us to forget God, to forget love, and to take for ourselves? Or do we accept the Bible's constant assurance that we'll be better off in the long run if we invest ourselves in the perfect faith and love that our divine Father calls us to share with him?

**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 502023.

**Pastoral Strategy:** In Bishop Stephen's Pastoral Letter read at all this weekend's Masses, we heard about God's calling for our Diocese. The hopes and challenges we all face in the coming years. All parishes are asked to reflect and discern on their mission as we continue our journey to live as a flourishing Diocese alive in the Holy Spirit. More information is available via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) including details for an online session taking place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – 27th February 2026:** This Lent, CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday 27 February invites parish communities to respond through prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the needs of families facing floods and drought in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Through support for CAFOD's Lent Appeal, parishes and schools can help families grow food and care for their communities in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change. Further information about CAFOD's Lent Appeal, Big Lent Walk and parish collection resources are available at [cafod.org.uk/parish](http://cafod.org.uk/parish).

**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.

**Homeless in Derwentside:** there has been an increase in homelessness in Derwentside, so once more your generous help is needed for thermal wear/waterproofs/toiletries/thermal flasks. A 71yr old man has finally got a bungalow and is needing help with furnishing it. Any help would be greatly appreciated. For any information about this appeal please contact Jean Coates 07521 404924.

**St Mary's Convent Ebchester:** Afternoon tea Thursday 26th February at 1.30pm. Come and join us for tasty and sweet treats with a raffle too.

### **Events**

**Pontop Partnership at the Kennedy Care Centre:** Presents an Irish Evening on Saturday 14th March 2026. Tickets £5. Bar/bingo/raffle. Doors open at 6.30pm. Donations for raffle can be placed at the back of St Mary's church. Thank you

**Lourdes Youth Fundraiser:** Saturday 21st March – Consett St. Patrick's Hall - Join us in supporting an Altar Server from St Teresa's Annfield Plain, as he prepares to travel to Lourdes this summer to serve the sick and assisted pilgrims with the diocese. Enjoy an evening of music with Consett Citizens Choir, plus bingo, a raffle, and a licensed bar. Tickets on sale from St Patrick's Parish Office and St Mary's after Mass £6. All are welcome.

### **Groups**

**Friday Fellas Men's Group:**The next meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group will be at 6.30pm on Friday February 27<sup>th</sup> in the Lounge of St. Patrick's Hall, Consett. All are welcome.

**Newsletter Volunteers:** Help is needed with the compiling and printing of the weekly newsletter. It is hoped that with enough volunteers we can set up a rota of people to cover the month, so once every four weeks for anyone who is willing and able. Training will be given with the printers. Anyone who knows their way around a computer would be welcome in compiling the newsletter and, as with the printing, could go on a monthly rota.

West Pontop Partnership (SVP): We warmly invite anyone who may be interested in joining the St Vincent de Paul Society to consider becoming involved. Membership offers a rewarding opportunity to serve others, grow in compassion and friendship, and make a real difference within our local community. We also encourage anyone who may know individuals or families in need of support to get in touch, so that help can reach those who would most benefit. The SVP continues to visit individuals and families across the west PP, offering friendship alongside practical and spiritual support. You can email us at: [PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk](mailto:PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk) or phone - 07377 259724.

### **Pilgrimages**

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.

Partnership Pilgrimage to Krakow, Poland: We would like to invite the interested people who would like to go to Krakow to a meeting to be held in St Patrick's Church Hall Lounge on Tuesday 24th February at 5.30pm. (Please come through the door at the side of the hall).

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Friday 31st July – Friday 7th August 2026 Celebrating our Centenary Year. 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

### **Around the Diocese**

Holy Island SVP Summer Camps 2026: Applications are now open for children in school Years 5-7 for Holy Island Summer Camps. The children spend a week in our centre on the island over the Summer holidays. Transport takes the children from Tyneside to our residential centre and all meals, accommodation and activities are included in the cost. For more information please visit our website: Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

### **St Mary's News**

Collections: This Week – Lenten Alms                      Next week - Lenten Alms

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

Volunteering: If you would like to give an hour or two by helping the various parish groups please drop a note or contact the parish office. *Flower Group:* a rota system is in place. *Church cleaning:* fortnightly. *Welcomer:* weekly on a Sunday. *Altar Server:* when available. *Sacristan:* rota system.

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 – Lenten Alms                      Next Week - Lenten Alms

Lately Deceased: Anthony (Ant) Panting, Ewa Modzeewska and Janet McDonald. Please pray for them and their families 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.

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.

Lenten Soup Lunches: This year the soup lunches will be held on each **Friday** in Lent following Stations of the Cross. Come into St Patrick's Hall Lounge for a bowl of delicious homemade soup, tea/coffee and a chat. Donations of a pan of soup will be greatly received please bring to the hall lounge before Mass. All proceeds go to CAFOD and St Patrick's Church.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 3rd March 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 22nd February after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Novena to St Patrick: To celebrate the lead up to St Patrick's Day we will have a Novena to St Patrick every day the church is open from the 9th March for 9 days. When we will have Novena to St Patrick and Short Prayers.

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

Collections: This Week – Lenten Alms                      Next Week - Lenten Alms

Collection: The collection for Racial Justice realised £168, thank you for your support.

Lately Deceased: Catherine McCabe. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Mass at St. Ives: The next Brooms Mass at St. Ives will take place at 10am on Thursday 26th February. All are welcome.

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.

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.

Lenten Soup Lunches: This year the Lenten soup lunches take place over 3 weeks in March. On **March 13th** the soup lunch will be held at Leadgate Methodist Church and hosted by the Methodist and St Ives. **March 20th** the Lenten lunch is hosted by Brooms at the Salvation Army Hall and on **March 27th**, the soup lunch is hosted by Salvation Army at the Salvation Army Hall.

### **St Pius News**

Collections: This Week – Lenten Alms                      Next Week - Lenten 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 23rd February at 6.00pm

Exposition on Wednesday: Commences at 5.45pm until further notice.

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday in Lent at 6pm. All are welcome.

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

Collections: This Week – Lenten Alms                      Next Week - Lenten Alms

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Bridget Glasgow, Gerald Harrop, Mary Anne McElhatton, Kathleen Imelda Bell, Edward (Ted) Malpass, Gerald Armstrong, Catherine (Katy) Toner, James Rogan, Pat Capstick, Monica Redmond, Teresa Susan Kenny, Robert Lawrie, Audrey Charlton, Rebecca Kendall, Winifred Howe, Amanda Jane Brewer, Anthony Aubrey, Lawrence Boyle, Felix Rogan, Bernard Grimes, Michael Grugan, John Mordue, James Robinson.

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: Mary Crozier, Rose Clark Patsy Foley, Tony Gowland, Mary Teresa McCrory, Maureen Hurson, David Flynn, Teresa Smith, Eric Appleton, Patricia Higgins, John Martin, Peter Malone, Peter Hughes, Terry McCabe, Joseph Lockeron, Arran (Christopher) Field, Joan Sewell, Kevin Joyce, Rose Zina Thompson, Theresa Gaines, Alan Salkeld, Frank Moran, Georgina Rogan, Christopher Thomas Muncaster, Joan Willis, June Turner, Ellie (McNally) Snyder.

St Pius: John Angus, Tony Bennett, Colin Embleton, Lawrence Boyle, Olive Veitch.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bobby Fountain, Joseph Hurst, Joan Callaghan, Natalina (Lina) Herdman, John Foreman, Kenneth Tate, Catherine Colbert, John Cox, Maureen Costello (Sr. Paula).

## **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, Katrina Tuckwell.

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'*