

5th Sunday of the Year - 8th February 2026

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

Let Your Light Shine

In our Gospel this week we listen to Jesus continuing the Sermon on the Mount. Last week we heard the Beatitudes, the blessed attitudes, that should shape our lives and which carry the promise of great reward, an eternal reward. We now hear him say: "let your light shine before others." We are being asked to take his teaching to heart, to make it part of our lives and, very importantly, to be visible in our communities as we do so.

So there is a challenge there, one that is not picked up as often as it could be. It should make us ask the question: am I happy just coming to Mass on Sunday, doing my 'duty', and hoping that will be enough? If that is what we are doing then we quite clearly aren't following the instruction Jesus gives us. So what should we do to make our light shine?

If we listen to the passage for Isaiah we hear him call for a fast, but something more than just physical self denial. We are called to active charity, highlighting what the church calls the Corporal Works of Mercy: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. It demands a transformation of heart, towards the Beatitudes, moving us beyond easy ritual and towards social justice. It reminds us that our religious practices are accompanied by compassion and care for the vulnerable.

If we still aren't convinced it is worth thinking about where we hear this challenge in scripture. We may recall that later on in Matthew's Gospel (25:31-46), in the passage often described as the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus is talking about the final judgement, when the question is asked: "When did we see you ..."

If we really want to go to Heaven, if we really want our light to shine, actively working for social justice is a necessity not an option.

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 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.

Friday Fellas Men's Group. The next meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group will be at 6.30pm on Friday February 27th 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. Several families have benefitted, including the provision of a much-needed tumble dryer through collaboration with another local charity, as well as being signposted to other valuable sources of support. You can email us at:

PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk or phone - 07377 259724.

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. For further information and to apply please email stpatrickshallconsett@gmail.com or contact the Hall Mobile Number on 07517 929658

CAFOD Family Fast Day – 27 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.

The Bugle Comic. Thank you to everyone who bought the first issue of the Bugle Comic. Because partnership churches were so supportive in selling the comic, Father John and Phil Bartle have donated £100 to the Pontop Partnership account. The next issue of The Bugle (a 'Summer Special') will be published in June this year.

Friends of the Holy Land Christmas Collection: Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for their generous donations which will help Christians in their most vulnerable time of need. Please continue to remember them in your prayers and give them the strength to continue. The following amounts collected were - St Patrick's £637.56, Brooms £278.50, St Pius £274.50, St Mary's £219.15 and Our Lady of the Rosary £278.14

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: Our five-day partnership pilgrimage to Krakow in Poland will be between 14th and 18th October 2026. The pilgrimage will comprise of a guided daily itinerary provided by Tangney Tours and return flights from Newcastle Airport. Total cost, including Twin Room and Breakfast, will be £980 based on a maximum of 40 pilgrims attending. We have received expressions of interest and some deposits but are extending our deadline until Monday 16th February with £410 deposit per person to secure our flights.

Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2026: The Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Friday 31st July – Monday 3rd August 2026. The accommodation options are: Half Board Standard room £77, Half Board Ensuite room £97 per night. To secure your place a deposit of £200 is required. Forms and envelopes are available in local Partnership churches. Cheques to be made out to St. Patrick's RC Church, Consett and to be returned to St Patrick's Presbytery by February 9th.

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

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>

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 – Racial Justice

Lately Deceased: Tony Welsh. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, St Jude and St Raphael'

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

Flower Group: The flower group are needing volunteers to help with the altar flowers. A rota system is in operation. Please see one of the flower ladies or call the office.

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.

Parish Council: Our next joint parish council meeting for St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary will take place on Tuesday 10th February at 7.15pm.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Racial Justice

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.

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 January Winners: 1st No. 16 June Henderson £20 2nd No. 32 Desmond Hughes £15
3rd No 98 Gerard Donaghy £10 4th No 17 Rena Miller £10

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Racial Justice

Collection: The collection for Church Flowers, raised £155. Thank you for your generosity.

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. Another £150 has been sent to the charity this week.

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 – Racial Justice

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 5pm until further notice.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – Racial Justice

Parish Council: Our next joint parish council meeting for St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary will take place on Tuesday 10th February at 7.15pm.

Coffee Morning: after Mass on Tuesday, tea/coffee/cake/raffle.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Hilda Mellon, Joan Eltringham, Elizabeth MCCoy, Agnes MCardle, Nellie Higgins, Arthur Scott, Margaret Armstrong, John Glancy, Anthony McArdle, Bill Mulholland, James Quinn, Anthony Carr, Robrt Johnson, Christopher Cooksie, Joan Sewell, Susan Healey, Kevin Parker, Brian Parker, Josephine Southern, Victor Chivers, Rose Grimes, Mary Andrews, Monica McArdle, Mary Grant, Boniface Francisco, Daniel McCullagh, David Malpass, William Toner, Katy Bell, Douglas Walter Ringer, Pat Barrass (nee McNally)

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.

St Pius: Doreen Atherton, Joe Bell, William Calford, Richard Carr, Arthur Collins, Mary Donaghy, Albert Glasgow, Mary Grant, James Haughey, Patricia Higgins, Nancy Hudson, Alan Kerridge, Rubine Lee, Christopher Moore, Maria Murphy, Christine Nixon, Mary Page, Florence Parkin, Pauline Pearson, Catherine Reay, Audrey Renwick, Mary Welsh, Ted Wilson.

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'