

## 6th Sunday of the Year - 15th 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, Lancaister - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

### The gift and responsibility of human freedom

Today's readings invite us to reflect on the gift of freedom and the call to live with integrity of heart. Sirach reminds us that God places before us *life and death, good and evil*, granting us genuine freedom in our choices while never permitting or commanding sin. His commandments guide us towards true life and flourishing.

The Responsorial Psalm deepens this message by celebrating those who walk in the law of the Lord with sincerity. God's statutes are presented not as burdens but as sources of joy, wisdom, and stability. They teach us how to pursue God with our whole heart, and through them we gain understanding and clarity.

Saint Paul then speaks of God's hidden wisdom – a wisdom that the world cannot grasp on its own but which is revealed through the Holy Spirit. This wisdom contains "*what eye has not seen and ear has not heard*," the blessings prepared for those who love God. Paul's words call us to humility and deeper openness to the Spirit's guidance.

In the Gospel, Jesus clarifies that he has come not to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. He invites his disciples to go beyond external obedience and enter into the deeper intention of God's commandments, rejecting anger, lust, false oaths, and embracing truth, purity, and reconciliation.

Together, these readings call us to choose life each day by welcoming God's wisdom into our hearts and allowing Christ to shape our inner motivations as well as our outward actions.

**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.

**Ash Wednesday:** This coming Wednesday (18th February) is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a day of fast and abstinence, which means that, as an act of penitence, we do not eat meat and try to eat considerably less than we normally would. Although it is not a holy day of obligation, all Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass if possible and to display ashes on their foreheads as a public symbol of humility and Christian faith.

**Ash Wednesday Mass times around the Partnership:** *St Mary's Blackhill 10.00am, St Pius Moorside 10.00am, St Patrick's Consett 12 noon, Our Lady and St Joseph's Brooms 6.30pm.*

**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](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 07521404924.

**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.

## **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**

**Pontop Confirmation Group:** As part of their continuing Confirmation programme our young people enjoyed a Retreat Day in the beautiful surroundings at Ministeracres on Saturday 7th February.

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 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: Our five-day partnership pilgrimage to Krakow in Poland will be between 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026. The pilgrimage will comprise of a guided daily itinerary provided by Tangney Tours which includes and return flights from Newcastle Airport. Total cost, including Twin Room and Breakfast, will be £980 (estimated) based on a maximum of 40 pilgrims attending. The deadline is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February with a £410 deposit per person to secure our flights.

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

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.

### **St Patrick's News**

Collections: This Week – Lenten 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.

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.

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.

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

Collections: This Week – Lenten Alms

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 – 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 5pm 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

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: James Glancy, Anne Carr, John Doherty, Bob Marshall, Patricia Scott, Frank Bradley, Margaret Rita Atkinson, Veronica Carey, Carroll Watson, Frances Hope, Norman Keith Kennedy, Christina Boyle, Bernadette McGuigan, Anne Armstrong, Fr. Seamus Doyle, Kathleen French, Sarah Dagg, Glynis Laidler, George Watson, Francis Batey, June Theresa Brown, Terry Wilson, Margaret Smulska, Patrick Vallely, George Wood Cunningham, Francis Leo Slavin, Mary Agnes Rogan.

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.

St Pius: Martha Carson, Bella Creegan, Roland Egdell, Mary Hall, Derek Lee, Brian McKenna, Stanley Parkin, Desmond Robb.

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'*