

## 3rd Sunday of Lent - 8th March 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, Lancaster - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of The Rosary

### Brief Encounter

It is a general truth that we have a great need of water. When we don't have it in some shape or form we get distressed very, very, quickly. It doesn't take long if we go without water until we die. When we encounter the Israelites in the desert getting upset with Moses, it is because they are blaming him for the lack of water they are suffering from. After all, it is he who has led them out of Egypt. They have followed him and they blame him for any troubles they are having. In response to their complaints, Moses pleaded with God and in response was able to provide them water for both them and their flocks on which they relied upon so much.

In our gospel passage we encounter Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. She too has a great need of water. She has travelled out to the well to collect it in order to take it back to the village. It is a physical thirst but the conversation Jesus has with her takes her into a much deeper need, a deeper thirst.

She has a yearning beyond the physical necessity of water, a hope for the Messiah who will lift the darkness from her life and reveal truth to her. In his revelation to her that he, Jesus, is the Messiah we see first of all a joyous response as she shares what she has found with her neighbours, symbolically leaving the water jar she had brought to the well behind her.

It begs the question of us about how do we respond to the good news that Jesus brings us. How often do we forget the cares of the world and commit ourselves to sharing his message?

***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.

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.

## 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.

Lenten Talks - Guest Speaker: - Wednesday 18th March - St Teresa's Annfield Plain and Wednesday 25th March - All Saints Lanchester These talks will be delivered by a guest speaker **Fr Damian Cassidy a Carmelite Friar** and gifted preacher. **Each evening will begin with Mass at 6:30pm and the talk will follow in the hall after Mass.** Light Refreshments will be served. This is a great way to prepare ourselves for Easter. Donations will be collected to support the important work of the Carmelites in our diocese. Please support this great opportunity in our partnership. All are welcome.

## Groups

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.

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

## 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.

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

Knock Pilgrimage: There will be a **meeting at Lanchester Parish Centre, Kitswell Road Lanchester, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2 p.m.** Payments of the final balance by cheque or cash – single £540 and Double/Twin £440 per person. Cheques made payable to **All Saints R.C. Church**. Details of timings, visits and arrangements issued. Contact: Michael, 07787726306, Lestrine:07778656662

### Around the Diocese

Mother's Day at Minsteracres Mother's Day is next Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March: Freshly prepared Mother's Day Afternoon Teas will be served in the beautiful ballroom of Minsteracres Retreat Centre. Cost is £25 per person, including hot beverages. Three sittings: 12.30pm, 2.00pm and 3.30pm. To book ring 01434 673248.

### 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.

Joint Parish Council Meeting: Our next joint parish council meeting for St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary will take place in the presbytery on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm.

Kennedy Care Centre Committee: will meet in St Mary's presbytery on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

The Sunday Breakfast Club: will be cancelled on Mothering Sunday. The next one will be on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>.

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 February Winners: £20 (77) R Oliver, £10 (53) B Roberts, £10 (41) I English, £10 (189) S Cunningham Thank you for your support. 2026 Subs: are now due. 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: Dennis Richardson and Kenneth Martin. 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 7th April 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 29th March after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Novena to St Patrick: A Novena to St Patrick will be held after morning Masses until March 16th. We hope to re-tell the life story of St Patrick via readings, symbols and prayers. All are welcome to join us.

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

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

Collections: The collection for CAFOD Family Fast Day raised £295, thank you for your generosity.

Thank you: The family of the late Josie Stevens would like to thank all those who attended the funeral for their generosity at the collection which raised £114 for Brooms Church and the Neonatal Unit.

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 during March. The next lunch will be hosted by St Ives on **March 20th** and the Lenten lunch hosted by Brooms is at the Salvation Army Hall and on **March 27th**, the soup lunch is hosted by Salvation Army at the Salvation Army Hall.

St. Ives: The next monthly Mass at St. Ives church, Leadgate will take place at 10am on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March there will also be a 10am Washing of Feet service led by Brooms School. All are welcome.

### **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 30th March 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. On Friday 27th March there will be a Children Led "Stations of the Cross" at 6pm everyone is welcome. If you would like to volunteer for the readings please let Lisa Hicks know 07577 576036

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

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

Tuesday Coffee Morning: will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March after 10am Mass, tea/coffee/biscuits/cake/raffle. Holy Rosary at 9.30am in church.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: Thomas Hewitson, Peter Walls, Teresa Lillian Nattrass, Helen Marie Tucker, David Christopher Chivers, Jackie Graham, Catherine Hester, Robert Rodgers, James Mullion, John Toner, James Welsh, Theresa Bell, Peter Ward, Mary McArdle, Mary Clarke, Anthony Martin, Peter James Lawrence Quigley, Eric George Tucker, Martin Rogan, Joseph Richardson, Terry Akers, Margaret Dorothy Murphy, Mary Wilson, Joseph Fullen, Henry Waggett, Mary Ann Brady, Paige Nicole Evans.

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: Susan Boyle, Michael Jones, Charles Edwin Clark, Kathleen Veronica McNally, Joan Readman, Patricia Beattie, Lee John Wiles, Thomas Conroy, Alice McCourt, Catherine Clarke, Terry Reed, Alfie Lister, John McKean, Judith Kennedy, Peter Dodds, Mark Murphy, Carol Flynn, James Clarke, Jim McArdle, Claire Watson, Ann Clarke, Margaret Ellen Dodd, Anne McClafferty.

St Pius: Kathleen Agnew, Mary Ellen Akers, John Dorritt, Margaret Forster, Irene Theresa Glancy, Margaret Hull, Emily McGuigan, Gary Sharp, Linda Thompson, Sarah Watson.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Canon Laurence Hollis, Billy Begg, Gerry Clarke, Peter Nicholson, Mamie Golightly, Letitia McKie, Susan McKie.

## **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'*