

4th Sunday of Lent - 15th March 2026

Annfield Plain - St. Teresa, Blackhill - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Brooms - Our Blessed Lady & St. Joseph,

Stanley, St. Joseph

PONTOP
Partnership

Corsest - St. Patrick,

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

Seeing as God Sees

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally known as *Laetare Sunday*, invites us to pause and rejoice, even in the midst of our Lenten journey. Today's readings remind us that God does not look at appearances, but sees into the heart. While we often judge by what is visible, God perceives the deeper truth of who we are, and who we can become.

In the Gospel, Jesus heals the man born blind, opening not only his physical eyes, but also his spiritual sight. Meanwhile, the Pharisees, confident in their own vision, remain unable to recognise the light standing before them. Lent asks us gently but honestly: *Where might we be spiritually short-sighted? What assumptions or habits prevent us from seeing as God sees?*

The man born blind receives sight as a gift, but he also grows in courage, faith, and honesty. Step by step, he moves from knowing Jesus as *'the man,'* to *'a prophet,'* to finally recognising him as *'Lord.'* His journey mirrors our own: a gradual deepening of trust, shaped by grace.

Today, we are invited to let Christ heal our vision, so that we may see ourselves, one another, and our world, with the clarity of God's compassion. May this Sunday restore our hope, and brighten our path towards Easter.

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.

English Martyrs School Reunion Class of 1976: You are welcome to attend the fun event on April 2nd at Consett Steel Club from 7.30pm. There will be a School Disco and Quiz (bring a pen) and a price giving ceremony. £2 fee will be collected to fund this event.

Events

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 assist 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 or phone - 07377 259724.

Date for your diary: Friday 8 May Leadgate Social Club: Join us for an exciting night of races, cheers, and community spirit as we come together to support the important work of SVP. Whether you're a seasoned racing fan or just in it for the fun, it promises to be a brilliant evening for everyone. Tickets will be available soon – watch this space for more details!

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

Pilgrimages

Pontop Partnership Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto: Wednesday 29th April. Cost £20. More information on the notice board. Please put payment in an envelope available at the back of the church from Monday with name and amount and put it through St Mary's or St Patrick's presbytery. Please check your name is on the sheet if you wish to go.

Knock Pilgrimage: There will be a **meeting at Lanchester Parish Centre, Kitswell Road Lanchester, Thursday 19th 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

St Mary's News

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

Lately Deceased: Peter John Jones, Kenneth Martin and Mary Cooper. Please pray for them and their Families at this sad time.

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

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

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.

Thank You: the family of the late William Brown would like to thank everyone who attended his funeral and for their support, cards and condolences. The collection in church raised £154.41 with another £361.25 from just giving. Monies have been donated to Cancer research UK. Thank you for your kindness.

Thank You: The family of the late John Haney would like to thank everyone who attended his requiem Mass for all their cards, Mass cards and kind thoughts and generosity of the retiring collection which raised £712 for St Mary's Special Needs and Rosemount Care Home.

St Patrick's News

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

Shaping Parish Life for the Future: Bishop Stephen's Pastoral letter read out at the beginning of Lent reminded us that the Lord calls on us to be a flourishing diocese where people encounter Jesus Christ and where we live with justice and compassion, growing in faith. This was then followed by a document outlining the hopes and challenges of the future. Within the document was a questionnaire, which we have taken and adapted to St Patrick's Church. The Questionnaire is available from this weekend (see yellow booklet). If you could take time to fill it in and return by the 31st March back to the box in the porch or the presbytery. There will be a follow up Public Meeting

Feast of St Patrick 17th March: Please note on the Feast Day this year there will be two masses at St Patrick's Church. 10am full School Mass and 6.30pm Parish Mass followed by Refreshments and Snacks at the back of the church. All Welcome.

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.

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.

Thank You: The Family of the late Veronica O'Neill would like to thank all those who attended the funeral for their generosity at collection which raised £707.90 for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

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.

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 26th March. On Tuesday 31st 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

Volunteers: are needed for one hour on a monthly basis, to help with the cleaning of the church. If you can help , please contact St Mary's office.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: John Joseph McCoy, Charles William Featherstone, Hilda Garvin, Paul Whaley, Elizabeth Sedgewick, Maureen McDermott, Paul Brown, William Joseph Lysaght, Joseph Carr, Frank O'Keefe, Canon Joseph Lawrence Hollis, Mary (Mollie) Irving, William Begg, Mary Copeland, Catherine Hart, Peter Francis Clarke, Helen Veitch, Sheila Lysaght, Robert Sewell, Mary Ann Corr, Elizabeth McAleer, Mary Catherine Dodd, Mary Ward, Mary Teresa Short, Molly Marshall, Michael Smith, Michael Smyth, Catherine Hannah, Elizabeth McCarte, Lily McCarte.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Canon Laurence Hollis, Billy Begg, Gerry Clarke, Peter Nicholson, Mamie Golightly, Letitia McKie, Susan McKie

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: James Bartrope, Peter Clarke, Tony Donaghy, John Henry Glasgow, Timothy Hurn, Donald Jarman, Josephine Kerr, Mrs. Martin, Donald Murphy, Mark Murphy, Maureen Quinn, John Slane, Jack Steel, Helen Veitch.

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). Tommy Kelly.

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'