

## 5th Sunday of Lent - 22nd 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, Lancheater - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

### The Resurrection and the life

In this weekend's First Reading, from the Prophet Ezekiel, God promises that he will save his people, even if he has to bring them back from the grave to do it. Our Gospel Reading then sets the stage for Easter by demonstrating that Jesus is the living fulfilment of this promise. He confidently assures Martha, "I am the Resurrection and the life", and then proceeds to miraculously restore Lazarus to life and call him back from the grave.

It is important to note, however, that even though Lazarus emerges from the tomb, he is still bound by his graveclothes. This symbolises the fact that he is not yet completely free. He has been raised, but only his mortal life has been restored. He has not yet entered into the everlasting life of the Resurrection. As St. Paul reminds us in our Second Reading, the fullness of the Resurrection is only accessible: through the Holy Spirit we receive at Baptism; through faith; and through a real commitment to following Jesus in the way that we live our lives. If we choose the worldly path of selfishness and materialism, if we refuse to share the way of the Cross marked out for us by Christ—a path of sacrifice and of deep love for God and other people—then we cannot expect to share Christ's Resurrection. Before God can transform our deaths, we must really give ourselves over to him and let him transform our lives.

**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

Lenten Talks - Guest Speaker: - 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):Serving the West Pontop Partnership, St Mary's SVP Conference is here with a warm welcome for all. If you know of anyone who might appreciate a friendly visit or a little extra support, please do let us know—we're always happy to help. If you feel called to get involved, we would truly love you to join us. Even a small contribution of your time can make a real and lasting difference in our community. You can email us at: PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk or phone - 07377 259724. Please save the date: Race Night on Friday 8th May at Leadgate Social Club in aid of SVP. Tickets (£3) will be available after Mass. We hope you can come along for a fun and friendly evening. We would also be very grateful for any bottle donations for our raffle. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps us continue our work—thank you so much.

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

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 are still the following places; 3 double/twin rooms available at £640.00 per person and 1 single £790.00, plus £25 for entry to Titanic Experience. **Contact Michael**

**07787726306.** The **FULL ITINERARY** will be available at the back of each church from this weekend. Any problems please ring. Thank you.

### St Mary's News

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

Lately Deceased: Dennis Richardson and Jim Guy. Please pray for them and their Families at this sad time.

The Sanctuary Candle: This week will burn 'In Loving Memory of Mary Curran'. Next week the candle will burn 'In Loving memory of Brian and Kevin Parker'

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

The Sunday Breakfast Club: which was to be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Has been cancelled. The next one will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April after the 9.15am Mass.

Thank You: to all who worked and supported The Irish Night' on Saturday. £500 was raised for the Partnership and £397 for the JFK Centre. A grand total of £897.

Thank You: Joan Devaney and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity at this sad time. The collection taken at the funeral raised £998.

### St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Lenten Alms                      Next 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.

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.

Shaping Parish Life for The Future: Last week, all parishioners were given a questionnaire, which concerns the hopes and challenges of the future of our parishes. Please return your responses to those questions by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Everyone in St. Patrick's parish is invited to a public meeting to discuss those challenges and hopes. The meeting will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March in St. Patrick's Hall Lounge at 6.00pm.

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

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

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 in March. On **March 27th**, the soup lunch is hosted by the 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.

Diocesan Strategy: Bishop Stephen is asking every parish, including Brooms, to reflect openly and honestly on its Mission, and so to contribute to a wider diocesan plan for the future. He has provided a Discernment Toolkit to that end. Through an initial questionnaire (available from this weekend) we are being consulted and called to discuss and reflect as a parish, leading to a public parish meeting in April. Please take a questionnaire and return to church by April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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

100 Club: Subscriptions are due for commencing the new year on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. There are some spare numbers available if you would like any please see Christina Parkin. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

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

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

### **EASTER SERVICES**

**Thursday 2nd April - Mass of the Lords Supper:** St Patrick's and St Mary's 7.00pm

**Friday 3rd April - Stations of the Cross:** St Patrick's 10.00am

**Commemoration of the Lords Passion:** St Patrick's, St Mary's, Our Lady & St Joseph Brooms, St Pius 3.00pm Our Lady of the Rosary

**Saturday 4th April - Easter vigil:** St Patrick's and St Mary's 7.00pm

**Easter Sunday 5th April:** - St Patrick's and Our Lady of the Rosary 9.15am  
Brooms Our Lady & St Joseph and St Pius 11.15am

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

St Mary's: John Kirkup, Elizabeth Hagan, Peter Brannigan, Michael Haughey, Mary Batey, Joseph Bell, Norah Lovell, Kathleen Curran, Monica Carey, Catherine Richardson, Michael Burns, Bernard Hagan, Terence Glancy, Gerard McKenna, Michael McQuillan, Peter Donaghy, Garry Gaines, Elizabeth Rimmer, James Meegan, Patricia Watson, Catherine Ryans, Thomas McArdle, Michael Grimes, Veronica Walker, Kathleen Jones.

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: Catherine Birkett, Doreen Coulson, Michael Haughey, Imelda Hunt, Mary Ann Mohan, Frankie Smith, Rose Wilson.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bob Hewitson, Margaret Shannon, Jim O'Neill, Julie Tonks (Cullen), Marian Richardson, Michael Lucy, Margaret Storey, Sarah E. Fountain, Norma Clark, Maria Herdman, Les Slavin, Joseph Liddell Jnr. Andrew Farley, Owen Lee, Terence O'Loughrin, John Walls, Margaret Turnbull, Angela Cox, Aileen Bartle, Teresa Akers.

## **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'*