

2nd Sunday of Easter - 12th April 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, Lanchester - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Quasimodo Sunday

This Sunday has traditionally been known as *Quasimodo Sunday*, taken from the ancient entrance chant: *'Like newborn infants, you must long for pure, spiritual milk. (Quasi modo geniti infantes...)'* It reminds us that the joy of Easter is something we grow into gradually. New life, even spiritual life, begins gently.

In the Gospel, we meet Thomas – so often remembered for his doubt, yet so relatable in his honesty. When the other disciples tell him they have seen the risen Jesus, Thomas cannot bring himself to accept it. His response is not stubbornness but longing: he wants to believe, but he needs to meet the Lord for himself. Many of us know that feeling. Faith does not always come instantly; sometimes it grows slowly, through questions, hope, and experience.

What is most striking, is how Jesus responds. He does not criticise Thomas for needing reassurance. Instead, he returns specifically for him. Jesus meets Thomas exactly where he is, offering peace, patience, and the chance to see and believe. The risen Christ meets us in the same way. Our doubts, hesitations, and unanswered questions do not push him away; they are the places where he draws nearer. Thomas' journey ends not in doubt, but in one of the most beautiful professions of faith: *'My Lord and my God.'* His story reminds us that honest seeking can lead to deeper belief.

As we continue our Easter season, this day invites us to begin again with trust, like newborn children learning how to live in the light. Christ comes through the locked doors of our hearts, offering peace that is not earned but freely given. May we welcome that peace, and allow the risen Lord to meet us where we are, leading us gently into renewed faith.

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

Parish e-mail addresses:

stpatricks.consett@diocesehn.org.uk-

stmarys.blackhill@diocesehn.org.uk.

St Patrick's Consett 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.

Dcn. Shaun's CAFOD Big Lent Walk: I would like to thank everyone who supported me during Lent as I completed my 200km challenge. I am over the moon with the amount raised which at last count stood at £1,170. This will all go to make a difference for communities needing more secure access to clean water. Once again, thank you. **Dcn Shaun**

Easter Thank You: Fr John and Fr Tom would like to thank everyone in our Parishes for all their hard work and team work in preparation for our Easter Celebrations this year. Also thank you for the kind Easter Cards and Gifts that we received.

Events

The Divine Mercy Celebration: will take place on Sunday 12th April at St Mary's (Our Blessed Lady Immaculate) Church Blackhill DH8 8LP. The celebration will begin at 2.00pm. Light refreshments (Tea and Coffee) will be served in the Kennedy Centre afterwards. Further details of the Celebration will be placed in parishes throughout the partnership during the coming weeks. Julie Brown and Kathleen Carroll are the named people organising this.

Raised on Songs and Stories: Great Irish afternoon in the Demi on Wednesday 22nd April at 12.30pm. Music, Dancing, Food and great craic. Everyone welcome, please come along.

Groups

West Pontop Partnership (SVP): Join us at our upcoming fundraising Race Night, taking place on 8th May at Leadgate Club. Tickets will be available after Masses following Easter — do come along for what promises to be an enjoyable evening while supporting our work. If you know of anyone who might appreciate a visit, or if you feel called to become involved in this ministry, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us on 07377259724. Thank you, for your continued support and prayers.

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 'Northern

Star Travel' on 0161 773 2115.

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, plus £25 for entry to Titanic Experience. Contact Michael 07787726306.

Thank you

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests (NBF) Next week -Columbian Fathers.

Lately Deceased: Leonard Robson (Wiltshire). Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving Memory of Teresa McNeill'.

Shaping Parish Life - Strategy Meeting: A meeting will take place in St Mary's on 18th April at 1pm, everyone is welcome to attend.

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

The Sunday Breakfast Club: will take place on Sunday 19th April after the 9.15am Mass.

St Mary's Summer Fete: will be held on Sunday 12th July 2026. There will be a box at the back of the church for any donations.

Song Sung Blue: Neil Diamond Evening in the Kennedy Care Centre on Saturday 9th May 2026. This event is all sold out and due to health and safety regulations anyone attending without a ticket will not be allowed in.

Flower Fund: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the flower fund, also to the Wednesday coffee morning group for the donation of £200.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – N.B.F (open until 27th April)

Lately Deceased: Margaret McDonald. Please pray for her and her family 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.

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.

Card Donation Portal: We have a Card Portal Contactless or Chip & Pin Terminal at the back of the church. This will allow you to swipe your card donating your chosen amount. You can even gift aid your donation. The portal accepts all major payment cards and it is user friendly and secure.

Crohn's and Colitis UK: My Grandson Jonathon is running the full Brighton Marathon on the 12th April for Crohn's and Colitis UK. He is raising funds for research into this unseen and life affecting condition. Please can you sponsor him? I will inform you of the money raised. The sponsorship form is at the back of the church and I will be at Mass on Sunday if you wish to give me your donation. Thank you. John Willis.

Shaping Parish Life for The Future: Thank you for your responses to the Questionnaires handed in to St Patrick's and for attending the recent meeting. Your views and suggestions are now being collated and will be sent onto the next stage of the Diocesan discernment. We will

keep you informed on the progress.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 26th April after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Red Boxes: An amount of £256 has recently been banked for this worthy cause. Many thanks to all who support this charity.

300 Club Grand Easter Draw Winners: 1st No. 82 Karina Peters £60 2nd No. 172 Cath Welford £40 3rd No 31 Jennifer Stanyer £30 4th No 17 Rena Miller £20

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – N.B.F (open until 27th April)

Collections: The retiring collection for Holy Places realise £110. Thank you for your generous donations.

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. A thank you note can be viewed on the noticeboard at the back of 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.

Shaping Parish Life for The Future: Thank you for your responses to the Questionnaires handed in to Our Lady & St Joseph Brooms and for attending the recent meeting. Your views and suggestions are now being collated and will be sent onto the next stage of the Diocesan discernment. We will keep you informed on the progress.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week – N.B.F (open until 27th April)

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 at 6.00pm

Exposition on Wednesday: Commences at 5.45pm until further notice.

100 Club: Subscriptions are due for commencing the new year on the 1st 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.

Shaping Parish Life for The Future: Thank you for your responses to the Questionnaires handed in to St Pius and for attending the recent meeting. Your views and suggestions are now being collated and will be sent onto the next stage of the Diocesan discernment. We will keep you informed on the progress.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests (NBF) Next week -Columbian Fathers

Shaping Parish Life - Strategy Meeting: A meeting will take place on Sunday 19th April at 3pm in Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Richard Murray, Ted Mulligan, Elsie Thompson, Maty Catherine Cooksey, Andrew Paul Murray, Annie Brannigan, Catherine Pidd, James Page, Thomas Carney, Dorothy Christine Hester, Catherine Lynne, John Lawrence Golightly, Denise Colgrave, John Dixon, Patrick Mulhearn, James Conney, Beatrice Bell, Patrick Toner, Mona Page, Margery Ann Bell, Gerard William McDonald, Reggie Wears, Maureen Bateman, Mark Richard Fife, James Dickson, Kathleen Hagan.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Fr. Paul Harrison, Tom Cowie, Mary Florence Nicholson, Arthur Denis Nicholson, Mary McKie, Thomas Bell, William John Devlin.

St. Patrick's: James Conney, John Donoghue, Janet Robson, David Adams, Gerard Lydon, Jim Brolly, Margaret Naughton, Teresa Maughan, Francisco Rodrigues, Sylvia Dimambro, Mary Owens, Jean Huntsman, Angela Mackin, Mary Ramsden, Veronica Morgan, Peter Young, Catherine Lee, Maureen Rodgers, Anthony Price, James Keith Connelly, Nora Robson, Joseph McGuigan, Gerard Storey, Maureen Irwin, Jean Malone, Margaret Mary Gowland, Arthur Page, Lorraine Sewell, Lawrence Sewell.

St Pius: Joseph Agnew Snr., Thomas Carney, Maria DeFreitas, John Evan Diver, Father J Doherty, Jack Gettings, Father H Higgins, Dennis Holliday, Margaret Johnson, Jens & Maureen Mayer, Gerard McDonald, Gerard Murphy, Joe Veitch, Joseph Watson, Andrew Whales.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Catherine Cullen, Tony Williamson, Tommy Fountain, Kate Liddell (O'Donnell), Kathleen Appleby, Mary Ramsden, Bridie McWilliams.

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), Francis Renwick, Michael Rogan.

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, Mary Cowie.

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'