

4th Sunday of Easter - 26th April 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

The Call of the Good Shepherd

This Sunday Jesus uses an image to reveal something extraordinary about himself. He is both a good shepherd and the sheep gate. As shepherd, he knows his sheep intimately. He calls them by name, leading them not into danger, but into pasture, into freedom, into life. As the gate, he is the way in and the way out. Through him, the sheep find safety, nourishment and belonging.

We are the sheep. And Jesus truly knows us: our names, stories, wounds and hopes, the burdens we carry, the fears that keep us awake at night. He calls us not as a crowd, but personally, lovingly, by name. In a world where we are often reduced to numbers, user-names or menial roles, Jesus reminds us that we are not anonymous. We are not lost in the crowd. We are his.

To know the Shepherd's voice, we must spend time with Jesus in prayer, in scripture, and in his community. The more we listen, the more we learn to recognise the tone of his voice. And then comes the promise: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Life that overflows with grace, with purpose, with joy. Life rooted in the security of being loved and led by the Good Shepherd.

On this Vocations Sunday we hope that more men and women may take the time to listen carefully to the voice of the Good Shepherd. He has a role and a vocation for each one of us. He is calling some to become shepherds in his name – we pray that those he calls to this task will answer willingly, with trust and with generosity.

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.

St Mary's Convent Ebchester: Afternoon tea Thursday 30th April at 1.30pm.. Come and join us for tasty and sweet treats with a raffle too. There are also two Ensuite Rooms available at the Convent please call 01207 560286 for more information.

Around the Diocese

Message from Bishop Stephen: Pastoral Strategy: Thank you to all parishes who have completed and returned their reflections as part of our diocesan pastoral strategy. I, together with others, look forward to reading and praying through your discernments in the Spirit. It is not too late for returns to be made if you are yet to submit. We next move to a second phase as we invite local parishes to discern together in their partnerships, or with others in their neighbouring area. Information and updates will be shared on our website. Please keep this discernment in your prayers as we seek to respond to the Lord's call to worship Him and serve our communities in a flourishing and sustainable manner.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday, 26 April: Bishop Stephen invites us all to pray for vocations this Sunday. Please pray particularly for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Please pray every day that people will respond to the Lord's call to serve Him in ordained and consecrated life. They are intimate adventures in God's love. In our parishes and churches and schools and chaplaincies, please offer regular time in prayer for vocations.

Pope Leo encourages us to offer time for Eucharistic adoration and to meditate faithfully on the Word of God. Prayer leads to vocations. This is not a last resort; it is the essential first resort. For more information, prayer resources, and for enquiries please contact:

vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk vocationspriest@diocesehn.org.uk

vocationsdeacons@diocesehn.org.uk

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 from SVP members after Masses at the back of the church or please contact Tel 07377259724 or email presidente210301@svp.org.uk — do come along for what promises to be an enjoyable evening while supporting our work. Donations of Bottles for our stall will be greatly appreciated. Please place any donations at the

back of the churches. 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.

Friday Fellas Men's Group. The next meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group will be at 6.30pm on Friday May 1st 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 'Northern Star Travel' on 0161 773 2115.

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

Carfin Information: Wednesday 29th April -The bus will leave St Bedes at 7.30am. Picking up at St Patricks (John Street) then St Mary's Blackhill. There will be Lunch and Drinks Served in the Holy Ghost Father's Hall as last year upon arrival which will cost £6.50 per person.

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Little Sisters of the Poor

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

Joint Parish Council Meeting: for Our Lady of the Rosary and St Mary's will take place on Tuesday 28th April at 7.15pm.

260 Club Winners – April: £20 – (25) Fr Tom, £10 (86) K Bell snr, £10 (151) M Alderson, £10 – (243) B Hird.

The Sunday Breakfast Club: will take place on Sunday 3rd and 17th May after the 9.15am Mass. Tea/coffee and bacon and sausage sandwiches.

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.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests Next Week - Little Sisters of the Poor

Lately Deceased: Frank Renwick. Please pray for him and his 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.

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.

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 have now been collated and 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.

Thank you: The family of the late Denis Richardson wish to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards and messages during this sad time, also a big thank you for donations of £642.93 for Dementia UK and the British Heart Foundation. Very much appreciated.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests Next Week - Little Sisters of the Poor

Collections: The organisers of the Brooms Lenten Lunch in March would like to thank everyone for the generous donation of £127.

Thank you: The family of the late Cath McCabe would like to thank all those who attended the requiem Mass for their generosity at the collection which raised £175.

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.

Mass at St. Ives: The next Brooms Mass at St Ives will take place at 10am on Thursday 30th April. All are welcome.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests Next Week - Little Sisters of the Poor

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 27th April 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.

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Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests Next week - Little Sisters of the Poor

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Peter Featherstone, Elizabeth Kelly, Sheila Winifred Grant, Mary Hunter, Florence Ashton, Jean Mary Dawson, Lynda Ann Telford, Ann Loughran, James Conney, John Devaney (snr), John Campbell, Mary Monica McGuckin, John Armstrong, Veronica Liddle, Patrick O'Neill, Marie Joyce Wilson, John Glancy, Mary McKie, Rose Grimes, Margaret Corr, Iris Bland,

Our Lady of the Rosary: Fr. Jim Hughes, Mary Watson, Ambrose Walls, Fr. Noel Donnelan, Minnie Bell, Maria Jopling.

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: Thomas Bushby, Philip Croney, Margaret Hull, John William Kerr, Margaret Monaghan, Vincent Murphy, Margaret White.

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, 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'