

Easter Sunday - 5th April 2026

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

Stanley, St. Joseph

Consett - St. Patrick,

PONTOP

Partnership

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

Exciting Times

Take a step back a little bit and stop thinking about the significance of the events we are recalling at Easter time. Look at the actions of those involved and it has to be said there is a lot of excitement going on.

People are running about to and from the tomb; there is exploration to try and understand what is going on; there is the need to share the news of what has happened with those who are closest. There is wonder, perhaps joy, at hopes and anticipation being met. There are fears emerging; has the body of Jesus been stolen? Then those fears are quashed by encounters; with an angel, a messenger of God, or with God the Son himself. It must have been an emotional rollercoaster.

Our Easter Vigil liturgy tries to bring that excitement to life. We move into the light from darkness. We greet the Gloria as it is proclaimed once again with the ringing of bells. We welcome new members to our community as they are received into church. We emphasise and recall the excitement and joy those first witnesses would have felt.

We are all called to hold on to these feelings. We hope that the joy and excitement of Easter will sustain and empower us to follow the Apostles in taking this good news into the world. We hear Peter telling Cornelius and his household about having ate and drank with Jesus after his resurrection. How often have we shared how we do the same every time we celebrate the Eucharist? It is part of our own baptismal calling, part of the promises we all renew at Easter. When something this exciting happens surely the only possible thing to do is share it.

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.

Holy Souls Prayer Group: The Holy Souls Prayer Group will be held on 10th April at St Patrick's Consett at 10.30am (instead of 3rd April). Please bring with you your Rosary Beads and any written names of your deceased family and friends.

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): As we approach the joy of Easter, we wanted to share a warm update from the SVP serving the Pontop Partnership. This year, all those we visit — including our Holy Communion beneficiaries — will receive a small box of biscuits and a handmade Easter card. These have been lovingly prepared by our Youth SVP and Mini Vinnies. In the SVP conferences St Mary's and St Joseph's have come together to provide "Bags of Easter Joy" for 60 families across our partnership. We would also love for you to join us at our upcoming fundraising Race Night, taking place on 8 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, as always, for your continued support, generosity, and prayers. With every blessing this Easter season

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 –Holy Places Next week - N.B.F (open until 27th April)

Lately Deceased: Tommy Kelly. Please pray for him and his Family at this sad time.

Shaping Parish Life - Strategy Meeting: Bishop Stephen is asking every parish 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. We are being consulted and called to discuss and reflect as a parish. 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: which was to be held on Sunday 5th April. Has been cancelled. The next one 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 of raffle prizes, bottle stalls etc.

Song Sung Blue: Neil Diamond Evening in the Kennedy Care Centre on Saturday 9th May 2026. Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets £5. Bar/Bingo/Raffle. Gifts for raffle can be placed in a box at the back of the church.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week –Holy Places Next week - N.B.F (open until 27th April)

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.

Soup Lunches Thank You: Thanks to all who supported the Friday soup lunches during Lent. The fantastic sum of £514.05 was raised. Thanks also to the Crafty Ladies who organised the raffle which raised another £100. The total of £614.05 will be split between CAFOD and St Patrick's Church. Your generosity is much appreciated.

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: We have extended the date to the 9th of April for the completion of the Questionnaires to be handed in to St Patrick's. This is your final opportunity to help your church and to let the diocese know that we are aware of the challenges and are ready and willing to address them. You do not need to fill in all the answers just the ones you feel you can comment on. Your help on this will be greatly appreciated.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week –Holy Places Next week - N.B.F (open until 27th April)
The total amount raised for Lenten Alms (St. Cuthbert's Care) was £433. Thank you for your generosity. The retiring collection for Easter flowers realise £92. 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.

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 6th April. Everyone in Broom's parish is invited to a public meeting to discuss those challenges and hopes. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th April at Leadgate Cricket Club Lounge at 2.00pm.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week –Holy Places Next 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: 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 6th April. Everyone in St Pius parish is invited to a public meeting to discuss those challenges and hopes. The meeting will take place on Thursday 9th April at St Pius Church 4.00pm.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week –Holy Places Next week - N.B.F (open until 27th April)

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

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: 1. 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: Janet Mary Dobson, Eva May Hall, Mary Kennedy, Austin Quinn, Bobby Robson, Norah Sheeky, Gerard Thompson, Peter Young.

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).

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'