

6th Sunday of Easter - 10th May 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, Lan Chester - All Saints, Moorside - St. Pius X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Not left alone

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples of love, obedience, and the promise of not being left alone. He reassures them: *"I will not leave you orphans."* These words come at a moment when the disciples are beginning to sense that everything is about to change.

Jesus connects love with keeping his commandments - not as a burden, but as a way of remaining in relationship with him. To love Christ is to allow his way of life to shape our own. This is not simply about outward actions, but about a deeper openness of heart.

He also promises the gift of the Spirit, the Advocate, who will remain with them and within them. This is a quiet but powerful assurance: even when Christ is no longer visibly present, God is still very near. The disciples are not abandoned, and neither are we.

For us today, this Gospel is both a comfort and a challenge. It reminds us that faith is not something distant or abstract. God is present in our lives, guiding and strengthening us. At the same time, it calls us to respond - to live in a way that reflects that presence.

Perhaps this week, we can take a moment to ask ourselves where we are being invited to respond more fully: in our choices, our relationships, or our openness to God's Spirit. In doing so, we discover that we are not alone, but accompanied - held within the love of Christ!

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

Procession in Honour of Our Blessed Mother: to take place at St Mary's Blackhill on Sunday 21st June after the 9.15am Mass.

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. Any help would be greatly appreciated. For any information about this appeal please contact Jean Coates 07521 404924.

St Bede's Lanchester: To celebrate the **60th Anniversary of our school opening**, we are delighted to invite pupils, families, former students, and members of the community to our **School Open Day on Saturday 27th June, 10:00am – 2:00pm at the school site.**

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

SVP Camp – Holy Island: Calling all young adults 18+. Do you have a week to spare to spend on Lindisfarne this Summer helping out at the Holy Island SVP Camp? Volunteers are needed to work alongside the children who stay in the SVP purpose-built centre on the island. Weeks 3, 5 and 6 of the Summer have 60 children ready to have a great time rock pooling, walking, arts and crafting and enjoying outdoor activities but we need more helpers to ensure they have the best time!

- Week 3 Sat 1st August - 8th August
- Week 5 Sat 15th August - 22nd August
- Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th August

If you are interested have a look at the website <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or email Barbara Taws barbarat@svp.org.uk

All helpers receive training and will need to be DBS checked.

Ministeraces

Day of Consolation: Wednesday 20th May. An opportunity to share a safe space, to be heard, to share with others who have similar experiences and hopefully to find courage, hope and consolation, Lunch and refreshments included. Suggested donation £45.

Pentecost Retreat: Friday 22nd May from 6,30pm to Sunday 24th May at 2.00pm. Suggested donation £230. Reflection on the role of the Holy Spirit in the Gospels and pray for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to flourish in our lives, with times of input, times of silence and times of prayer.

Groups

West Pontop Partnership (SVP): Race Night: We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parishioners and friends who so generously supported the recent Race Night in aid of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Your kindness, donated prizes, sponsorship, and encouragement truly reflected our strong sense of community and care for those most in need. Thanks to your support, the evening was a great success, and the funds raised will help the SVP continue its vital work locally and beyond. Please know how grateful we are for your continued generosity and prayers. We will share the total raised in next week's bulletin. 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 29th 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: Blessing by Fr Vernatius - The 'Our Lady of Knock' banner, beautifully painted by Tony Quarzi, will be blessed and soloists will sing the 'Lady of Knock' hymn at the end of both masses – Saturday May 23rd 4.15pm St Teresa and Sunday 24th May 9.30am All Saints. All are welcome.

KNOCK pilgrimage Reminder Monday May 25th approximate pick up times: Annfield Plain 8.00am, Stanley 8.10am, Lanchester 8.25am, Consett 8.40am and Blackhill 8.50am.

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – Little Sisters of the Poor Next week – World Communications Day.

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

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving Memory of Valerie Proud (nee Mulligan)'

Security: could key holders and volunteers please make sure the presbytery door is shut securely before they leave. Fr Tom has returned to an empty house and the main door wide open. Many thanks.

The Sunday Breakfast Club: will take place on Sunday 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.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Little Sisters of the Poor Next Week - World Communications Day

Lately Deceased: Nellie Phillips. Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy will take place on Sunday 10th May. 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.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 31st May after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Chron's and Colitis UK: Many thanks to you all for the £435+ Gift aid that was raised following my marathon. You were all very generous for such a worthwhile cause. Jonathan Willis

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Little Sisters of the Poor Next Week - World Communications Day

Collection: The recent collection for the Northern Brethren Fund raised £470. 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. A further £150 has been sent to the charity this week.

Nursery: Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School is proud to offer high quality nursery provision for children from the term after they turn two. 15 and 30 hour places are available. We offer a welcoming and nurturing environment and we are especially proud of our woodland and outdoor learning experiences. Visits are welcomed and families are encouraged to come and see our nursery.

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.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week – Sick and Retired Priests Next Week - World Communications Day

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 25th May at 6.00pm

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

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – Little Sisters of the Poor Next week - Lay Training (open until

Holy Rosary: will be said on Tuesday 12th May at 9.30am, followed by Mass at 10.00am and a coffee morning after Mass with tea/coffee/biscuits and complimentary free shrubs.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Catherine Bewick, Kevin Lee Martin, Thomas Darroch, Gilbert Patrick Green, Elizabeth Theresa Donnelly, Rose Penman, Jean Kennedy, Mary Thersa Mee, Kath Finergan, James Roberts, Robert Glasgow.: Austin Hillas, Mary Marie Kenny, Josephine McElrue, Anne Shannon, Mary Page,

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

St. Patrick's: Albert Huntley, Peter Hughes, Veronica McKenna, Norah Ward, Kevin McCurley Teresa Adams, David Stobbs, Hayden Coyle, Jean Cartmel, Kathleen Finnegan, Patricia Hutchinson, Dennis Aubrey, Valerie Glynn, Anthony Burns, James Martin, Mary Cosgrove, Therese Dixon, Joseph Grugan, Margaret Robinson, Shaun Andrew Gettings, Angela Rose, Angela Bramwell, Helen Stevenson, Pauline Dixon, Catherine Page, Joseph Rogan.

St Pius: Emily Bennett, Sydney Brown, Henry Foster, Ann Hilary, Anne Hodgson, Alison Kirk, Joan McDonald, Pat McGilligan, Bobby Nixon, Margaret Toppin.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Mary E. Suddick, Robert Fountain, Jack Appleby, Kathleen McCabe.

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, 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, Winnie Agnew

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'