

SS Pater and Paul, Apostles - 28th June 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. Plus X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

A Pair of Fighters

As we celebrate the great feast of Saint Peter and Paul we are given many things to think about. In the gospel we hear Peter declare who he believes Jesus to be - "The Christ". In reply Jesus said that Peter is the Rock upon which he will build his church. It is a fundamental moment when the community of believers that will take the Gospel forward is declared.

We should also note that authority is given by Jesus to Peter. In the early church as decisions need to be made about how to apply the teaching of Jesus to the real situations the community found themselves facing, it is to Peter that they look. In our bishops, as the successors to the apostles, we see Christ's teaching and guiding presence among us now.

We are reminded in the passage from the Acts of the Apostles that it wasn't all about trying to decide what to do next and passing on decisions. Being a leader in the early church was fraught with danger. We find Peter imprisoned, securely chained up between two guards and no doubt destined for the same fate as James who had just been beheaded. We see in Peter's escape both the power of prayer at work and the ability of God to protect us. The work that Jesus had given Peter to do was not finished yet and God's purpose is not to be thwarted. He eventually would become a martyr in Rome but there is work still to do.

Paul may have been a reluctant latecomer in accepting Jesus but he had his own important part to play. His journeys spreading the Gospel beyond the Jewish people is filled with its own difficulties, even as it was bearing fruit. We met him this week in a reflective mood. He looks back over his life and we can feel that he is sure he has done everything possible - he has fought the good fight.

Both these great saints surely did the same thing in their own way, They gave themselves completely and fought the good fight. They stand together as examples to us all.

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

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.

West Pontop Partnership (SVP): St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) – West Pontop Partnership -The SVP is here to offer friendship, support, and companionship to those who may be feeling lonely, isolated, unwell, or in need of a listening ear. Please contact 07377259724 or email,

presidentc210301@svp.org.uk The next event is a sponsored walk in aid of SVP & OISJ, Brooms. Fr John has kindly offered to join the walk with some of our members on Sunday 5th July - Sponsorship Envelopes/Forms available at the back of the churches.

Billy Elliot Sunderland Empire matinee: The highly acclaimed theatre production of "Billy Elliott" is on at the Sunderland Empire and we are able to make a booking on Wednesday 18th November 2026. The cost is £90 per seat in the dress circle, centre block. Please give your expression of interest by putting your name on the poster at the back of church by the 30th June.

Ways of Praying - Thursday Evenings: Join us at St. Pius X as we explore 'Ways of Praying' with Fr. Stephen Wang. These sessions will guide you in deepening your prayer life and strengthening your faith. They follow on from the acclaimed Sycamore videos. Doors open at 6:30pm with time available for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6:45pm. Tea and Coffee from 7:10pm. Evening ends approx 8.30pm.

Friday Fellas: Please note that the next meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group will be at 6.30pm on Friday 3rd July in the Lounge of St. Patrick's Church Hall. This date is a revised one from that advertised in last week's newsletter.

The Bugle Comic Summer Special. Father John and Phil Bartle have produced the second issue of their comic, The Bugle. This new issue is a 'Summer Special' and is now available in most of the Pontop churches. Price is £5.00, with profits, after printing costs, going to local charities. There is also an exhibition of the Bugle artwork on show at Consett Heart Heritage and Arts Centre in John Street, Consett. Opening times are: Saturday 27th June 10am - 3pm, Sunday 28th 12-3pm, Monday 29th 5-8pm, Tuesday 30th 11am – 3pm, 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Thursday 2nd July 5 - 8pm, Friday 3rd 4 – 7pm, Saturday 4th July 10 – 3pm. Free Entry – All Welcome!

Events around the Partnership

St. Patrick's Variety Night. July 25th. St. Patrick's Church Hall Consett is going to be the venue for a Variety Night on July 25th. Local acts will include Eddie McDonald, B&M Zombies, Marianne, the Consett writers, The Tunisians and many more. Raffle prizes are needed! Tickets are free but limited to 4 per person, to ensure fair distribution. Tickets will be available at this

weekend's Masses and from St. Patrick's Parish Office Tel. 01207 502196.

Flower Festival: in 'All Saints Catholic Church Lanchester' on Saturday 4th July 10.00am – 3.00pm
Sunday 5th July 10.30am – 3.30pm. 4pm Concert – Esh Gospel Choir and Harpist Ensemble. if you would like transport it has been suggested a bus could be booked. If you would like your name to go on the bus please sign the list at the back of church asap so that we can work out a price for each person.

Ministeraces

Eucharistic Retreat: Friday 17th July from 6.30pm to Sunday 19th July at 2pm. Led by an experienced Theology graduate and long time educator, the weekend explores the significance of the Mass as sacrifice and historical Eucharistic miracles, including the work of St. Carlo Acutis.

Pilgrimages

Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2026: The Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Friday 31st July – Monday 3rd August 2026. Final details will follow soon.

Holy Island: Saturday 18th July 2026. Please sign the list at the back of the church. Cost £15 adult, £5 child. please put your name on an envelope with the money inside. Adults £15, Children £5.

Around the Diocese

Little Sisters of the Poor Fundraising Night: 50s and 60s night at St Joseph's Home, Newcastle Live entertainment, licenced bar, bingo 7pm on Saturday 4th July 2026. Tickets £7 from 0191 273 1279. All proceeds to St Joseph's Home.

Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella: at St Michael's Catholic Church, Houghton-Le-Spring on Wednesday 1st July. Mass at 6.30pm with relics available for prayer an hour beforehand, Blessing with relics after Mass and Refreshments in parish hall afterwards.

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – Peters Pence & Support for the Holy See Next Week - Flowers

Lately Deceased: Olive McArdle and Anthony Loughran. Please pray for them and their families.

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

Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving Memory of John and Nell McGough and Dms of Smith and McGough Families'

Restoration Fund-Gift Aid: Anyone who has given a gift aid donation to the restoration fund and not given their name or gift aid no, please contact the office.

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. Hot Dogs, Barbecue and Brunch,tea and coffee available.

JFK Church Hall: The Hall (JFK Centre) is available for hire, contact Isobel English for any bookings on 07818 559241. Please check the notice board for details of new groups in the hall.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Peters Pence & Support for the Holy See Next Week: Flowers

Recently Deceased. Gerard Newton. We pray for Gerard and his family at this sad time.

Children's Liturgy: The next Children's Liturgy takes place on Sunday 5th July .

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 is user friendly and secure.

Holy Souls Prayer Group. The next Holy Souls Prayer Group meeting at St. Patrick's Consett will be on Friday 3rd July following the 10am Mass and then will resume monthly meetings on the first Friday of each month.

Celebration Breakfast Sunday Coffee Morning: This Sunday after 9.15am Mass the children who have recently made their First Holy Communion will be invited into the hall with their family to join our monthly coffee morning for a Celebration Breakfast. Bacon and Sausage Sandwiches will be available along with tea, coffee and juice. There will also be a celebration cake.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Peters Pence & Support for the Holy See Next Week: Cemetery Fund

The recent collection for Day for Life realised £105. Thank you for your support

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 payment of £150 has been sent to the charity this week.*

Toddler Group: Brooms School Toddler Group will operate every **Wednesday in term time**

St Ives Mass: The next mass at St Ives will be Thursday 16th July at 10am.

Cemetery Fund: The fund is open for donations until the end of September. If you Gift Aid your contribution please add your planned giving envelope number to the cemetery fund envelope. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week – Peters Pence & Support for the Holy See

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 30th June at 6.00pm

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

Our Lady of the Rosary News

This Week – Peters Pence & Support for the Holy See Next Week - Flowers

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Robinson Lenaghan, Francis Beard, Katie Cassidy, Monty Hopton, Rose Hopton, Janet Kennedy, Norah McBride, Ann Parker, Michael Outerside, Susan Wass, Leonard Corrigan, Irene McArdle, Ellen (Nell) McGough, Baby Megan Hobkirk, Vincent Kelly, Thomas Coleman, Ronald Williamson, Rachel Brannigan, Winifred Nixon, Margaret Jane Burke, Mary Milburn, Daniel McCourt.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Dixon, Gerry Corr, Larry McKie, Ellen Clifford, David Barron, Vincent Robson.

St. Patrick's: James Crozier Snr, Josephine Darroch, Mary Hannant, Mary McArdle(Burns) Bernadette McGurk, Peter Harpin, Rita Hughes, John Crawley, Anthony Bough, Ann Dickinson, Malcolm Wright, Joanne Storey, Andrew Rowlands, John Bell, Marjorie Whitton, Elizabeth Carr, Mary Innes, Vincent Vallely, Thomas Williamson, Hugh Thompson, Veronica Naisbett, Elizabeth Anne Greer, Charles Smith, Fred McAloon, Ruth Armstrong, Ronald Birkett, Michael McVeigh, Robert Nixon.

St Pius: Ken Carter, Margaret Donnelly, Thomas McNestry.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Charles Cullen, Ralph Wilks, George Fountain, John Clark, Rita McCabe, Pat Matthews, Rosa Matthews, Kenneth Lowerson, Fr. Michael Keoghan, Marie McShane, Mary Bell (née Grogan), Joan McNally, Sue Robertson, Peter Walls, Moya Archbold.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Amelia Burns, Ethan White, James Thomas English, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Julianne Kennedy, Jimmy McGuigan, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, Philip Robinson, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Katelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Barbara Bennison, Molly Glancy, Ian Clarke, Joseph Parisi, Teresa Easton, Kathleen Bowman, Teresa Kelly, Roman Lawson (Aged 7), 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, Vincenza Hogg.

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'