

15th Sunday of the Year - 12th July 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. Plus X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Call and Response?

The theme of fertility is very evident throughout this weekend's readings. Our First Reading and Psalm speak about how God's word waters the earth and promotes the growth of seed-bearing plants. The seeds are scattered and yield a rich harvest to feed both animals and human beings. The First Reading places special emphasis on the immense power of divine providence, assuring us that, whenever God's word goes forth, it does not return to him without accomplishing its purpose.

In the Gospel Reading, however, Jesus' famous 'Parable of the Sower' suggests that matters are not always so straightforward—at least when it comes to the process of human salvation. The word does **not** always yield a rich harvest—not because God lacks power, but because we human beings do not always respond to it in the way that we should. Similarly, in the Second Reading, St. Paul speaks of the Kingdom of God as something that is struggling to be born. We already have the first fruits to encourage us, but we still encounter a lot of worldly resistance in our efforts to fulfil God's plan.

This is a time, therefore, when we are all called to take stock of our lives. Are we as fruitful as we **could** be and **should** be? Are our lives producing the right sorts of fruit? Is there any way that we can be more open, or more responsive, to the seed of the word that is planted in us? If we want a rich harvest, we can't depend entirely on God's power. We also need to respond to his call.

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:

stpatrick.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

Well done to the SVP members and Fr John who completed the 13 mile walk from Leadgate to Stanley and back on Sunday 5th July. Thank you for your generous donations. The total raised will be announced soon.

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. The next meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group will be on Friday 7th August at 6.30pm in the lounge of St. Patrick's Church Hall, Consett.

The Bugle Comic Summer Special. Father John and Phil Bartle have launched 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.

Events around the Partnership

St. Patrick's Variety Night - July 25th. St. Patrick's Church Hall Consett will be the venue for a Variety Night on July 25th. Many local acts will be taking part. Raffle prizes are needed! Tickets are free but limited to 4 per person, to ensure fair distribution. Only a few tickets are remaining from Pontop churches or from St. Patrick's Parish Office Tel. 01207 502196.

Billy Elliot Sunderland Empire matinee: Due to small numbers and the cost of transport we have had to take the difficult decision to cancel our booking with the Sunderland Empire. We apologise if we have disappointed anyone who had wanted to attend.

Pilgrimages

Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2026: From Friday 31st July – Monday 3rd August 2026. If you haven't paid your next installment of £100 please ensure that you do so as soon as possible.

Holy Island pick Up Times: Bus (1) Leadgate 9.00am, Consett 9.10am. Bus (2) Moorside 8.55am, Blackhill 9.05am, Shotley Bridge 9.10am. Leave Holy island for Seahouses at 4.00pm. Leave Seahouses at 6.30pm and arrive home at around 8.00pm. Holy island Mass 12.30pm.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Please keep the success of the Centenary pilgrimage in your prayers.

Blessing of Hands: There will be Mass with the blessing of hands in St Mary's Cathedral, with Bishop Stephen as the principal celebrant. We all serve each other in our own way, whether it be as a registered helper, youth member, medical team, pilgrim or those who pray for the success of our pilgrimage at home. Everyone is welcome to this special Mass on Tuesday 21st July at 6.30pm in the Cathedral.

Pilgrimage Hymn Book: Many who are participating from home have asked if they can purchase a copy of the hymn book. These will be on sale at the Cathedral on Tuesday 21st July, and are priced £5.00.

Centenary Pilgrimage Medal: There is a special centenary medal this year which is based on the medal from the Holy Year of 1958. The medal has a maroon ribbon with a gold-coloured metal St Cuthbert's Cross attached. Again, these will be on sale at the Cathedral on Tuesday 21st July, and are priced £5.00.

Lourdes at Home: As we prepare to travel to Lourdes on 31st July, there will be people who would like to participate from here in our Diocese who cannot be with us. When in Lourdes, the Masses and services will be live streamed via the Diocesan Hospitalité YouTube channel and the Lourdes Sanctuary YouTube channel. More details will be available on the Diocesan Hospitalité Facebook page.

Minsteracres

Looking for a Little Peace this July? – Join us for our Eucharistic Retreat at Minsteracres Retreat Centre from 17–19 July, a weekend of prayer, reflection, Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration in peaceful surroundings. If you can't attend the whole weekend, you're warmly invited to join us as a day guest on Saturday, 18 July. Everyone is welcome. For further details or to book, please contact Minsteracres Retreat Centre.

Midweek lunches at Minsteracres Retreat Centre: If you're passing by, why not treat yourself to a relaxed lunch in peaceful surroundings? Booking is essential—just visit our website or call the office if you'd like more information.

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – Sea Sunday

Next week - Restoration Fund

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

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.

Joint Parish Council Meeting: Our next joint parish council meeting for St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary will take place in the presbytery at St Mary's on Tuesday 14th July at 7.15pm.

St Mary's Summer Fete: will be held today. Open at 1.00pm. Entrance £1.

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 – Sea Sunday

Next Week - Garden Fund

Recently Deceased: Michael Curran. Please pray for Michael and his family at this sad time.

Children's Liturgy: Is now in recess. We will resume when the Schools return on Sunday 6th September.

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 cards and is user friendly and secure.

June 300 Club Winners: 1st No 43 Michelle Walton £20 2nd No 135 John Bowman £15
3rd No 67 Elizabeth Mallett £10 4th No 196 David Westgarth £10

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Sea Sunday

Next Week: Cemetery Fund

The collection for Peter's Pence realised £160 and the collection for Church Flowers raised £135. Thank you for your generosity and 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. 2 thank you letters have been received from the charity and can be viewed on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

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

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 – Sea Sunday

Next Week - Garden Fund

Recently Deceased: Audrey Baker. Please pray for Audrey and her family at this sad time.

Children's Liturgy: Is now in recess. We will resume when the Schools return in September.

Holy Rosary hour: Will be held on Monday 27th July at 6.00pm

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

Consett Lions: Raffle tickets are now on sale. Tickets are £1 each. The church receives 70p for every ticket sold.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – Sea Sunday

Joint Parish Council Meeting: Our next joint parish council meeting for St Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary will take place in the presbytery at St Mary's on Tuesday 14th July at 7.15pm.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Mary Ward, Patrick O'Hanlon, Celia Dempsey, Anthony Gerard Loughran, Edwin Tyerman, Joseph Campbell, Michael Murphy, James Kelly, Joan Gardiner, Gerald McNally, Frank O'Hanlon, Douglas Gill, William Bell, Rose Scott, Edward Price, Neil Burrow Robson, Barbara Thompson, Ellen Clifford, Eileen Grigg, George Rodgers, Maurice Shaw, Joan Dougherty

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: Charles Akers, James Bell, Mary Carney Snr., Yvonne Carter, Alice E Collins, Helen Coultard nee Daly, James Creegan, John Derek Daly, John Henry Glasgow, Robert Glasgow, Madge Haggarth, Albert Hanson, William McGee, Joseph McElhone, Paul Miller, Marie Mohan, Rosemary Murphy, Thomas Murphy, Catherine Nixon, Angela Paull, Ronald Piggott, Richard Pinkney, John Joseph Quinn, Joan Rennoldson, George Wilfred Robb, Robert (Bob) Southern, Billy Storey Snr., Janet Thompson, Gerard Welsh.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: June Williamson, Catherine Williamson, Paul Richardson, Teresa Toole, Peter Grogan, Billy White, Patricia McCabe, Richard Manley-Reeves, Rosa Rigby.

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'