

16th Sunday of the Year - 19th July 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 Lesson In Patience

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the weeds growing together in the same field. When the servants notice the weeds, they immediately want to remove them. However, the master tells them to wait until the harvest, lest they accidentally uproot the wheat as well. Through this simple but powerful image, Jesus reveals something profound about the patience, wisdom, and mercy of God.

We live in a world where good and evil exist side by side. Often, we would like clear answers, quick solutions, and immediate justice. We can become frustrated by the faults we see in others, in society, and even within ourselves. Yet God sees far more deeply than we do. He knows every heart, every struggle, and every possibility for growth. What may appear hopeless to us is never beyond the reach of God's grace.

This parable also invites us to examine our own lives. The field is not only the world around us; it is also our own hearts. Within each of us there is both wheat and weeds - moments of generosity and selfishness, faith and doubt, courage and fear. Rather than condemning us for our weaknesses, God patiently works within us, nurturing all that is good and calling us continually to conversion. His mercy gives us the opportunity to learn from our mistakes and become more like Christ.

As we gather for Mass this week, let us give thanks for God's patience and compassion. Let us ask for the grace not to be quick in judging others, but instead to trust in the Lord's timing and wisdom. May we allow his word, his sacraments, and his grace to strengthen the wheat of faith, hope, and love within us, so that we may bear lasting fruit and one day share fully in the joy of his Kingdom.

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.

St Mary's Fellowship (Special Needs Club): I am sure all parishioners are familiar with our Friday night club held at St Mary's hall. We are a group providing social activities for those with additional needs within our parishes. At present we are looking for volunteer drivers for our minibus on a Friday evening on a rota basis. To comply with insurance drivers need to be over 25 and under 70 years of age. (DBS will be carried out) If this is something you would be interested in please contact us for more information. Thank you. Lisa 07807357820. Joanne 07740335788

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.

Pilgrimages

Partnership Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2026: From Friday 31st July – Monday 3rd August 2026. Thank you to everyone who has paid their next instalment for the Pilgrimage. The final calculation for the bus will be in the newsletter next week. There will be an 8am mass at St Patrick's church on Friday 31st July. The bus will pick up from St Mary's at 8.30am followed by pick up at St Patrick's at 8.40am. Also please note that there is limited room on the bus if you could keep your luggage to a minimum using a small case. Thank you.

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.

Ministeracres

July Quiet Day: Monday 27th July 2026 10am – 4pm. Personnel prayer and contemplation as you wander through the grounds in the peace of the countryside. Lunch and refreshments are provided throughout the day. Suggested Donation £45.

August Rosary Rally: a wonderful opportunity to gather in honour of Mary, Mother of God on Saturday 15th August from 12noon to 3pm. Please bring a packed lunch. The day will begin with the celebration of Mass at 12noon followed by Rosary rally and Benediction from 2pm.

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 – Restoration Fund

Next week - Restoration Fund

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

The Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving Memory of Molly and Bernard O'Hanlon'.

Church Fete: a big thank you to all who worked so hard to make Sunday such a great day at the fete. Thanks to all who donated and supported. We raised £2195.00 A list of prize winners are at the back of church.

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 – Garden Fund

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.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 26th July after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Cemetery Fund

Next Week - Cemetery Fund

The collection for Sea Sunday realised £185, thank you for your generosity.

Recently Deceased: Terence 'Tez' Elsinor. Please pray for Terence and his family at this sad time.

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 – Garden Fund

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 – Flowers

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: Hugh Ryans, Dennis Andrews, Lynn McKenna, Maureen Morris, Joan Mary Kennedy, John McDonald, Mary McCabe, Virginia Reilly, Wilf Reay, Olive Kearney, Ian William Kitchen, Anthony O'Neill, Kevin White, Edward Murray, Catherine Hillas, John Toner, Francis Patrick Smith, Francis Joseph Page.

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 A Akers, Catherine Brady, Joseph Campbell, Michael Haughey, Stephen Higgins, Elsie Hughes, Mary McNally, Teresa Piggott, Edward Price, Paddy Thorpe, Hilda George Whales, May Wilson.

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'