

17th Sunday of the Year - 26th 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

Ask Wisely

Which one of us hasn't, at some point said to ourselves something along the lines of: "If only I had this everything would be perfect. I would do anything to have that." The "thing" could be anything: a possession, a job, a skill, an experience, somebody to be with for the rest of our lives. We can be quite inventive in our desires. Something so important to us that we would go to great lengths to obtain or achieve it.

Jesus is speaking to that part of the human condition when he starts comparing the kingdom of heaven to really desirable objects: the pearl, the treasure, the net full of fish. It is begging the question of what would we be prepared to do to enter the kingdom of heaven, (and would be amongst the good or the bad? Where are our hearts and desires in this?

We hear King Solomon addressing this question for himself when the Lord appears to him in a dream. The command given to him is: "Ask what I shall give you." Solomon doesn't ask for possessions, for power, for vengeance or for any worldly thing. No, what Solomon asks for is wisdom. He wants to know the difference between Good and Evil so that he can fulfill the task that he has been given to him. His request is fulfilled because he is not putting his own personal needs first, he is given the wisdom he needs in the fullest of measures.

So when we are contemplating what we want or need in life, when we are trying to work out what our path into the kingdom of heaven might be, it would do us no harm to mirror the prayer of Solomon.

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.

Queen of Peace Prayer Group: will be held in St Mary's church on Wednesday 29th July at 6.15pm all are welcome.

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

Goathland and Whitby Partnership Day Out: Date for your diary Wednesday September 9th. details to follow next week

Events around the Partnership

The Rat Pack: an evening of music in the JFK centre (St Mary's church hall) on Saturday 26th August. Tickets £5. Doors open at 6.30pm.

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 remainder of the bus cost is the following **Single/Double Standard £71 per person, Single/Double Ensuite £131 per person to be paid by the 30th July.** There will be an 8am Pilgrim 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.

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. Personal 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 Ministeracres 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'.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: on Thursday after the Service of the Word until 11.30am.

Lions Town Raffle: tickets are on sale over the next few weeks £5 a book. Could you please help and take a few books to sell. It will help our restoration fund.

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 the 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

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.

Thank you: The family of the late Winifred Parker would like to thank Fr. John for the beautiful requiem Mass and all those who contributed to the collection, which raised £213, for the Alzheimer's Society.

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

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Raymond Ellis, Catherine Stobbs, Winifred Costello, James McElrue, John Leslie Kendall, Kevin McGinn, Margaret Begg, Mark Worrall, Thomas Heseltine, Joan Williamson, Ellen Hogg, Mary Mitcheson, Margaret Peveller, Mary Bernadette Bell. Catherine Jean Imelda Patricia Corr, John Joseph Robinson, John James Hester, Janet Ramsay, Margaret Carney, Paul Williams, Richard Atkinson, Bernadette Maria Nichols, Kathleen Campbell.

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: John Agnew, Elizabeth Carr, Betty Dodds, Don Murray, Robert Nixon, Ronnie Nixon, Charlie O'Donnell, John Paull, Charlie Smith.

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, 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'