

18th Sunday of the Year - 2nd August 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

Today's readings remind us that although we need food and drink to sustain our physical bodies, we also need the higher gifts to raise us to our life with God. There is an underlying theme in the readings based on the food of the Eucharist through which we are blessed with the love of God in our lives.

The prophet Isaiah lived at a time when famine was a constant worry in the minds of the people. One bad harvest was a disaster; a succession of bad harvests could result in the destruction of a nation. Today's passage is a call to the people from God; He reminds them that his love, his living water, is always there for them. That nothing can really satisfy them unless it comes from God.

The letter to the Romans contains a number of very profound verses; today's message is one of my favourites and gives real solace to those who are suffering in this world. Paul asks us t "***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?***" Just take a moment to reflect on this question. It goes to the very centre of our faith; Paul has known suffering, he has been persecuted, beaten, imprisoned and left for dead all because of his work for Christ. Yet he stands firm knowing that God loves him.

John the Baptist died because he would not compromise on his beliefs; he spoke the truth and those who hid from the truth killed him. Jesus knows that this will also be his fate; he will not hide from it, he goes forward in the face of opposition because of His love for the people. He tries to find a haven of peace to grieve for his cousin, but the weight of his responsibilities will not allow him peace. So He goes to the people again, He heals those who are sick and then, in a moment of true compassion He feeds both their physical bodies and their questioning minds. Jesus lives out the prophesy of Isaiah in the hills of Judea and gives the people and his disciples a glimpse of the food that is to come; our Eucharist.

David Frank

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:

stpatrik.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

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored Fr John and the SVP members for their sponsored walk on 5th July. An outstanding total of £1,730 was raised, which will be shared equally between the SVP Conference serving the West Pontop Partnership and Our Lady & St Joseph's Church, Brooms.

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 every Wednesday 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 September. Tickets £5. Doors open at 6.30pm.

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

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 – Flowers

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 Frank Smith'

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: and Private Prayer on Thursday after the 8.30am Mass until 10.30am.

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.

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 – Columban Missionaries

Next Week - Flowers

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 30th August 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 – Columban Missionaries

Next Week - Cemetery Fund

Recently Deceased: Julie Ackerman. Please pray for Julie and her 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.

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

Next Week - Flowers

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

Holy Rosary hour: Will be held on Monday 31st August 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

Next Week - Flowers

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Peter Hopper, Malcolm Hester, Joseph Clifford, Georgina Devanney, Mary Knowles, Ellen Veronica Armstrong, Donald Murray, James William Oliver, Elizabeth Jones, Francis Rogan, Maria Sullivan, Thomas Sydney Thirlwell, Marie McElhone, Ann (Nancy) McElrue, Kenneth McElrue, Sadie Anderson, William Kennedy, Raimund Johan Allan Miros, Monica Clifford, Margaret Lisle. Kathleen Maureen Hopton, Stuart Campbell.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Patrick Healey (snr), Joseph Clifford, Margaret Bowery, Irene McKie, Fr. John F Gunning, Teddy McKie, Cassie McKie, John Rossi.

St. Patrick's: Thomas Murray, Gus McArdle, Andrew Hanson, Maureen Fox, Ronald Harris, Brian Murphy, Margaret Joan Furness, Oswald Johnson, Dennis McDonagh, Moira Dyer, Patricia Colburne, Kathleen Goldsmith, Rose McElhatton, James Stanyer, James Bramwell, Mary Anne Mulligan, Lawrence Boyle, Dorothy Malone Niamh Griffin Kenyon, Gregory Anthony Murphy, Michael Cooke.

St Pius: Joan Angus, Helen Beckham, Patricia Bell, William Campbell, David Collins, Ronald Kelly, Frank McGuigan, Brian Murphy.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Noel Clarke, Mary Williamson, Betty Dodds, Jimmy Hayes, Kirsty Dixon, Bernadette McKenna, Gerard Cullen

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'