

21st Sunday of the Year - 23rd August 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

Who do you say I am?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples a question that still echoes through the centuries: *"But who do you say that I am?"* It is perhaps the most important question that any person will ever face.

The disciples had heard many opinions about Jesus. Some saw him as a prophet, others as a teacher sent by God. But Jesus wanted to know what his closest followers believed. Peter, speaking with faith inspired by God, replied: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

That same question is addressed to each of us. It is not enough to know what others believe about Jesus. The challenge of discipleship is to develop a personal relationship with him and to make our own response of faith. We are called not simply to admire Christ, but to follow him, trust him, and place him at the centre of our lives.

Peter's response was not the end of his journey but the beginning of a deeper one. Peter would still make mistakes, experience fear, and even deny Jesus during the Passion. Yet despite his weaknesses, Christ chose him to be the rock upon which he would build his Church. This reminds us that God does not call perfect people. He calls ordinary people and, through his grace, enables them to do extraordinary things.

There is great encouragement in that truth. We all have weaknesses, failures, and moments of doubt. Yet the Lord continues to call us. He sees not only who we are, but who we can become through his mercy and grace. Like Peter, we are invited to trust Christ, even when we feel inadequate.

As we continue our journey of faith, let us take some time this week to reflect on the Lord's question. In our prayer, in our relationships, and in the way we live each day, how would we answer: *"Who do you say that I am?"*

May our response be found not only in the words we speak, but in lives that witness to our faith, hope, and love.

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.

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. 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 8.30

Medjugorje - Queen of Peace Prayer Group: Rosary, Meditation and Peace Prayer. To be held in St Mary's church on Wednesday 26th August 6.15pm and every last Wednesday of the month afterwards. All are welcome.

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.

Friday Fellas. The next meeting of the Friday Fella's Men's Group will be on Friday 28th August at 6.30pm in the lounge of St. Patrick's Church Hall, Consett.

St Mary's Fellowship (Special Needs Club): 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

RCIA / Journey in Faith. If you live in the Consett, Leadgate or Moorside areas and are thinking about becoming a Catholic, then weekly RCIA / Journey in Faith meetings begin on Thursday 3rd September at 6.30pm at St. Pius X Church, Moorside. Journey in Faith meetings are also helpful if you are already Catholic but just want to know more about your faith. Phone Sue McGee on 07962022636 for more information.

Goathland and Whitby Partnership Day Out Wednesday September 9th: If you wish to go on this trip please sign the list which is on the notice board at the back of church. Names needed as soon as possible. Cost per person £15. Please put your payment into the envelope at the back of church and hand it into the Parish Office with your name on and how many seats you are paying for. Travel details are as follows: Bus 1 Pick Up Leadgate Main street 8.20am, Consett John Street 8.30am. Bus 2 Pick up Moorside Main Street 8.10am, Blackhill St Mary's 8.20am, Shotley Bridge Main Street 8.30am.

St Mary's Convent Ebchester: Thursday 27th August at 1.30pm Afternoon Tea and Raffle. All are Welcome.

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.

Ministeracres

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.

Pilgrimages

Krakow 14th – 18th October 2026: Thank you to all the Pilgrims all payments have been received. We will be having a meeting in September (date to be confirmed) to discuss the final details.

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – Garden Fund

Next week – Restoration Fund

Lately Deceased: Terry Jackson (former Blackhill parishioner). Please pray for him and his family at this sad time.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: and Private Prayer on Thursday after the 10.00am Mass.

Thank You: we would like to thank everyone for the love, support and prayers offered to baby Ada Quinn-Dunn and her family throughout this difficult journey. In Ada's memory, the church collection raised £528.50 for 'Children's Cancer North'. We are truly touched by the generosity of everyone who contributed and helped honour Ada in such a meaningful way. Your kindness and support have been a great source of comfort to the family, and they are deeply grateful to each and everyone of you.

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.

Sponsor McMillan Would you like to sponsor David McCrory who is doing the Northumberland 26 mile for McMillan Cancer Support, Sponsor forms will be available after Masses or see Jimmy if you'd like more information.

The Breakfast club: will return on Sunday September 6th. Thank you to all volunteers and patrons for your continued support.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Welfare Fund

Lately Deceased: Patrick (Paddy) McNaughton former St Patricks Parishioner and teacher at St Pius. Please pray for him and his family at this sad time. Funeral to be held at St Charles Church Spennymoor on 11th September at 11am.

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 for Bacon/Sausage Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Cemetery Fund

Thank you: The family of the late Pat Leaman would like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection, which raised £80, for Brooms Church.

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 further £150 has been sent to the charity this week.

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.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week – Welfare Fund

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

Holy Rosary hour: Will be held on Monday 31st August at 6.00pm.

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 - St Mary's Restoration Fund

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Monty Hopton, Ellen Black, Rose Batey, John McKenna, Thomas Whitfield, Raymond Hanley, Arthur Robinson, Thomas Christopher Kiernan, Martin Regan, Theresa Newbould, Winifred Lishman, Margaret Costello, Sister M Patrique O'Donnell, Thomas McAleer, Anne Smith, Richard Zima, Marie Rose McNally, Peggy Grayson, Brian Anthony Skelton

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: James Bramwell, Pat Collins, Hazel Cousins, Arthur Donaghy, William Fairburn, Mary Fortunato, Chris Matthews, Greg Murphy, Raymond Penman, Thomas Phillips, Paddy Thorpe, Nicholas Townson, Ann Watson, William Young.

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 8), 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'