

23rd Sunday of the Year - 30th 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

“Get behind me, Satan!”

According to a popular proverb: “Life is what happens while we’re making other plans.” Well, this weekend’s readings serve as a reminder that God already has plans for us, and they don’t necessarily correspond to our wishes and expectations. In our First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah complains to God because, when he agreed to proclaim the Lord’s words, he expected great things. He thought that people would listen and respond by mending their ways. Instead, they mostly insulted and even attacked him. He sees his life as agonising and pointless. Then, in our Gospel Reading, only a few minutes after Peter gives voice to the amazing truth that Jesus is the Messiah, he objects vehemently when Jesus starts to explain that the Messiah must go to Jerusalem to be rejected and killed. Peter wonders what purpose this could possibly serve. But Jesus shuts him down by likening him to Satan. And he has more bad news: if we want to be his disciples, we **all** need to be prepared to take up our own crosses too. We must be willing to give up everything we have in this world—even our lives—for the sake of a higher good.

In retrospect, we can see that God’s plans worked out far better than any of us might have imagined. Jeremiah’s words did have a huge positive impact, not on the people of his own time, but on all the generations that followed. And, of course, Jesus’ death, which seemed to be the end of all hope at the time, saved us from our sins and paved the way for the Resurrection. The moral for us should be clear: God always knows best. Whatever he calls us to do, even if it seems really unpleasant or pointless, we must put the temptation to ignore or reject it behind us. We must give a positive response.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Deacon Chris Callan

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

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.

SVP - West Pontop Partnership. The St. Vincent de Paul Society (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. If anyone is interested in joining the SVP, please contact 07377259724 or email, PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk

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 30th September at 6.15pm. 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.

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.

Friday Fellas. The next meeting of the Friday Fellas Men's Group will be on Friday 25th September, at 6.30pm in the lounge of St. Patrick's Church Hall. New members are always welcome.

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.

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.

The Diocesan Environmental Group: invite you to a Woodland Activity Day at Emmaus Village, Pemberton Road, Allensford DH8 9BA on Saturday 5th September starting at 10.00am.

Bushcraft, archery, tomahawk throwing, rosary walk, nature walks and expert talks including talk on care of creation. Everyone is welcome!

The Whistle Testers: will be performing In Blackhill Club on Friday October 9th for St Mary's to raise funds for the Restoration Fund. Bingo, Raffle Bar. Doors open at 6.30pm Entertainment starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £5.

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 – Restoration Fund Next week – Restoration Fund

Lately Deceased: Kathleen McGuinness and Jayne Akenhead. Please pray for them and their families 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.

The Sanctuary Candle: will burn 'In Loving Memory of Raymond Allan'

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.

260 Club Winners - August: £20 (66) Mr Walton, £10 (127) A McCrory, £10 (104) G Corr, £10 (7) P Andrews.

Lions Club Tickets: Please hand back your Lions Club Town Raffle book and money as soon as possible.

Trip to Whitby: if you are booked to go to Whitby please pay for your ticket as soon as possible. Cost £15.

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: Kathleen McGuinness. Please pray for Kathleen and her family at this sad time.

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.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 1st September at 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too.

SVP Raffle Tickets. These are £1.00 a ticket or £5 per book. This note is also a gentle request for the St Patrick's parishioner who accidentally took the SVP raffle ticket stubs to return them please with your payment. Thank you.

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

Lately Deceased. Alan Fairhurst, aged 49. Please pray for Alan 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. 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 - Church Funds

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Dominic Johnson, Margaret Byrne, Lawrence Armstrong, George Fisher, Frank Sheekey, Joanne Hird, Thomas Seaton, Theresa Marie Hutchinson, Richard Nevin, Patricia Brittan, Bernard Mullen, Jean Smith, Jane Johnson, George Batey, Gerard McElhone. Theresa Oliver, Hilda Eve Davis, Wilfrid Barry Britten, Patricia Bell, Robert Parkinson, Catherine Leighton.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Hilda Mary Greash, Mary Underhill, Agnes Telford, Anne Robson, Margaret Healey, Elizabeth Haggon, Peter Paul Smith, Margaret Corr, Vincent Farrell, Maurice Paul, Denis McNally, Marian Golightly, Fr. David Condon, Jim Haggon, Bridie Walker.

St. Patrick's: Nancy McGurk, Sheila Campbell, David Agnew, Audrey Whales, Denis McNally, Maurice Rose, Peter Lockeron, Thomas Henderson, Yvonne Clare, Catherine Smith, Christina Scott, Ivan Wright, Mary Lydon, Alma Byrne, Denise Hunter, Winifred Gettings, Joseph Rennoldson, Joan Malpass, Mary Hutton, Dorothy Convery, Maureen O'Neill, Gerald Burns, Nora Gowland, Richard Sheekey and Thomas McDonald.

St Pius: Billy Cosgrove, Hilda Davis, Margaret Newton, Gerard Pinkney.

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, Rose Corrigan.

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'