Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (A) - 22nd November 2026



The King in Our Midst

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe brings the Church's year to its conclusion by reminding us that Christ reigns over all creation. Yet the Gospel for this feast (Matthew 25:31-46) presents a king unlike any earthly ruler. Jesus does not speak of power, wealth, or military strength. Instead, he identifies himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned. 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

This Gospel challenges us to reconsider what it means for Christ to be King. His kingdom is built on love, mercy, and self-giving service. He reigns not from a throne of gold but from the Cross. His authority is expressed through compassion and sacrifice rather than domination and control.

The Lord's words remind us that faith is not meant to remain private or abstract. Our love for Christ must be reflected in practical care for others, especially those who are vulnerable or forgotten. Every act of kindness, every gesture of welcome, every visit to someone who is lonely, and every effort to help a person in need becomes an encounter with Christ himself.

This feast also invites us to examine our priorities. Who truly reigns in our hearts? Do we place Christ at the centre of our decisions, relationships, and daily lives? To acknowledge Jesus as King is to allow his Gospel values to shape the way we live.

As we celebrate the Eucharist on this great feast, let us renew our commitment to Christ our King. May we recognise his presence in those around us and faithfully serve him in our neighbour. In doing so, we help make his kingdom visible in our world today.

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 or Fr John at St Patrick's 01207 502196

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: Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like a visit, or if you are aware of someone who would. 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 07377 259724.

Calling all Christmas Knitters: We are hoping this Advent to distribute knitted baskets again which will contain a selection of religious novelties associated with the Christmas message. Please consider taking part in this project by taking a knitting pattern from church or from the parish office at St. Patrick's. Please use any spare wool you may have (of any colour) to create the baskets. Thank you in advance!

Medjugorje - Queen of Peace Prayer Group: Rosary, Meditation and Peace Prayer. To be held in St Mary's church on Wednesday 25th November at 6.15pm. All are welcome.

November 60 Mile Walking Challenge. Father John is committing to walk 2 miles every day in November to complete this charity challenge. By the end of the month, he will have walked 60 miles. Sponsor money will be donated to Prostate Cancer Research. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Love Christmas: Is being held across the whole partnership this year and collection envelopes are available in all our churches. With the help of your generosity we aim to make Christmas a little bit better for those across our community who need a helping hand. Your generosity helped to make a big difference to a lot of people last year, please be as generous as you can this year.

Carols by Candlelight: Come and sing with us as we begin Advent together at Our Lady & St Joseph's Church, Brooms, on **Sunday 29th November, the First Sunday of Advent, at 3.30pm**. Doors open at **3.15pm**. There'll be refreshments afterwards and a stall with lovely handmade gifts from St Bede's Youth SVP. A warm welcome awaits you all!

Homeless in Consett: with Winter fast approaching we are once again appealing for any type of warm clothing, tents (waterproof), sleeping bags, back packs, toiletries. Please contact Jean Coates if you can help. You can also leave any items in the back of St Patrick's and St Mary's churches.

Walsingham 2027: The dates for Walsingham 2027 are the 27th - 30th August (3 Nights). If you would like to go please let Wendy Simmons know either telephone 01207 502196 or call at the Parish Office at St Patrick's.

Partnership Christmas Lunch: Tuesday December 8th 12 noon to be held at the Jolly Drovers, Leadgate. A sign up sheet is available at the back of church along with a Christmas Meal Menu. Please Book Early Number of Places are Limited.

Friday Fellas Men's Group. Please note the final Friday Fellas meeting of 2026 will be on **Friday 4th December at 6.30pm** in St. Patrick's Hall Lounge. There will be a Christmas Quiz followed by

a delivered take-away meal together. Please see Fr John before this date to state your food preference e.g., fish and chips or pizza etc.

Monday Matinee. The Monday Matinee film show is back! On Monday 30th November in St. Patrick's Hall Lounge there will be a free screening of "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" (2023.) Starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton, this is an uplifting reminder that you're never too old to take a chance. 1pm – 2.45pm. Tea and Coffee will be served.

The Bugle Comic Winter Special. Fr John and Phil Bartle have published the third issue of their comic, The Bugle. The new issue is a Winter Special and includes 40 colour pages of festive and wintertime humour and comes with a free Slackdale beer mat. For only £5 it is the perfect stocking filler and will be on sale in Partnership churches. The comic will be launched on Friday 27th November from 5pm at Consett Heart Heritage and Arts Centre, John Street, Consett. The free to enter evening will include an exhibition of original artwork, Bugle merchandise (badges, cards and pickles), complimentary wine, beer and snacks and live music from Acoustic Blondie and The Tunisians. All are very welcome!

St Mary's Convent Ebchester: **Afternoon Tea** Thursday 26th November at 1.30pm Refreshments, Cake and Raffle. All are Welcome. **Christmas Fayre** Saturday 28th November at 1.30pm. Tombola, Wines & Spirits Raffle, Door Raffle, Santa, Refreshments and various stalls.

Disney High School Musical: The Roxy Theatre Leadgate, are Performing Disney High School Musical from Thursday 14th to Saturday to Saturday 16th January at £12 per ticket. We are looking to book tickets for Friday 15th January and the Roxy have kindly given us a reduced rate of £11 per ticket for a block booking. This would be a great Christmas present for your family and friends. If you would like to book tickets please see envelopes at the back of church.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 1st December **1pm** at St Patrick's Church Hall for a festive afternoon with Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too as there will be bingo and a raffle everyone is welcome.

Around the Diocese

Concert at Little Sisters of the Poor Home**:** The City of Newcastle Male Voice Choir and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at The Little Sisters of the Poor, St Joseph's Home on Saturday 5th December 2026 at 7.00pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home 0191 2731279

World Youth Sunday: Today we celebrate World Youth Sunday, giving thanks for the young people of our Diocese and praying for their continued growth in faith. The retiring collection today supports the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT), helping young people encounter Christ through retreats, events and outreach across our Diocese. Gift Aid envelopes are available, or you can scan the QR code on the poster to donate. Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

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.

Upcoming Retreats – November 2026: **25th November – For the Beauty of the Earth:** A day of prayer, meditation and Taizé music celebrating creation. 10am–4pm.

Festive Events: 28th November – Christmas Wreath-Making Day: Create your own festive wreath and enjoy a delicious festive afternoon tea. **December – Christmas Lunches:** Join us for a delicious Christmas meal in the beautiful surroundings of Minsteracres. A lovely opportunity to celebrate the festive season with friends and family. **For further information and bookings:**

Website: www.minsteracres.org Telephone: 01434 673 248

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week – Catholic Youth Next Week – Advent Alms
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.
Lately Deceased: Teresa Kelly: Please pray for her and her family at this sad time.
Sunday Breakfast Club: Bacon and Sausage sandwiches, tea, coffee, raffle. Future date for breakfast club – Sunday December 6th. There will be no Breakfast club on the 20th December as there is a fundraising event on.
Dove of Peace: Once again we are inviting parishioners to remember their loved ones who have died, by placing a dove of peace on our memorial tree, which will be located outside the hall. All offerings made in their memory will go to the church restoration fund. Doves and donation envelopes will be available from the beginning of November. Thank you.
260 Club November Winners: £20 – (259) E Dunstan, £10 – (7) P Andrews,
£10 – (214) D Parkin, £10 – (131) P Andrews.
Christmas Lunch: Welcome Thursday will again be providing Lunch on Christmas day for anyone who would like to attend. So we know how many to cater for it's essential that anyone wanting to attend makes a booking by email to brianrobinson26@gmail.com or by messenger
JFK Church Hall: The Hall is available for hire, contact Isobel English for any bookings on 01207 580169. Please check the notice board for details of new groups in the hall.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Catholic Youth Next Week – Advent Alms
Children's Liturgy: The next Children's Liturgy takes place on Sunday 6th December.
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 payment cards and is user friendly and secure.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Catholic Youth Next Week – Advent Alms
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 from 9.10am in term time. Everyone is welcome.
Finance and Parish Council Meeting: We will be having a meeting on Thursday 26th November at 2pm in the Presbytery at St Patrick's to discuss the Year End March 2026 and other Parish Matters. Please let Wendy know 01207 502196 if you wish to attend. It is our intention for the future to have one Group for both Finance and the Parish.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week – Catholic Youth Next Week – Advent Alms
Exposition on Wednesday: Commences at 5.45pm until further notice.
Holy Rosary hour: Will be held on Monday 30th November at 6.00pm.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – Catholic Youth Next Week – Advent Alms

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Shaun McElhatton, J.J. Welsh, James Donaghue, Annie McKenna, Dennis Rowan, Peter Walls, Susan Boyle, Ellen Kierman, Thomas Page, Philomena Jackson, Roseann Lavin, Ellen Willis, Joseph McKie, Margaret Higham, Mary Margaret Loughran, Jean Eva Hunter, John McGough, Sadie Seaton, Teresa Georgina McNally, Betty McArdle, John Corr, Rose Hodson, Elizabeth Joyce Gibson, Edward Ryans, Sheila Patricia Hoy, Martha Grimes, Margaret Grayson, Mary Murphy, Wilfrid Quinn.
Our Lady of the Rosary: Anne Graham (nee Barron), Ted McKie, Annie Kelly, Lyndsay Morton, Ray Watson, Eileen Mary Carr (nee Nicholson), Joseph McKie, Mary Davison, Theresa Devlin.
St. Patrick's:Dominic McGurk, Alan Foley, Gerard Slavin, Moira Reed, Brian Rogan, James Fail, James Kerr, Ellen Parker, Nancy Collins, John Harpin, Stephen Fenwick, John Haggon, Bill Kennedy, Betty Mitcheson, Jeanne Marie Philips, Frances Ronald Lovett, Margaret McArdle, Maureen Rose, Peter Boyle, Terence Curran, Jean Walls, Michael Bradley, Sarah Ann Donaghy.

St Pius: Alfred Bennett, Susan Boyle, Thomas Cooke, Arthur Donaghy, Richard Forbes, Mary Hicks, Patricia Jarman, Marie Matthews, Gerry McArdle, Ella Willis
Our Lady & St Joseph's: Ged Doughan, Sydney Fountain, Norman Henderson, Laura Mallon, Graeme Dimmick

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, Roman Lawson (Aged 8), Michael Rogan, Fiona Bell, Simon Peter, Tina McAloon, George Alderson.
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, Kath Embleton.

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'