

The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

www.stalbangateshead.org

In Gateshead in the week 2nd to 8th February there were 326 recorded cases, a decrease of 90 compared with the previous week, which equates to 161 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 163 cases over the same period.

6th Sunday of the Year
14th February, 2021

**We need everyone to
keep Gateshead safe**

National Lockdown

Dear Parishioners

Over the past few weeks, I have been delighted to hear from so many of you that you have "had your job" which has given you some peace of mind and hope for the future. I know there are others who are eagerly awaiting their invitation.

However, we must all remember that being vaccinated does not provide a magic cure. No vaccine provides 100% protection, so there is still a possibility that despite being vaccinated, you can still contract the virus albeit in a mild form and possibly pass it on to others. That is why we must continue to follow all the lockdown rules until such time as the Government is able to ease them.

So,



and not mixing with other households, is still so important.

Some of you I know are a little hesitant to accept the invitation to be vaccinated, but I would encourage you to follow the advice of Public Health England despite what you may hear or read in the media.

Dr Mary Ramsay, the Head of Immunisation for Public Health England explains why:-

"Talk in recent days of mutations and new variants has caused alarm. But we shouldn't let this new information dissuade us from getting the Oxford vaccine or any other.

The first and most important reason is that every approved vaccine is highly likely to give strong protection against the risk of severe disease and death. This is likely to be true regardless of the variant. These are the outcomes that matter most and are what will prevent people from ending up in hospital and possibly dying. This should be at the front of our minds.

The second key point is that the South African variant is not the dominant one in the UK. We currently have just 147 cases of this variant, each of which has been rapidly identified, tracked to a postcode and tackled head-on by our surge testing programme. We are taking every possible step to drive down that variant in the UK and make sure it does not get a chance to become established here.

The third thing to remember is our vital weapon in the fight against variants: Genomics. This is a scientific tool we use to track the changes and mutations in an infectious disease. UK scientists are world leaders in the field.

By tracking how the virus evolves, we are using genomics to detect and respond to its every move. We know that the smallest mutation could have big consequences for how the virus can spread. But we still expect the vaccines to work against serious disease. And as new variants emerge, scientists can develop newer generations of vaccines, similar to the work done every year on the flu.

None of this is cause for complacency. We must stay alert to the emerging evidence. There are still 24,000 people in UK hospitals battling the virus and the NHS is facing acute pressure. But be in no doubt, vaccines are the way out of this pandemic. By getting the vaccine, we will all be doing our bit."



So please continue to look after one another and pray that the Lord will watch over us and keep us safe from harm.

May God bless you all.

Fr. Patterson



As of Friday 12th Feb
116,287 people have
died of the coronavirus
in our country

May they
Rest in Peace

Let us pray

Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died from the coronavirus, surround us and all who mourn with your compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope. We make this prayer in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- all our parishioners who are sick, housebound or in hospital
- Fr. Paul McCourt and Fr. Kevin Daly who are currently unwell
- all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time especially Norman Foster and Elizabeth Pearson
- and Dorothy Foster who has died. "Receive Lord into tranquillity and peace the soul of your servant whom you have called from this life. May she be taken up into glory with your Son in whose great mystery of love we are all united.

Mass to view on line

Mass is live streamed from our Cathedral on Sunday at 11.30 and on weekdays at 12.05. These Masses may be viewed on the [Cathedral website](#)

Alternatively, you may like to follow Mass from the [Holy Name, Jesmond](#) celebrated live at 10.00 on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mass Intentions

I will continue to celebrate Mass privately each day. The following Intentions will be remembered this week.

Monday: Norman Foster & LDM Foster Family

Tuesday: Dominic and Andrew Sloan

Wednesday: Dorothy Foster (Private Funeral Service—by invitation only)

Thursday: The sick, their families, NHS staff & Care Workers

Friday: Elizabeth and William Pearson

Saturday: Fr. "P's" Intentions

Sunday: For the intentions of all our parishioners

As you are unable to celebrate Mass with me in Church, you may wish to make this act of spiritual communion:

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.

In keeping with the public health message that the movement and gathering of people should be minimised and that as many people as possible stay at home for the sake of health, life and the Common Good, St. Patrick's Church will remain closed until the situation improves.

A Prayer for Carers, Nurses and Doctors

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life, be with doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of your healing touch. In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving; and when their work is done, be with them in their weariness and in their tears. Amen.

News from our School

We are now at the end of a half term at school so we would like to send a message of love and support to all of the parishioners. We hope you are all keeping safe and staying well and we look forward to the times when we can be together again

To support you during Lent.

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday and as the Government's Public Health Message to Stay at Home is still in place the Diocese offers some resources which you may find helpful in your Lenten journey at home. Daily reflections, which you may download, print and share may be found [here](#)

Your ongoing financial support is welcomed and needed

Fr. Patterson renews his thanks to you for your offerings during these difficult times. He is particularly grateful to those parishioners who regularly contribute to parish funds by bank transfer which helps to meet the day to day financial commitments of our churches.

Whilst we are being urged to "Stay at Home," it may not be wise to drop your envelopes through the presbytery letterbox, unless your daily exercise route happens to take you past the presbytery. Please be sensible. **For security reason, envelopes should not be put through the letterbox of St. Alban's Presbytery.**

The parish is still able to reclaim the tax from Gift Aided offertory contributions made by bank transfer. It would be helpful to enter your name and Gift Aid envelope number as the reference when making the transfer.

The details for bank transfers and cheques are as follows:-

For St. Alban's HSBC Bank
Account name: DHN Pelaw St Alban
Sort code: 40-34-18
Account No: 92010984

For St. Patrick's HSBC Bank
Account name: DHN Felling St Patrick
Sort code: 40-34-18
Account No: 52010453