

# The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

[www.stalbangateshead.org](http://www.stalbangateshead.org)

**In Gateshead in the week 9th to 15th February there were 246 recorded cases, a decrease of 80 compared with the previous week, which equates to 122 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 114 cases over the same period.**

1st Sunday of Lent  
21st February, 2021

**We need everyone to  
keep Gateshead safe**

**National Lockdown**

Dear Parishioners

We are almost a full year into the Pandemic. What has it meant for you? The answer will be unique for everyone.

For one person this time will have brought the greatest personal tragedies of a lifetime as a result of sickness and loss of lives. For another it will have meant serious limitations and loss, frustrations and disappointments. For others it will appear as a time of challenge, refocus and even renewal of commitment in life.

So think again; how has it really been for you? Is there something of all of the above going on in your life? Challenge along with tragedy; refocus coming from frustration.

The most glorious and significant thing about our life as Christian people is that it is a walk with God. God is the centre of all things. To know God and to love and serve him in the bits and pieces of your life, is always a possibility no matter how your life seems to be at any moment. You might doubt God; God doesn't doubt you. Perhaps you feel totally unworthy of God's love and concern; it may make no sense to you but God is desperately keen to be in a relationship with you.

Opening our hearts to God is the most worthwhile and important thing that human beings can do. This pandemic experience may have made that very difficult for you. On the other hand it may have opened your heart up to see it afresh.

### Looking ahead

Last Friday, Foreign Office minister James Cleverly told BBC Breakfast that "the prime minister would set out plans for easing restrictions in as much detail as he is able in his long-awaited 'roadmap' statement to Parliament on Monday. But we cannot give guarantees, because that is not how viruses work," he added. "Ultimately we want to open up society and the economy, as much as we are able, but only on the condition that it is safe to do so."

A further 12,027 Covid cases were reported across the UK on Friday, another 533 people died within 28 days of a positive test and more than 17 million people in the UK have now received at least one dose of a vaccine. But concerns are high over the rapid spread, worldwide, of new coronavirus strains.

You may be interested in the figures below as we await the "Roadmap." I have also attached four graphs which you may find interesting.

*At the beginning of the November lockdown (5th November, 2020)*

the 7 day rolling total of confirmed cases in Gateshead was 806; the national rolling total was 157,860;  
the 7 day rolling total of deaths in Gateshead was 8 people; the national rolling total was 2,165 people.

*At the end of the November lockdown (2nd December, 2020)*

the 7 day rolling total of cases in Gateshead had decreased to 296; the national rolling total had dropped to 103,553  
the 7 day rolling total of deaths in Gateshead was 7 people; the national rolling total of deaths had risen to 3,169 people

*By the beginning of the January lockdown (5th January, 2021)*

the 7 day rolling total of confirmed cases in Gateshead had risen to 893; the national rolling total had risen to 391,615  
the 7 day rolling total of deaths in Gateshead was 7 people; the national rolling total had increased to 4,694 people

*Friday's figures (19th February, 2021) showed:*

the 7 day rolling total of confirmed cases in Gateshead was **227**; the national rolling total was 81,472  
the 7 day rolling total of deaths in Gateshead was 14 people; the national rolling total was 3,633 people.

So I suspect there will be an element of caution in the Prime Minister's statement as figures continue to fluctuate.

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.

*Fv. Patterson.*

### 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

### 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: Special Intention (ML)

Wednesday: Dec O'Brien and Costello Families

Friday: Brian Grace Snr & Brian Grace Jnr

Sunday: For the intentions of all our parishioners

Tuesday: Brian Quigley

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

Saturday: Fr. "P's" Intentions

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.



As of Friday 19th Feb  
119,920 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.

### To support you during Lent.

You may like to join Bishop Robert Barron in a "Reflection on the Way of the Cross" found [here](#)

The Diocese offers daily reflections for your Lenten journey at home which you can find [here](#)

### Your ongoing financial support is welcomed and needed

Fr. Patterson renews his thanks to you for your offerings during these difficult times especially to those parishioners who regularly contribute to parish funds by bank transfer helping to meet the regular 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