

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 March there were 122 recorded cases, a decrease of 48 compared with the previous week, which equates to 60 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 48 cases over the same period.

4th Sunday of Lent
14th March, 2021

**We need everyone to
keep Gateshead safe**

National Lockdown

Dear Parishioner

St. Patrick's Church will be open for Mass
next Sunday, 21st March at 10.30.

To ensure the safety and well-being of everyone, and to prevent breaching our maximum capacity of 70 parishioners in the church for a parish Mass, we will follow Government and Diocesan Guidelines and ask parishioners, who wish to attend Mass to reserve a place in advance. This should prevent anyone having to be turned away, which I am afraid would have to happen if our capacity is reached.

To reserve a place for Mass on Sunday, 21st March at **10.30**
please telephone
07526 232124

*****on Wednesday, 17th March between 10.00 - 12.00*****

*****or on Friday, 19th March between 17.30 - 19.00*****

This number will be unavailable outside of the above booking times. Bookings cannot be made via the presbytery telephone number nor by email and can only be made for the approaching Sunday and not for dates in advance. **Text messages cannot be accepted as a method of booking.**

You will be asked to provide your name and telephone number to comply with the NHS Test and Trace system and also the number in your family if you are attending as a household. Under the current Lockdown restrictions you must only sit with members of your own household or bubble and not mix with people from other households.

On arrival at the church you will be welcomed by a steward and your name will be checked against the booking list.

The procedures which need to be followed when you attend Church are outlined on the information sheet attached to this Newsletter.

On leaving the Church - Please be responsible and adhere to the law.

Under the current Lockdown Restrictions, you must not mingle outside the Church after Mass. Parishioners are asked to disperse immediately on leaving the Church, this is to minimise any possible transmission of the coronavirus.

Please remember though, the Public Health Message is that we are still legally required to "Stay at Home." You are under no obligation to attend Mass. The Sunday obligation is still suspended. You should not come to Church if you have received a letter to say that you must shield nor if you are experiencing any signs of Covid-19 or feeling unwell in any way. Remember too that if you have received your first dose of the vaccine it takes 3 to 4 weeks to develop antibodies and the vaccine does not give you total immunity. So please consider the wisdom of coming to Church.

While we will attempt to take all the appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, the Bishops' Conference and the Diocesan Authorities, parishioners should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 any time they enter a public space, since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

Unfortunately we still do not have sufficient volunteers to reopen St. Alban's Church to ensure it would be Covid secure and fully compliant with all the guidelines which continue to be required by the Government. Hopefully, in the light of the Government's Roadmap, we can begin to explore how we can reopen St. Alban's Church once the Covid restrictions have been lifted. I will outline my hopes in the coming weeks. The Bishop will be meeting with priests via Zoom in the next couple of weeks which may provide more guidance for us. I will, as always, keep you informed.



In the meantime, 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
- all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time especially Brida and Ken Clay and John Lenehan
- and Fr. Ronnie Richmond (one of our retired priests) and Dorothy Foster who have died. "Receive Lord into tranquillity and peace the souls of your servants whom you have called from this life. May they be taken up into glory with your Son in whose great mystery of love we are all united. Amen."

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 weekday. The following Intentions will be remembered this week.

Monday: Sloan, Harland & Bushell Families

Tuesday: Fathers White, Bellamy, Keane and Rooke

Wednesday: Brida and Ken Clay

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

Friday: Michael Earl

Saturday: Fr. "P's" Intentions

Sunday, 10.30 in St. Patrick's Church—booking is necessary : 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 case you are not aware, a parish priest is obliged to celebrate Mass for the "Intentions of the Parishioners" every Sunday or Holyday, which prevents him from fulfilling personal intentions on those occasions

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 12th March
125,343 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](#)

or to pray The Mysteries of the Rosary with Bishop Barron [here](#)

A free small book, recommended by Bishop Barron, entitled "The Sign of the Cross" can be downloaded [here](#)

It would be one way for you to prepare for Holy Week

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

Stations of the Cross ~ Every Friday throughout Lent, 11:00-11:30am, CAFOD invites you to join its meditation on Christ's journey to the cross, following themes of justice, poverty, mercy, friendship and hope

The Minsteracres Retreat Team invites you to a quiet day 'A Journey With The Psalms' on Saturday 20 March from 10.30am – 3.30pm. The day will be held Online via ZOOM. Please click on the link [Online event: From Lamentation to Praise; a journey with the Psalms – Minsteracres](#). There is a suggested donation of £10.00. If you have an enquiry or wish to attend a future retreat, email us on info@minsteracres.org

Unlocking too quickly could lead to a substantial surge in Covid infections

These words of Professor Chris Whitty at the Science and Technology Select Committee last Tuesday were in response to pressure from backbench Tories to ease lockdown more quickly given the drop in infections.

Professor Whitty warned MPs that it would be dangerous and risk lives among the many vulnerable people not yet protected by a vaccine. He went on to say that a "lot of people may think this is all over, but it is very easy to forget how quickly things can turn bad. Under all the scenarios, if we unlock very suddenly, all the modelling suggests we would get a substantial surge while a lot of people are not protected."

Read and listen to what he has to say [Covid-19: Don't think pandemic is over, Whitty warns - BBC News](#)

Meanwhile, you may find this update of data showing cases per 100,000 per population from our region of interest:

	Lockdown w/e 5th January 2021	w/e 8th March	National average w/e 8th March
Gateshead	404	60	48
Newcastle	215	71	
South Tyneside	495	68	
Sunderland	479	73	

At the same time there are still 8,404 people in hospital who are suffering from the coronavirus and are very poorly.

So to cite Professor Jonathan Van-Tam once again: "[Do not wreck this now!](#)"

Roadmap Step 1: Changes from 8th March

[These are the changes](#) that came into effect on 8th March.

Education

All children and students may return safely to face-to-face education in schools and colleges. Childcare and children's supervised activities can also resume where necessary to enable parents to work or engage in similar activities. Higher Education students at English universities on practical courses can also return.

Social contact

People will be allowed to leave home for recreation and exercise outdoors **with their household or support bubble or with one person from outside their household**. Care home residents may also be allowed one regular visitor.

All other restrictions are still in place including the mandatory rule to "Stay at Home."

New Offertory Envelopes

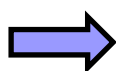
The new boxed sets of Offertory envelopes, beginning Sunday, 4th April, 2021, are now available and may be collected from St. Patrick's Church after Mass on Sundays. It is hoped that alternative arrangements may be made for their distribution after 29th March, if the "Stay at Home" restriction has been lifted.

During the course of the pandemic several parishioners have chosen to contribute by Bank Transfer and it is hoped they will continue to do so in the long term rather than use envelopes. This facilitates the financial administration of the parish. Please consider contributing by Bank Transfer. The details needed are provided below.

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.

The details for bank transfers and cheques are



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.**

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

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