

# The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

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

**In Gateshead in the week 16th to 22nd March there were 118 recorded cases, an increase of 19 compared with the previous week, which equates to 58 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 43 cases over the same period.**



Palm Sunday  
28th March, 2021

We need everyone to  
keep Gateshead safe

National Lockdown

Dear Parishioner

After consulting with our volunteer stewards, we are able to offer a modified programme of services for Holy Week. I am very grateful to our volunteers for making this possible for those of you who may feel able to take part.

The Government Guidelines still require places of worship and faith communities "to adapt their religious services to ensure the safety of those present and minimise the spread of infection. It is advised that the ceremonies and services should be concluded in the shortest reasonable time," which is reaffirmed by the Bishops of England and Wales.

In keeping with that guidance, we offer you the following opportunities:-

- **Holy Thursday:** a simple Mass will be celebrated at **17.30**. You do not need to reserve a place in advance. *Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis to ensure we do not breach our maximum capacity of 70 people for a parish Mass.*

Should you choose to attend Mass on Holy Thursday, please bring an envelope containing your name and a contact telephone number and place it in the box provided at the front of the Church to satisfy Test and Trace requirements. These will be retained for 21 days in accordance with Government requirements. Alternatively you may use the NHS Covid-19 App to "Sign in" using the QR Code displayed in the Church

- **Good Friday:** a simplified celebration of the Passion of the Lord with Holy Communion will take place at **11.00**. **You will need to reserve a place for this Service.** See details below
- **Easter Sunday:** Mass will be celebrated at **10.30**. **You will need to reserve a place for this Mass.** See details below

To reserve a place for Good Friday and/or Easter Sunday please telephone

**07526 232124**

on Monday, 29th March between 10.00 - 12.00

on Tuesday, 30th March between 17.30 - 18.30

or on Wednesday, 31st March between 17.30 - 18.30

**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 Good Friday and Easter Sunday and not for any other dates. **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.

Please remember you are under no obligation to attend Mass. The Sunday obligation is still suspended. You should not come to Church if you are still shielding or experiencing any signs of Covid-19 or feeling unwell in any way.

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.

Fr. 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 Pat Donald
- and Kevin Crinnion who has died. "Receive Lord into tranquillity and peace the soul of your servant whom you have called from this life. May he 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.

The Holy Week Services, at which Bishop Robert will preside, will also be live streamed and may be found on the [Cathedral website](#)

Alternatively, you may like to follow Mass from the [Holy Name, Jesmond](#). Visit their [website](#) for this week's schedule.

### Mass Intentions

I will celebrate Mass privately on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The following Intentions will be remembered this week.

Monday: Special Intention (JWG)

Tuesday: John, Mary and Jack Gillum

Wednesday: Leonard Robinson

Thursday: **17.30 in St. Patrick's Church** The sick, their families, NHS staff & Care Workers

Good Friday Service: **11.00 in St. Patrick's Church - booking is necessary**

Saturday: No Mass is celebrated on Holy Saturday

**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 19th March  
126,515 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 Holy Week.

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

**"Magnificat" offer you their very comprehensive free digital prayer book for Holy Week which you can access [here](#)**

**Roadmap Step 1b:  
Changes from 29th March  
subject to ratification  
by the Prime Minister**

[These are the changes](#) that may come into effect on 29th March.

**Social contact**

The evidence shows that it is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. And this is why from 29 March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.

**Business and activities**

Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will also be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports.

**Travel**

The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes. Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed, given it will remain important to manage the risk of imported variants and protect the vaccination programme. The government has launched a new taskforce to review global travel which will report on 12 April



Stay local as much as possible - continue to work from home if you can and keep journeys to a minimum



Six people or two households can meet up outside, including in private gardens



Outdoor sports facilities and open-air swimming pools are allowed to reopen



Non-essential shops, gyms and entertainment venues closed



Pubs and restaurants closed, but takeaway food permitted



Holidays abroad still banned

**Retirement**

Fr. Kevin Cummins will be retiring as parish priest of St. Oswald's, Wrekenton at the end of August, 2021. He will continue to live in the presbytery at Wrekenton. As Bishop Robert has no-one to replace him, Fr. Paul Zielinski will take on the pastoral care of St. Oswald's along with St. Augustine's, Leam Lane and St. Anne's, Harlow Green


**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