

The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

www.stalbangateshead.org

In Gateshead in the week 13th July to 19th July there were 1717 recorded cases, an decrease of 212 from the previous week, which equates to 850 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 502 cases over the same period.

17th Sunday of the Year
25th July, 2021

**We need everyone to
keep Gateshead safe**

**Covid-19 control measures are
in place in our Church for your safety**

Dear Parishioners

Last Monday, the Government transferred the responsibility of public health and safety in public buildings to the owners of those premises.

In our situation, the Bishop now has the legal responsibility to ensure the safety of everyone who enters our churches.

Due to the high rate of cases in our region and the ageing demographic of many of our parishioners, Bishop Robert has instructed the priests of the Diocese to continue to implement all previous Covid protocols within our churches until at least the end of August, for the well-being of us all. His full statement is on page 3.

As such, the wearing of face coverings, sanitising your hands, 2 metre social distancing and cleaning the church after each celebration remain in place within our church. The maximum capacity for any celebration remains at 70.

I hope you will be understanding and accepting of the protocols you are asked to follow. It is important for us all to remember, Covid has not gone away!

In the light of his decision and with the ongoing generosity of our volunteer stewards we are still able to open St. Patrick's Church for Mass on Tuesday at 10.00, when no booking will be needed, and on Sunday at 10.30 when booking is advised to guarantee a place.

*To reserve a place for Mass next Sunday, 1st August,
please telephone **07526 232124** on Friday, 30th July between **17.00 - 19.00.***

This number will be unavailable outside of the above hours. Text messages cannot be accepted as a method of booking.

You will be encouraged 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. You should only sit with members of your own household or bubble. On arrival at the church you will be welcomed by a steward and your name will be checked against the booking list. If you have not pre-booked please bring your details in an envelope and place them in the box at the front of the church or give your details to the outside stewards. Alternatively you can use the QR Code displayed at the entrance to the Church using the NHS Covid App

For Mass on Tuesday, where booking is not required, you are invited to bring your Test and Trace details in an envelope and place them in the box in church

There are still places available for Mass this Sunday, 25th July, offered on a first come first served basis. Please bring Test and Trace details if you haven't reserved a place. You will receive a warm and reassuring welcome.

You may still be feeling a little hesitant about coming to Mass and that is perfectly understandable. The Sunday obligation is still suspended so you are under no obligation to attend Mass. **You must not come to Church if you are experiencing any signs of Covid-19 or feeling unwell in any way.**



Remember too that there are more symptoms of Covid emerging, namely a headache accompanied by a runny nose, sore throat, sneezing and a persistent cough. It may just be a summer cold, but check it out by taking a Lateral Flow Test. These kits are available from the local chemist, are free of charge and simple to use.

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

Fr. Patterson.

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 Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. These Masses may also be viewed later from the same website.

Mass Intentions

With the exception of Sunday and Tuesday, Fr. Patterson will celebrate Mass privately during the week remembering the following Intentions. *Bishop Robert asks that Face coverings should be worn when attending Church.*

Monday: Brian Quigley

Tuesday 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church Brian Grace Snr & Brian Grace Jnr

Wednesday: Thanks for graces received

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

Friday: Private Funeral Service for Hannah Boyd - by invitation only - restrictions still apply.

Saturday: Fr "P's" intentions

Sunday, 10.30 in St. Patrick's Church—booking is advised : For the intentions of all our parishioners

When you are unable to celebrate Mass 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.

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- all our parishioners who are sick, housebound or in hospital and Fr. Kevin Daly who is still poorly in hospital.
- all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time
- and Hannah Boyd 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.



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.

A prayer for those who are afraid

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of Covid-19, fear for loved ones, fear of what the future holds.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace. Amen.



As of Friday 23rd July
129,044 people have
died of the coronavirus
in our country

May they
rest in Peace

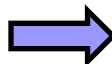
Let us pray

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.

Your ongoing financial support is welcomed and needed

Fr. Patterson continues to be grateful for your offerings during these difficult times and is especially grateful to those parishioners who regularly contribute to parish funds by standing order helping us meet the regular financial commitments of our churches.

The details for standing orders and cheques are



You may bring your envelopes to Mass on Tuesdays or Sundays or drop them through the presbytery letterbox. **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

Bishop Robert's Statement

Below is the text of the statement of Bishop Robert on Protecting the Health of our Clergy and Congregations.



Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

Protecting the Health of Our Clergy and Congregations

As you will be aware the Government has confirmed that it will proceed with taking the next step on the Roadmap out of lockdown, with most restrictions set to be lifted from Monday 19th July.

This comes at a time when COVID cases are rising rapidly across all areas of the Diocese, with some areas recording the highest infection rates in the country. When this is considered alongside the more elderly demographic of the Diocese, it would present a very serious situation if we were to abandon our existing COVID controls.

The Government will remove the legal requirement to comply with many (if not all) COVID controls on 19th July and leave it to individuals to exercise responsibility and judgement. This means that some aspects of the "Coronavirus Act 2020" may be revoked or amended and many (if not all) of the resulting COVID regulations made under the Act, may be revoked or amended.

Regardless of the changes to Coronavirus legislation and GOV.UK guidance, organisations still have a general duty under the "Health and Safety at Work Act 1974" to protect the health and safety of everyone who is affected by their activities. One of the regulations made under the '74 Act, "The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999", details a specific legal duty to manage risks by carrying out a risk assessment. This still applies and includes an assessment of COVID risks.

The Diocese has done this for all its churches and church halls that are currently open. Despite a relaxation of legally enforceable controls made under Coronavirus legislation, the remaining requirement to carry out a risk assessment gives the Diocese the ability to introduce (or retain) whatever COVID controls we feel are appropriate based upon the circumstances and risks in the Diocese.

The Government has given us the freedom to make our own decisions but has urged us all to be cautious. Included for your information is the link to the latest Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) Guidance dated 15th July and entitled COVID-19 Route Map: Step 4 Guidance. At this stage, given our Diocesan circumstances, I am not suggesting that we adopt this CBCEW Guidance in its entirety. It is however now possible to celebrate Life Cycle Events with numbers up to the safe capacity of your church as identified by your site specific risk assessment.

I have taken both Clergy and Lay advice and due to the very high infection rates across all areas of the Diocese, **I ask you to retain all of the COVID control measures and cleaning protocols that you are currently following in all our churches and church halls until at least the end of August 2021.**

The virus is expected to peak in the middle of August, following which in September there will be a review of available data and guidance to allow a decision to be made regarding controls and protocols. If the data allows, we may then take a cautious and staged approach to the relaxation of controls and protocols.

With every good wish and blessing

Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

World Day for Grandparents

Pope Francis has instituted tomorrow, 25th July, 2021, as a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Identifying with the more senior members of our society, he says "The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!" You can read his message [here](#).

We are still in need of your support

If we are going to be able to reopen St. Alban's Church and fully reopen St. Patrick's Church and parish centre once all the Covid restrictions have been removed, Fr. Patterson needs your help and support to fulfil the roles outlined in our shared parish Roadmap which was circulated at the beginning of May. If you do not have a copy, please email felling.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk or telephone 0191 495 2277 and one will be sent to you.

Currently we do not have sufficient offers of help and support to be able to reopen St. Alban's Church and will be struggling to fully reopen St. Patrick's Church and parish centre when the Covid restrictions are lifted.

If you can commit yourself to help in either church when all the Covid Restrictions have been removed, whenever that may be, please contact Fr. Patterson as soon as possible

If you have helped in either church before the pandemic and no longer feel able to continue in your previous role; if you wish to continue helping as you have done in the past or if you would like to help in any of the ways outlined in our shared parish Roadmap please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Following Bishop Robert's decision to extend the Covid restrictions to at least the end of August, we are still unable to open St. Patrick's Church for anything other than Mass on a Sunday and Tuesday and for funerals at present.

His decision also prevents us from reopening the parish centre. As a result we are not in a position to be able to offer the necessary baptismal preparation for parents who are considering presenting their child to the Church for Baptism.

Fr. Patterson regrets that it will still not be possible to offer the Sacrament of Baptism in St. Patrick's Church until the situation improves.

Tips from Professor Tim Spector.

Professor Tim Spector, the lead scientist on the ZOE COVID Study and Professor of Genetic Epidemiology at King's College London offers these tips below as we learn to live with Covid.

His latest weekly update is also worth a listen especially in relation to how the virus is spreading. You can watch it [here](#).

Respect others

We've lived through a lot since this pandemic started so let's be kind and respect one another. Be aware of personal space and personal choice. Some people might not be ready to hug, kiss, shake hands or reduce social distance. Don't assume what people are comfortable with. Instead, ask them and respect their personal choices.

This is particularly true of the choice to wear face masks. With limited guidance from the government on where and when we should be wearing face covering, respect people's choices. If wearing a mask makes someone feel safer, then they have every right to continue wearing one.

Airborne particles can multiply rapidly in crowded, badly ventilated places. So anywhere you're in a crowded confined space, Tim recommends you continue to wear a face covering, if you are able to. Companies like Ryanair and Transport for London have already stated they'll continue with mandatory masks, which is sensible and should keep us all safer.

This probably isn't the advice many people will want to hear, as the topic of face masks really divides us. But we know from our research that [face masks do work](#), both for preventing you from passing on viral load if you're infected, and for catching some of the droplets which may be expelled by those around you.

Regional update

You may find this data from our region of interest. Figures are as of 23rd July, 2021

	New cases in the last 7 days	People who have died in the last 7 days	Percentage of adults having had 1st jab	Percentage of adults having had 2nd jab
Gateshead	1,476	6	83%	67%
Newcastle	2,203	2	71%	50%
South Tyneside	1,369	3	82%	68%
North Tyneside	1,366	0	87%	69%