

# 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 20th July to 26th July there were 830 recorded cases, an decrease of 888 from the previous week, which equates to 411 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 307 cases over the same period.**

18th Sunday of the Year  
1st August, 2021

**We need everyone to  
keep Gateshead safe**

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

Dear Parishioners

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.

**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 St. Patrick's 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!

Thanks to 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, 8th August,  
please telephone 07526 232124 on Friday, 6th August 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 contact 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, 1st August, 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.**

**If you are a little unsure about coming to Church - why not come and see for yourself.**

If you are hesitant in returning to Church because you are unsure of what to do or what to expect, **St. Patrick's Church will be open on Saturday, 7th August from 10.00 - 11.00 for you "to have a look inside."** There will be no service taking place. Two of our volunteer stewards will be available to welcome you and explain things to you so that you may feel more comfortable when you choose to return for Mass. You would have the opportunity to say a prayer if you wish. *You will need to wear a face covering in the Church.* Entry to the Church is by the top door off Church Street.

**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.

*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: Margaret, William and Jim Murray      **Tuesday 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church** Mary Robinson  
Wednesday: Peter Sloan      Thursday: The sick, their families, NHS staff & Care Workers  
Friday: In Thanksgiving (MH)      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 Morton Stott (father of Fr. Peter Stott) 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.



## 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 30th July  
129,583 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

## Sunday Obligation

The Bishops of England and Wales have issued the following statement concerning their hope that it might be possible for all Catholics to fulfil the Church precept of Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent, 28th November, 2021.



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England

#### *Sunday – it is our Day*

On 19<sup>th</sup> July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled [The Day of the Lord](#). We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.

## St Vincent's Support Centre Newcastle – Volunteers & Donations Needed

The Support Centre is next door to St Dominic's Church on New Bridge Street Newcastle. It is open Monday to Friday 9.00 - 16.00. It provides a range of support from helping with a free hot meal service, to providing food parcels, clothing, toiletries and small household items. The Centre also has a small Vintage Charity Boutique shop, which helps to raise much needed funds to support its vital work. Donations of Food, clothing, handbags, shoes, toiletries, accessories and other small household items are always welcomed.

If you have items, you would like to donate or would like to find out more information on how to get involved in volunteering please give Emma a call on 07453615139 or email [emmab@svp.org.uk](mailto:emmab@svp.org.uk)

## 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](mailto: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.

## Donations received

Fr. Patterson is very grateful for two donations received this week of £20.00 and £10.00 for St. Patrick's parish funds. Thank you.

## Are vaccines still working?

Vaccines have proved to be a topic of conversation in the news this week.

It is obvious from what is being reported that there is still a certain amount of misunderstanding about what vaccines can and can't do. They do not, for example provide total immunity from contracting Covid-19, but they do minimise the risk of hospitalisation and possible death if someone does catch Covid after having been vaccinated.

That is one of the major reasons why we should all still exercise caution in our daily life choices even though the Government has removed many of the restrictions and why we should consider having the vaccine if we haven't already done so.

You may find [this question and answer session](#) with Professor Jonathan Van Tam of interest along with [this Q&A session](#) with Professor Tim Spector of the ZOE COVID Study.

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 coverings, respect people's choices. If wearing a mask makes someone feel safer, then they have every right to continue wearing one.

## Regional update

You may find this data from our region of interest. Figures are as of 30th 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	733	4	83%	68%
Newcastle	1,094	7	72%	52%
South Tyneside	631	2	82%	69%
North Tyneside	799	2	87%	71%