

The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

www.stalbangateshead.org

In Gateshead in the week 17th to 23rd August there were 635 recorded cases, an increase of 46 from the previous week, which equates to 314 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 315 cases over the same period.

22nd Sunday of the Year
29th August, 2021

**We need everyone to
keep Gateshead safe**

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

Dear Parishioners

Bishop Robert has written to us this week with an update on the Covid restrictions in place in our churches. He writes:- **“given the high transmission rates in the North East, Covid-19 restrictions in churches and parish halls remain in force in the Diocese. The Bishop’s Council will meet on 10th September and will receive advice from the Diocesan health and safety officer before deciding whether the current restrictions may be eased. I will advise you of the decision as soon as possible after that meeting. Until then no changes should be made in parishes.”**

As such, the wearing of face coverings, sanitising your hands, 2 metre social distancing, cleaning the church after each celebration and the maximum capacity of 70 for any celebration remain in place within St. Patrick’s Church.

Please 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! The Bishop’s principal concern is for the well-being of everyone who attends our churches.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of our volunteer stewards St. Patrick’s Church will be open 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, 5th September,
please telephone **07526 232124** on Friday, 3rd September 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 for 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, 29th 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.

Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who have recently contracted Covid-19 despite having had two doses of vaccine. Most have had mild symptoms, but some have been very poorly and two have had to be admitted to hospital; thankfully both have now returned home. It is a reminder that Covid-19 is still in our community and that we should do all we can to be cautious in our everyday life choices which don’t only affect ourselves, but impact on others too.

Pope Francis urges us to get vaccinated.

In a video message which may be viewed [here](#), Pope Francis says:- *“Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable. I pray to God that each one of us can make his or her small gesture of love. No matter how small, love is always grand. Small gestures for a better future. God bless you. Thank you.”*

And remember, we are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours’ safety. We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity. We are your people Lord, giving and loving, wherever we are, wherever you call us, whatever it costs, for as long as it takes.

Please look after each other and pray for one another and may God bless you and keep you safe.

Fv. Patterson.

Mass to view on line

Mass is live streamed from our Cathedral on Sunday at 11.30 and may be viewed on the [Cathedral website](#). There will be no weekday Masses streamed until 1st September.

Alternatively, you may like to follow Mass from the [Holy Name, Jesmond](#) celebrated live at 10.00 on Sunday, Thursday and Friday this week. 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: In Thanksgiving for prayers answered

Tuesday 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church: Jim McErlane

Wednesday: Special Intention (BH)

Thursday: Funeral Service for Mac Rae - **by invitation only - Covid restrictions still apply in the church**

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

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



As of Friday 27th Aug
132,243 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.



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

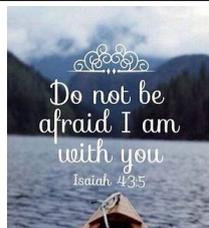
God of all hope we call on you today.

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.



A prayer for the people of Afghanistan

May those who are fleeing, find sanctuary,

may those who are staying, find safety,

may those who are fighting, find peace,

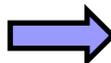
may those whose hearts are breaking, find comfort,

may those who see no future, find hope.

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

The troubled World in which we live - a message from Cafod

As you will be aware from the news, a number of countries are facing significant crises at the moment. The people of Haiti are coping with a catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm; the people of Afghanistan are dealing with the shock of the rapid Taliban take-over of most of the country; and millions of people in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Nigeria are facing extreme hunger.

At this grave time for our sisters and brothers in these countries, we would like to reassure you that Cafod is responding to these multiple crises. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the Cafod website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers will help us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

The parish Third World Group have sent a cheque for £120.00 to Cafod's Haiti Appeal. Thanks to those of you who continue to support the Third World Group.

An Appeal from our Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project

The project organisers are grateful for the ongoing support that they have received during the pandemic but their stocks are running low and demand is increasing. At present the project is supporting on average 300 clients each week, who all receive a bag of food. 102 of them are destitute and also receive a supermarket voucher. The project organisers have been notified that new sites in Byker, Shieldfield and Grainger Town will introduce 400/500 new asylum seekers to the area as well as some Afghan refugees so the demand on the project resources and services will increase.

If you are able to bring donations of rice, sugar, biscuits and toiletries as well as tinned fish in oil and tins of tomatoes and chick peas to St. Patrick's Church before Mass on Tuesdays or Sundays, they may be left on the table to your right as you enter the Church. Please note: baked beans and tinned meat are not required.

Financial donations can be made by bank transfer to HSBC Sort Code 40-34-18. Account number 52854058 Account name DHN Destitute Asylum.

FIRST STEPS – Exploring the Catholic Faith Online

Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join us on a journey this Autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards becoming a member of the Catholic Church. We gather weekly via Zoom and invite you to come along to find out more. Starts Wednesday 22nd September at 7pm.

If you are interested to find out more, you can enquire/register using the [Online Enquiry Form](#) or email admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Following Bishop Robert's decision to extend the Covid restrictions until further notice, 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. Please keep an eye on the Newsletter for further information.

Things you need to know about having your child baptised.

For a child to be baptised in the Catholic Church, one parent must be a baptised Catholic.

A child should be baptised in the parish in which their family lives and in the church they regularly attend. Parents who live outside our shared parish of St Patrick's and St Alban's and who wish to have their child baptised here, must regularly attend St Patrick's Church.

To ensure that parents have a living awareness of the commitment having their child baptised entails, namely promising to bring their child up in the practice of the Catholic faith, they will be invited to attend a series of preparation sessions, after which they will decide, along with the priest, whether they should proceed with having their child baptised.

Please note that no date for baptism can be considered until the preparation is completed and the parents feel able to make the commitment the Church asks of them.

We are still in need of more volunteers

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 for the first time, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Covid update

Much is being said about having to learn to live with Covid long into the future, but that does not mean we should "bury our heads in the sand" and pretend that Covid has gone away and that we can live life as we please. Professor Tim Spec- tor comments this week:-

Unfortunately, we're back in a position where cases, hospitalisations and deaths are all going up and the UK has the highest rates of COVID in Europe, despite our superior vaccination rates. The main difference between the UK and Europe is our lack of restrictions. In many parts of Europe, people are still wearing face coverings and observing some social distancing. In the UK, where we eagerly declared 'freedom' from COVID and did away with even the most basic social measures, COVID has found an opportunity to spread. As children head back to the classrooms, there's a good chance cases will continue to rise from here.

According to data from the ZOE COVID Study, fully vaccinated people now make up nearly 30% of positive cases and so it's critical to be aware of the symptoms of COVID after vaccination. Our data shows post-vaccination infections are much more like a cold than the flu, with the top symptoms being runny nose, headache, sneezing, sore throat and loss of smell. We're again calling on the government to add these cold-like symptoms to their list to help educate the public and catch more cases."

His full update can be viewed [here](#).

Respect for one another

We have 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.

Caring for you in our churches

Bishop Robert has written the following note to the clergy this week: "I would like to remind clergy that, given the high transmission rates in the north east, **Covid-19 restrictions in churches and parish halls remain in force in the Diocese**. The Bishop's Council will meet on 10th September and will receive advice from the Diocesan health and safety officer before deciding whether the current restrictions may be eased. I will advise you of the decision as soon as possible after that meeting. Until then **no changes should be made in parishes.**"

Regional update

You may find this data from our region of interest. Figures are as of 27th August, 2021

	New cases in the last 7 days	People who have died in the last 7 days	People with Covid in NHS Trust Hospitals on 24th August	Percentage of adults having had 1st jab	Percentage of adults having had 2nd jab
Gateshead	654	5	25 (QE Hospital)	84%	75%
Newcastle	907	3	57 (Newcastle)	73%	61%
South Tyneside	528	2	80 (+ Sunderland)	83%	75%
North Tyneside	697	2	40 (Northumbria)	88%	80%