

The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

www.stalbangateshead.org

In Gateshead in the week 20th to 26th Sep there were 881 recorded cases, an increase of 176 from the previous week, which equates to 436 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 335 cases over the same period.



27th Sunday of the Year
3rd October, 2021

**We need everyone to
keep Gateshead safe**

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

Dear Parishioners

Bishop Robert has instructed us that we must continue with Covid restrictions in all the churches of the Diocese. This involves the wearing of face coverings, sanitising your hands, social distancing, cleaning the church after each celebration and the maximum capacity of 70 for funerals and Mass within St. Patrick's Church. He will review the situation in November.

The Bishop's principal concern continues to be for the well-being of everyone who attends our churches and for the clergy, given the age demographic of the Diocese and the local situation.

The ongoing generosity of our volunteer stewards enables Mass to continue to be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church on Tuesdays at 10.00 and on Sundays at 10.30.

As we must continue to clean the church after each celebration, the rear of the church will remain closed to reduce the demands on our stewards who sanitise the benches when you leave. Could you help as a steward on a rota basis, either during the week or over a weekend? Please get in touch if you can.

Booking and Test and Trace details

As we do not breach our capacity for the celebration of Mass on Sundays, there will no longer be a need for you to book a place in advance. However if we reach the point when we may breach our maximum number, booking will have to be reintroduced. The Government no longer requires you to provide Test and Trace details.

Is it time to think about coming to Mass?

As more and more people now feel able to visit the shops, enjoy a coffee in a café, a meal in a restaurant or a drink in a pub or club, is the time right for you to be thinking about coming to Mass in St. Patrick's Church on a Tuesday or a Sunday. Sanitising your hands, social distancing and the wearing of face coverings are still in place, so the church is as Covid safe as we can make it, although there is always an element of risk of contracting Covid-19 when entering any public space.

I know that some of you who can, are taking part in live stream Masses, but they are not the same as coming to Mass and being nourished and fed by God's Word and Sacrament alongside other members of our shared parish family.

I am also aware that there are still some of you who are hesitant in going very far at all and that is perfectly understandable. We must all do what we think is best for our own well-being and the well-being of others.

The Sunday obligation is still suspended so you are under no obligation to attend Mass. Although if you only come to Mass because of the obligation, does that not raise a much deeper issue within your minds and hearts?

When the restrictions are removed, I am afraid we are still not in a position to be able to reopen St. Alban's Church as we simply do not have the necessary number of volunteers to do so. Please do get in touch if you would be able to help.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners and school children who have recently tested positive for Covid-19. Some have had mild symptoms, whilst others have been very poorly and some have been admitted to hospital.

Please do what you can to encourage people you know to consider being vaccinated if they haven't as yet done so. Pope Francis encourages us to do so [in this video message](#). Please accept your invitation for a "Booster jab" when you receive it and do consider having a flu jab too. Covid-19 is still in our community and we should do all we can to be cautious in our everyday life choices which not only affect ourselves, but impact on others too including the NHS on which we all rely at times.

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

May God bless you and your loved ones and may he keep us safe from all harm.

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](#).

Alternatively, you may like to follow Mass from the [Holy Name, Jesmond](#) celebrated live at 10.00 on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (at 16.00). 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: Jack Durham

Tuesday 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church: Kathleen and Bill Falconer

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

Thursday: Wedding Service for Michael and Doreen - **by invitation only - Covid restrictions apply**

Friday: Brian Quigley

Saturday: Fr. Patterson's intentions

Sunday, 10.30 in St. Patrick's Church: 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
- and all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time especially Brian Quigley



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.



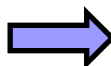
A prayer for the people of Afghanistan

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

St. Patrick's Boundary Wall

Some of you may remember that in September 2018, movement was discovered in the southern boundary wall of the church with Caxton House and structural engineers advised that it should be taken down and rebuilt with new foundations at a cost of £25,000.00. Heritage Consolidation, who renewed the steps at the front of the church, submitted a competitive tender for the work and were appointed to carry out the work. Then the pandemic struck and the work had to be deferred. It has now been agreed that the work will begin on Monday, 4th October. Caxton House have offered to shoulder 50% of the cost of the work, for which we are most grateful, considering the considerable drop in income the parish is incurring during this time of pandemic.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October.

Pope Francis calls on everyone to pray during the month of October that all Christians might be missionary disciples and open to the demands of the Church's evangelizing mission. "In a video, which you may view [here](#), the Pope says we are all invited to be open to Jesus' call and to live united to Him in the mundane events of our daily lives. "Let us pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel," he said.

The Catholic Universe

This newspaper went into administration this Summer after 160 years. It is to be replaced by an online subscription digital publication under a new name, "The Universe Catholic Weekly." It will be topical, controversial, stimulating and packed with news, opinion and features. You can receive a weekly edition on line for £20.00 a quarter paid simply and directly to the publisher. More details to follow

Diocesan Year of the Eucharist

Bishop Robert has announced that a Year of the Eucharist will be celebrated in the Diocese starting on Sunday, 17th October. It will be launched at St Mary's Cathedral simultaneously with the launch of the Synod of Bishops in Rome. He has defined the aims of the Year of the Eucharist as:

- To celebrate the Eucharist at the heart of the life and mission of the Church and to gather people back.
- To grow as a Diocese in our love and appreciation of the Eucharist.
- To deepen our appreciation of the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist through the rites.
- To revitalise and renew our faith through a deepening prayer and devotion of the Eucharist.
- To go out and serve the world through the nourishment of the Eucharist.

The Year of the Eucharist will be celebrated in Episcopal Areas, Partnerships, Parishes and Schools and will provide a framework of prayer for the Diocese's participation in the first stage of the Synod. More information will follow.

Assisted Dying Bill

Bishop John Sherrington, the Bishop for Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has written an open letter inviting Catholics to pray for the defeat of the Assisted Dying Bill to be debated in the House of Lords in October. If successful it will allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live, assistance to commit suicide. The Catholic Church teaches that this represents a crime against human life, for we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. Bishop Sherrington encourages Catholic people to write to peers at the House of Lords stating the reasons why they oppose this legislation and particularly explain from personal experience the reasons why this change in the law should be opposed. For more information click [here](#)

An Appeal from our Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project

This 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 the local area 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. Thanks to those who have already responded so generously to this request.

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

Respect for one another - Be aware of personal space and personal choice.

We have lived through a lot since the pandemic started so let us 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.



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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

As Bishop Robert has 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.

However, we are now in the process of arranging to have the parish centre Covid risk assessed so that we will be able to offer the necessary baptismal preparation for parents who are considering presenting their child for Baptism which the Church requires to ensure that parents have a full understanding of the nature of the Sacrament of Baptism and also 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. Until we are able to reopen our parish centre and to ensure the safety of everyone including our catechists we are currently unable to offer the preparation.

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.

For a child to be baptised in the Catholic Church, one parent must be a baptised Catholic who shows some sign of genuine commitment to the practice of their own faith by taking part regularly in Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's.

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.

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.

Zoe Covid weekly update

This week, Professor Tim Spector discusses the daily rates holding steady and how the age groups of infection are changing. He looks at how the UK compares internationally in terms of vaccines and hospitalisations, and he reveals interesting and updated news about vaccine protection following infection. You may view the weekly update [here](#).

He reminds us that as well as the "classic symptoms" of Covid, (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell), there are more symptoms emerging, namely a headache accompanied by a runny nose, sore throat, sneezing and a loss of smell. 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. Check out the Zoe blog [Do I have Covid or a cold?](#)

Regional update

You may find this data from our region of interest. Figures are as of 1st October, 2021. Vaccination data unavailable.

	New cases in the last 7 days	People who have died in the last 7 days	People with Covid in NHS Trust Hospitals on 28th September	Percentage of adults having had 1st jab	Percentage of adults having had 2nd jab
Gateshead	769	1	32 (QE Hospital)	N/A	N/A
Newcastle	937	3	61 (Newcastle)	N/A	N/A
South Tyneside	452	2	69 (+ Sunderland)	N/A	N/A
North Tyneside	777	1	44 (Northumbria)	N/A	N/A