

# 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 13th to 19th Dec there were 949 recorded cases, which was an increase of 130 from the previous week. This equates to 470 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 761 cases over the same period.**

Christmas  
25th December, 2021

**We need everyone to  
keep Gateshead safe**

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



Dear Parishioners

Christmas is almost upon us, hence this early and briefer Newsletter. I hope you are able to celebrate it with friends and family in a cautious, caring and loving way.

You would be very welcome to join us for Mass in St. Patrick's Church either this evening, Christmas Eve at 17.30 or on Christmas Day at 9.45. On both occasions the Church will open 20 minutes before Mass is due to begin. Access is by the entrance off Church Street only - "the Top Door."

As we are not operating a booking system this year, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. It would be helpful if some of you who have in the past attended on Christmas Eve, would consider coming on Christmas morning to ensure that we can welcome everyone in a safe way at both Masses and to prevent us from having to turn people away if our Covid risk assessed capacity is reached.

We will do all we can to ensure St. Patrick's Church is both welcoming and as Covid-19 safe as we can make it for you. You will be welcomed by our volunteer stewards and invited to sanitise your hands. Please follow their guidance, especially when it comes to seating you in your place. They are trying to keep everyone safe.

You are asked to maintain one metre social distancing from others in your bench, unless you are from the same household or bubble. You are also asked not to move around the Church once seated. Face coverings are a legal requirement unless you are medically exempt.

As we must clean the church after each celebration, the rear of the church is closed to reduce the demands on our stewards who sanitise the benches after you leave. Limited toilet facilities are available in case of necessity. You are welcome to use the main Church car park, accessing the "Top Door" via the external stone steps at the side of the Church.

If you have [Covid-19 symptoms](#) or feel unwell, if you have a cough or are sneezing, if someone in your household has been poorly recently, please do not take any risks with your health or the health of others at Church and stay at home until you feel better. You can review what the Covid-19 symptoms are by clicking [here](#).

Remember too, if you are still hesitant about attending Church, you are under no obligation to do so.



It would be a wonderful act of kindness to one another if you would consider taking a lateral flow test before attending Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning. The choice, of course, is yours; you are under no obligation to do so. As you will be aware, it is often people who have contracted Covid, but experience no symptoms, who unknowingly infect others.

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

Please do all you can to be cautious in your everyday life choices which not only affect you, but impact on others too, including the NHS on which we all rely at times and pray for one another.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas and may his light guide us throughout the coming year.

*Fv. Patterson.*

## Mass to view on line

Mass is live streamed from our Cathedral. Visit the [Cathedral website](#) for times this week.

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

## Mass Intentions

With the exception of Sunday, Tuesday and New Years Day, Fr. Patterson will celebrate Mass privately during the week remembering the following Intentions. *Face coverings must be worn when attending Church, unless you are medically exempt.*

Monday: Brian Quigley

**Tuesday: 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church:** Gerry Toberty

Wednesday: Sister Francine

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

Friday: Peter Volpe

**New Years Day (Saturday, 1st January) 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church:** Allan Lavin

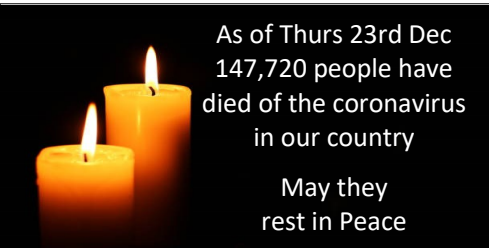
**Sunday: 10.30 in St. Patrick's Church:** For the intentions of all our parishioners

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.
- all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time, Nellie Armstrong, Allan Lavin and Gerry Toberty.
- and Fr. Richard Harriott, parish priest of St. John's, Annitsford, who has died. May he rest in peace.



As of Thurs 23rd Dec  
147,720 people have  
died of the coronavirus  
in our country

May they  
rest in Peace

## Let us pray

Gracious God, as we remember before you all those people 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 Christmas and beyond

We are a community of memory that looks back; we are a community of Spirit that looks forward.

It is important, though not easy, to look back with kindness and to look forward in hope.

This year is coming to a close and a new year beckons. Let us hand over the past to God for his healing blessing.

Let us ask the Lord to face the future with us so that we do not face it alone

Let us pray for each other and for all those we love

that we might know the promise of the Lord that brings the Gospel to a close.

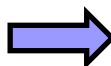
(Fr. Denis McBride C.Ss.R)



## 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