

# 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 21st to 27th Dec there were 2012 recorded cases, which was an increase of 991 from the previous week. This equates to 996 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 1,231 cases over the same period.**

New Year  
1st January, 2022

**We need everyone to  
keep Gateshead safe**

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



Christmas Nativity  
St. Patrick's Church  
2021

Dear Parishioners

Might I take this opportunity to wish you and those you love dearly a Happy New Year, rich in God's blessings.

I would also like to thank those of you who felt able to come together for our celebration of the Christmas Feast and share the disappointment of those of you who were prevented from attending because of testing positive for Covid-19. I hope you are making a good recovery.

Thank you for your cards, gifts, emails, telephone calls and prayers, all of which are greatly appreciated and thanks to those parishioners who offered to decorate the sanctuary.

A special word of thanks must go to our team of volunteer stewards for their unceasing commitment since September, 2020, doing all they can to ensure St. Patrick's Church is both welcoming and as Covid-19 safe as we can make it for you. Thanks to their generosity, Mass will continue to be celebrated on Tuesdays at 10.00 and on Sundays at 10.30.

Face coverings are still a legal requirement unless you are medically exempt and you are asked to maintain two metre social distancing from others in your bench, unless you are from the same household or bubble. Sanitising your hands is also necessary.

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.

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](#). And if you are still hesitant about attending Church, please remember you are under no obligation to do so.

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

## St. Alban's Church

I am afraid we are still not in a position to reopen St. Alban's Church whilst Covid restrictions are in place as we do not have sufficient volunteers to comply with the protocols required to make the church Covid safe.



Once the restrictions are removed, before we are able to open the church, we will need volunteers who will be prepared to fulfil the roles outlined in our shared parish Roadmap which was circulated at the beginning of May, 2021. 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.

At the earliest opportunity, I will invite those parishioners who are prepared to fulfil the necessary roles to meet together to discuss the way forward. You may remember that just before Christmas, Bishop Robert closed all parish centres, halls and meeting places until further notice because of the rapid spread of Omicron in the region. Once the situation changes I will be in a position to arrange a meeting.

May God bless you and your families, keep you safe 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 and Tuesday, 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: Olwin Durham

**Tuesday: 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church** with the prayers of the Feast of the Epiphany: Nellie Armstrong

Wednesday: Funeral Service for Sheila Fletcher - **by invitation - Covid restrictions apply**

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

Friday: Brian Grace Senior and Brian Grace Junior

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.
- all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time
- and Sheila Fletcher, who has died. May she 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 the New Year 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.

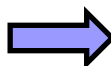
(Fr. Denis McBride C.Ss.R)



## 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

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For St. Alban's HSBC Bank  
Account name: DHN Pelaw St Alban  
Sort code: 40-34-18  
Account No: 92010984

## A New Year Appeal from our Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project

Please spare a thought for the above project. It supports on average 300 clients each week, who all receive a bag of food. 102 of them are destitute and also receive a supermarket voucher.

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, 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.*

## Thank you

Fr. Patterson wishes to express his gratitude for donations received recently for St. Patrick's parish funds in the sum of £200.00 and £40.00.

## Get vaccinated. Get boosted!

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has echoed the call encouraging people to take up Covid vaccinations and boosters when offered by the NHS. "The call 'Get vaccinated! Get boosted!' is more and more pressing."



He goes on to say: "I add my voice to many others... To the voice of Pope Francis, who says to be vaccinated is 'an act of love'. To the voice of my favourite football manager, Jurgen Klopp: 'The whole vaccination process is a question of solidarity, loyalty and togetherness'. He adds: 'There is only one answer: "You do it." "Yes, please act quickly. Here is real protection, for yourself and for others."

Pope Francis urges us to do so [in this video message](#).

## ZOE Covid weekly update returns with some interesting news

Tim's colleague Dr Claire Steves steps in this week to give you the latest update on data from the ZOE COVID Study app. She discusses what the case numbers are looking like this week, and how Omicron is set to dominate cases. She also discusses the latest symptoms being reported, and has some surprising news about anosmia. The weekly update may be accessed [here](#).

In a separate blog (click [here](#)), the symptoms of Omicron are discussed.

Top 5 COVID symptoms	Percentage
Headache	65
Fatigue (mild & severe)	65
Runny nose	65
Sore throat	57
Sneezing	55

## Regional update

You may find this data from our region of interest. Figures are as of 31st December, 2021. ○ = no change

	New Covid cases in the last 7 days	People who have died in the last 7 days		People with Covid in NHS Trust Hospitals on 28th December	Percentage of those aged 12 and over having had		
					1st jab	2nd jab	Booster
Gateshead	2546 ↑	2	↓	27 (QE Hospital) ↑	84% ○	78% ↑	55%
Newcastle	3622 ↑	1	↓	32 (Newcastle) ↓	74% ↑	67% ↑	45%
South Tyneside	1887 ↑	2	↓	50 (+ Sunderland) ↓	82% ○	76% ↑	56%
North Tyneside	2937 ↑	3	↓	47 (Northumbria) ↑	87% ○	81% ↑	60%