

The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

www.stalbansgateshead.org

In Gateshead in the week 10th - 16th April there were 702 recorded cases, which was a decrease of 298 from the previous week. This equates to 348 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 305 cases over the same period.

2nd Sunday of Easter
24th April, 2022

**We need everyone to
keep Gateshead safe**



Dear Parishioners

I hope you were able to enjoy Easter and maybe spend time with those you love dearly.

I would like to thank everyone who felt able to join us in St. Patrick's Church for the celebration of the Holy Week Services and for Mass on Easter Sunday morning. There were some very genuine tears of joy shed as parishioners met afterwards in the parish centre, where they enjoyed each others company over tea and coffee.

I am also grateful to those who were able to minister and read in our liturgies and for our welcomers who continue to look after us so well during our time in Church.

Thank you for your cards and gifts, but especially for your support, understanding, patience and prayers as we move forward slowly but surely together learning to live and worship safely with Covid.

Some of us, like Thomas in the gospel, may still have our doubts about what the future holds. But let us seek in prayer and worship the depth of faith that will lead us, like Thomas, to discover the presence of the Risen Lord in our lives.

May God bless us and keep us safe.

Fr. Patterson

Current Diocesan COVID Controls

In keeping with the National Guidelines for Churches issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales the following arrangements for St. Patrick's Church are as follows:

If you are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 you should stay at home.

Hand sanitiser will continue to be offered as you enter and leave church.

You are encouraged to wear a face covering during the celebration of Mass.

Indoor congregational singing can take place with a general encouragement that face coverings are worn.

Although there is no formal social distancing by way of seating, we ask that when you take your seat, you are sensitive to the needs of other people who are already in a bench and may not be comfortable if you "snuggle up" to them. We have plenty of seating space.

We will, for the time being, continue to invite you to come forward for Holy Communion, row by row from the front. Holy Communion will continue to be distributed under one kind only. At the end of Mass, you may leave at your leisure.

It is still important to ventilate our buildings. This has the effect of diluting and dispersing viral particles

Welcomers will be on hand to greet you and care for you

Mass to view on line

Mass is live streamed from our Cathedral on a Sunday. Visit the [Cathedral website](#).

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 for the following Intentions. *You are encouraged to wear face coverings when attending Church, unless you are medically exempt.*

Monday: Mary Rafferty and Betty Knight

Tuesday: 10.00 in St. Patrick's Church: Evelyn May and George Craig

Wednesday: Catherine Palmer

Thursday: LDM Murray Family

Friday: Brian Quigley

Saturday: Fr. Patterson's Intentions

Sunday: 10.00 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 all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time especially Eileen Buck. Evelyn May Craig, Paul Hughes, Betty Knight and Teresa Smith



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 Ukraine

Lord God, hold the people of Ukraine deep in your heart. Protect them from violence, from political gamesmanship, from being used and abused. Give the nations of the world the courage and the wisdom to stand up for justice and the courage to care generously. Take from us those traits that see us pursuing our own needs and wants before those of others. Teach us how to live in love and dignity and respect, following your ways. We ask this in your name and for your sake. Amen

A Prayer for Eastertime

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us may your dawn beckon. When fear paralyses us may your touch release us. When grief torments us may your peace enfold us. When memories haunt us may your presence heal us. When justice fails us may your power ignite us. When apathy stagnates us may your challenge renew us. When courage leaves us may your spirit inspire us. When despair grips us may your hope restore us. And when death threatens us may your resurrection light lead us. Amen

(Annabel Shilson-Thomas)

St. Alban's Church

Fr. Patterson is grateful for the offers of support he has received in the hope that we may be able to reopen St. Alban's Church. He is meeting with Bishop Robert this week to discuss the way forward and will, of course, share with you the outcome of his discussions.

Sick and Retired Priests Collection - Sunday, 24th April, 2022

This Collection is administered by the Northern Brethren Fund, a group of diocesan priests who aim to raise funds every year to help give grants to our sick and retired priests. Each month, the NBF offers £450 to our sick and retired priests which amounts to £15,750.00 per year.

Like most charities, our Sick and Retired Priests Fund has suffered during the pandemic. In 2019, the Collection raised £21,465; in 2020 it raised £7,908; and in 2019, it was £5,928.

Please do what you can to support our sick and retired priests, some of whom you will know. They have dedicated their lives to the work of the Church in our Diocese and are now living with the frailty of the ageing process. Offerings may be placed in the boxes at the entrance to St. Patrick's Church in an envelope marked Retired Priests.

It has been brought to my attention that those of you with boxes of envelopes do not have an envelope in your box for this collection. Instead the printer included two envelopes for the Little Sisters of the Poor Collection which is next Sunday. Simply write "Retired Priests" on one of those envelopes should you wish to contribute to the collection for sick and retired priests or use your own envelope.

Joe's Place - Easter hamper raffle.

Joe's Place, held in St. Joseph's parish hall, Gateshead, is open every Wednesday to support some of the most vulnerable people in our area. Run by a team of volunteers, Joe's Place is a drop-in centre with a difference, offering table service and a choice of free, hot and cold food and refreshments from a varied menu.

As well as food and shelter, the volunteers also provide friendly conversation and a listening ear and are able to guide anyone in need of additional support to agencies and organisations able to help.

They are always grateful for financial support to assist their work. This Sunday there will be a raffle of an Easter hamper after Mass in St. Patrick's parish centre with light refreshments. Tickets are £1.00 and will be on sale before Mass, outside at the top door of the Church, and after Mass at the back of Church. The proceeds will go to Joe's Place.

Your Offertory contributions from 1st April, 2022

For the past two years, as a result of the pandemic, we have been left with a large number of unclaimed sets of weekly offering envelopes which came at a considerable cost to our parishes. With the uncertainties of the year ahead, we will only be issuing envelopes for the coming financial year to those of you who are in the parish gift aid scheme and are not already contributing by standing order or bankers order.

As non gift aid envelopes no longer need to be individually recorded, we ask that those of you who are not in the gift aid scheme, might bring your offering in an envelope of your own or simply place your offering in the box provided in the church as "loose plate." Alternatively you may take a set of envelopes from St. Patrick's Church dating back to 2020/21 which may be used. You do not have to use the number that was allocated to you in the past—any box will do.

Many of you during the past two years have chosen to make your offering by standing order or by bank transfer and we are most grateful to you for doing so. It is hoped that you will continue to make your offering in this way, which saves on administration costs. For those of you who gift aid your offering, tax can still be reclaimed from the standing order method of contributing. We invite more of you to consider making your offering in this way whether you are in the gift aid scheme or not. The bank details you require are printed below.

If you are a tax payer and are not a member of the parish gift aid scheme please consider joining the scheme, it costs you nothing and the parish benefits by being able to reclaim the tax you have already paid on your offering. All that is required, is for you to complete a simple form which does not involve you disclosing any personal financial information and is held securely by the Diocesan Finance Office.

To obtain a form, or for more information, please email St. Patrick's Gift Aid organiser at stpatrick.giftaid@outlook.com

For the time being, enquiries concerning the Gift Aid scheme for St. Albans Church should be directed to Fr. Patterson at felling.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk.

The details for standing orders and cheques are



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

For St. Patrick's HSBC Bank
Account name: DHN Felling St Patrick
Sort code: 40-34-18
Account No: 52010453

The Diocesan Refugee Project

Your ongoing support of this project would be welcomed. It supports over 400 asylum seekers. The project tries to provide them all with a bag of food and those who are destitute also receive a supermarket voucher. Donations of sugar, biscuits, tinned fish in oil, tins of tomatoes and chick peas may be left on the table to your right as you enter the front of St. Patrick's Church or on any table if you enter by the rear door. They are particularly in need of toiletries and shampoo. *Please note: baked beans and tinned meat are not required.*

Cafod's Humanitarian Appeal for the Ukraine.

Thank you for a donation of £30.00 recently received for this appeal. You may donate directly to Cafod by clicking [here](#).

The wearing of Face Coverings

Several parishioners have expressed their concerns that fewer people are wearing face coverings in shops and on public transport and of course there is no longer an obligation for them to do so. Sometimes they find themselves the only one on a bus or on the Metro wearing their face covering and feel self conscious.



But Covid has not gone away. So here is something for you to think about. If you enter a place where another person is wearing a face covering and you are not - why not put a face covering on for the benefit of the person who is already wearing one. Like Covid, a person's vulnerability to the virus is not visible! A face covering might provide a clue!

Please get vaccinated

The Bishops have issued a statement declaring that the principal means of protecting people who attend Catholic Churches in England and Wales is through participation in the Government vaccination programme. Those who are fully vaccinated will have significant personal resilience against major illness from the Covid-19 virus and its variants. The Catholic Church has promoted the participation of all in the vaccination programme as part of its mitigation of virus transmission in church and ancillary buildings.

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

The most common symptoms of Covid

Runny nose	82%
Fatigue (mild & severe)	70%
Sore throat	69%
Headache	69%
Sneezing	68%
Persistent cough	54%
Hoarse voice	47%

ZOE Covid weekly update - As COVID falls, why are so many people still in hospital?

Professor Tim Spector this week, as well as sharing the real case data, looks at how our rates of hospitalisations compare internationally, including looking at what's happening in China. He's also sharing fascinating data on cancers: which are most common, when people get them and who gets them. The update may be accessed [here](#).



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

Data from the Office of National statistics may also be of interest to you with 1 in 17 people having Covid in England. Click [here](#) to view.

Regional update

You may find this data from our region of interest. Figures are as of 22nd April, 2022.

○ = 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 19th April	Percentage of those aged 12 and over having had 1st jab	2nd jab	Booster
Gateshead	620 ↓	11 ↑	102 (QE Hospital) ↑	85% ○	80% ○	63% ○
Newcastle	874 ↓	9 ↑	78 (Newcastle) ↓	75% ○	70% ○	52% ○
South Tyneside	447 ↓	4 ↑	136 (+ Sunderland) ↓	83% ○	79% ○	61% ○
North Tyneside	712 ↓	12 ↑	92 (Northumbria) ↓	88% ○	84% ○	67% ○