

First reading**Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

In those days: Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it, all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go on your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

Responsorial Psalm**Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.****Ps 19(18)**

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| <p>1. The law of the LORD is perfect; it revives the soul.
The decrees of the LORD are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.</p> <p>3. The fear of the LORD is pure, abiding for ever.
The judgements of the LORD are true; they are, all of them, just.</p> | <p>2. The precepts of the LORD are right; they gladden the heart.
The command of the LORD is clear; it gives light to the eyes.</p> <p>4. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O LORD,
my rock and my redeemer!</p> |
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Second reading**1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Brothers and Sisters: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Gospel Acclamation

The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to the captives.

Gospel**Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

The Newsletter of the Parishes of St Alban's Pelaw & St Patrick's Felling**St Alban's at Pelaw****St Patrick's at Felling****Our School at Pelaw****Part of the John Ingram Partnership of Parishes**

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The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

3rd Sunday of Year C - 26th January 2025**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

Sat	25 th	3 rd Sun of Year C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	26 th		St P	10.00am	Catherine Taylor
Mon	27 th	Weekday	St P	10.00am	Lindsay Bradley
Tue	28 th	St Agnes			<i>No Service</i>
Wed	29 th	Weekday	St P	10.00am	Denis Patrick Lenehan
Thu	30 th	Weekday	St A	10.00am	<i>Requiem Mass:</i> Imelda Smith
Fri	31 st	St Francis de Sales	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	1 st	Presentation of	St A	6.00pm	Leonard Robinson
Sun	2 nd	The Lord	St P	10.00am	People of the Parishes

St A = St Alban's; St P = St Patrick's
Weekday Masses at St Patrick's are Celebrated in the Parish Centre
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Available on Request

We keep in our prayers all parishioners who are sick and housebound at this time. We pray for **Imelda Smith** and **Teresa Rowlands** who died recently. A Requiem Mass will be held for Imelda at St Alban's on Thurs 30th Jan 10.00am followed by burial at Heworth Burn Cemetery. A Requiem Mass will be held for Teresa at St Patrick's on Monday 3rd February 11.30am followed by burial at Heworth Cemetery. May they rest in peace.

The Order of Mass can be found on **Page 200**
in the **middle of your Hymn Books** indicated by the grey page markers.
The Gloria is on page **202**. **The Creed** is on page **205**.

Journeying with the Word of God
The Law of the Lord is perfect

As we step further into our New Year, this Sunday's texts provide us with solid teaching to build up ourselves, our communities, our church, and our society in the light of God's word, and in the clear direction of Jesus's mission. And we are urged to do this with joy and conviction.

Ezra the priest, in the **First Reading**, reads to the people from the Book of the Law. They are newly returned from exile to rebuild the city walls and the Temple. Moved to tears, they are told, 'The joy of the Lord is your strength'.

Psalms 18 (19) is a hymn of praise to God's law. His words give spirit and life.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, tells us that through baptism, we have all become members of one body, with Christ as our head. We are dependent on each other, sharing our gifts and our sorrows.

The **Gospel** passage begins with St Luke's opening preface, then moves on to show us Jesus, newly returned from the desert after his baptism. In the synagogue, Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah – this is Jesus's own 'mission statement'.

As we ponder the essential place of God's word in our texts, may we also pray for a deeper appreciation and reverence for it.

The Next Parish Open Meetings will be held on **Wed 29th January** 6.30pm at St Alban's and **Thurs 30th January** 6.30pm at St Patrick's. All welcome.

RCIA: The next RCIA Meeting for the John Ingram Partnership will take place this **Tuesday 28th January, 6.30pm** in the parish centre at St Patrick's.

St Alban's School News:

Following the launch of the Jubilee Year in school, we will be praying this prayer together. Please join our school family in saying this prayer together:

Father in heaven, may faith you have given us with the flame of charity in our hearts give us hope in the coming of your Kingdom. May the grace of the Jubilee bless us as Pilgrims of Hope. Amen

The SPUC White Flower appeal raised **£122.00** (St Patrick's) and **£72.05** (St Alban's). Thank you for your generous support.

Adent Alms raised **£28.50** (St Patrick's) and **£36.40** (St Alban's) for St Cuthbert's Care. Thank you for your generosity.

The Crib Collection for the 'Friends of the Holy Land' raised **£67.60** (St Patrick's) **£22.00** (St Alban's). Thank you again for your generosity.

Congratulations and welcome to
Zein Chizaram Okogbuo
Who was baptised at St Patrick's last Sunday

Bishop Stephen will Celebrate Mass for Marriage and Family Life in the **Cathedral on Saturday 8 February 2025 at 12:00pm**. This is open to all especially those couples celebrating significant anniversaries in 2025. Anyone celebrating a special anniversary can request a certificate by completing a form with their details: <https://bit.ly/DHNMarriageMass> or contact marriage@diocesehn.org.uk or ring 0191 243 3316. Such certificates will be presented to couples by Bishop Stephen within our Mass.

LOUDfence: St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle is hosting a LOUDfence Workshop on Saturday 1st February at 10am. LOUDfence is a catholic movement which shares practical ways to acknowledge harm caused by abuse in any setting, through arts and crafts. All objects made in the LOUDfence workshop will form part of the liturgy in the Diocesan LOUDfence on 1st May in Alnwick. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch with them. Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring paper, light fabric, ribbon and small objects which remind you of comforting memories, particularly in childhood.

Your offerings are our sole source of income: We ask you to please consider **making your offering by Standing Order**. This is by far the easiest way to donate, ideally on a monthly basis. (Details below). If you are a tax payer **why not consider "Gift Aiding" your offering. At no cost to you, the parish receives 25p for every £1.00 you donate.** All you need is to complete a simple [Gift Aid form](#) which may be obtained from the parish office at stpatrick.felling@diocesehn.org.uk

For St. Alban's:

Account name: DHN Pelaw St Alban
Sort code: 40-34-18
Account No: 92010984

For St. Patrick's:

Account name: DHN Felling St Patrick
Sort code: 40-34-18
Account No: 52010453

The Jubilee prayer: Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Official prayer from Pope Francis for the Jubilee year 2025, "Pilgrims of hope"