

The Newsletter of the parishes of

23rd Sunday of Year B
8th September, 2024



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

<https://stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com>

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The following celebrations will take place during the days ahead.

Saturday: 7th 18.00 Mass in St. Alban's Church: The Parishioners Intentions

Sunday: 8th 10.00 Mass in St. Patrick's Church:

Thursday: 12th 10.00 Mass in St. Patrick's parish centre:

Friday: 13th 10.00 Mass in St Patrick's parish centre:

Saturday: 14th 18.00 Mass in St. Alban's Church: The Parishioners Intentions

Sunday: 15th 10.00 Mass in St. Patrick's Church:

*This Weekend we Welcome Fr Jude Ibeh who will be celebrating our
Sunday Masses at both churches*

Please keep in your prayers:

- all our parishioners who are sick, housebound or in hospital
- all those whose memories we cherish at this time
- and all those who have died recently

Fr Martin writes...

Thank you for your patience with the current moves. The 'man with the van' brought my belongings to the presbytery on Thursday 5th September. I expect I shall be living out of boxes and suitcases for a good few weeks to come....as I start to unpack. This weekend I shall be celebrating my farewell Masses at Tynemouth and Cullercoats, so I have asked Fr Jude Ibeh to cover the two Sunday Masses here for me. I am still committed to a few pastoral responsibilities in Tynemouth and Cullercoats, including a Requiem Mass on Wednesday 11th at St Oswin's, Tynemouth, which was arranged some time ago. I hope, therefore, to celebrate my first weekend Masses with you all on 14th & 15th September. I also plan to start celebrating weekday Masses at St Patrick's from this Thursday. I am very grateful to Fr Patterson for all the useful information he has left me to help get started. We pray he may enjoy a well deserved retirement. I apologise for the relative simplicity of this weeks newsletter. It is quite a learning curve finding out how all the digital technology works. I look forward very much to meeting and working with you all in the future. God Bless. Fr martin

A Liturgy Day for Readers: This is an opportunity for those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass to look at the background of why we are going to be using a new translation of the Scriptures at Mass. It will take place on Friday, 15th November, 2024 at St. Aloysius, Hebburn from 10.30 - 15.30. If you would like to attend, please contact the parish office at felling.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk. Other dates and locations may be found here [Liturgy & Prayer - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(dioocesehn.org.uk\)](https://www.dioocesehexham.org.uk) (Please note the booking fee of £15 per person will be paid for by the Parish).

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith?: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) supports adults who want to explore their spirituality and if they wish to become a Catholic. It is an informal system of regular meetings to explore what it means to be a Catholic. Meetings are generally held on Tuesday evenings at St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Felling at 18.30 for one hour during school term times. These meetings allow participants to talk about topics in an open, non-judgemental way. Topics look at the history of the Church, the Bible, the Sacraments of the Church and prayer. You can suggest topics too. The meetings are based around the Sycamore Course approved by the Church. Participants do not have to make their mind up straight away but can decide as the course progresses. This decision is yours alone. An initial meeting is to take place on Tuesday 17th September at 18.30 in St Patrick's Parish Centre, Felling. Please feel free to come along for a short introduction to the Programme and a chance to ask any questions you may have. The parish centre is situated beneath St. Patrick's Church in Felling High Street. For more information you may choose to call Alan Edgell who leads the course on 07976 402023.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

The prophet urges the people to take courage, because God is coming to save his people.

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage!' Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145

Response: **My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord who will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Second Reading

James 2:1-5

Class distinction should have no place among Christians.

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Speak, Lord your servant is listening: You have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:31-37

Jesus cures a Gentile man who is deaf and has a speech impediment.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Question for Reflection

When has your faith in Jesus enabled you to speak out on an issue of importance?