

### First reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' Go on up to a high mountain, O Sion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!' Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104(103)

**Bless the LORD, O my soul! My God, how great you are!**

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| <p>1. O LORD my God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and honour, wrapped in light as with a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent.</p> <p>3. How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures. Vast and wide is the span of the sea, with its creeping things past counting, living things great and small.</p> <p>5. You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.</p> | <p>2. On the waters you lay the foundation for your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, flame and fire your servants.</p> <p>4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up; you open wide your hand, they are well filled.</p> |
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### Second reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### Gospel Acclamation

He who is mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

### Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

## 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

Fr Martin Stempczyk St Patrick's Presbytery, 9, High Street, Felling, Gateshead NE10 9LT

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<b>School Website:</b>	<a href="https://stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com/">https://stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com/</a>	Tel: 0191 - 4693251
Diocesan Website:	<a href="http://www.diocesehn.org.uk">www.diocesehn.org.uk</a>	
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The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

### The Baptism of the Lord - 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

#### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism of the Lord	St A	6.00pm	Peter Sloan
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>			St P	10.00am
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	St P	10.00am	Mary Eleanor McWilliams
Tue	14 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday			No Service
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Thu	16 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	St P	10.00am	Annie Donald + LDM
			St A	11.45am	Requiem Mass: Donald Young
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	St Anthony of Egypt	St A	10.00am	Class Mass: Year 4
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Year C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>		St P	10.00am	Richie Charlton

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 Donald (Don) Young** who died recently. A Requiem Mass will be held for Don on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 11.45am at St Alban's Church, followed by cremation at Saltwell Crematorium. May he 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**  
**You are my Beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**

In today's joyous readings we are reminded of God's kindness, compassion and love for all; so much so that God sent his beloved Son, and poured out the ongoing gift of his creative Spirit upon us to redeem us.

The **First Reading** offers words of consolation and hope to God's people in exile. The Lord comes with power to restore and protect his people, like a shepherd who guides and nourishes them.

The **Psalm** is a meditation on the glories of God in creation, where he looks after all he has made. The psalmist also reminds us that God's spirit is the spirit of life, rebirth and renewal.

Paul's letter (**Second Reading**) tells us that through his life and his giving of himself, Jesus embodied the kindness and love of God. The life-giving gifts of the Holy Spirit were revealed and shared with all.

Today's **Gospel** describes the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus whilst he was at prayer, emphasizing the importance of both the Spirit and of prayer in Jesus's life.

This week, let us pray for an openness and understanding of what the Holy Spirit is offering us and asking of us.

**RCIA:** The next RCIA Meeting for the John Ingram Partnership will take place this **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30pm** in the parish centre at St Patrick's.

**Northern Catholic Calendars for 2025** are on sale at the back of church. Only **£3.50**. The number of copies is limited, so buy while you can.

**White flower appeal 2025:** There will be a collection as you leave church for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children this weekend, **11th and 12th January**. SPUC exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes truly unthinkable. To accomplish this mission the society is using initiatives in politics, legislation and culture. We aim to restore a respect for the sanctity of human life to our society. This year's appeal postcards call on the Government to adhere to the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child. Please give generously to help SPUC defend Unborn babies and their mothers. Thank you.

**St Alban's School News:** Happy New Year to you all in St Alban's and St Patrick's parish. The children have returned to school with enthusiasm and energy, full of exciting tales of their Christmas holidays. We look forward to meeting up with you during this spring term and continue to appreciate the prayers being offered for our school community. Y4 will be joining the parish for Mass on Friday 17th January 10am in St Alban's Church. We look forward to seeing you then.

**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](mailto: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

**Jubilee 2025:** In announcing the Jubilee Year of 2025, with the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope", Pope Francis said: *"the Jubilee... would be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God....May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation."*

There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

**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"*

**Next Sunday is Peace Sunday:** Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace is '**Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace**'. The message speaks of our obligation to listen to the 'pleas of an endangered humanity', how the year of Jubilee inspires us to seek the liberating justice of God in our world and how by 'opening our hearts to our brothers and sisters, we will restore God's justice on earth' and 'move forward to achieve the goal of peace'. Pope Francis asks us to seek the true peace granted by God to disarmed hearts and reminds us that disarming hearts is a task for everyone. You can download the full message from the Peace Sunday page on the Pax Christi website: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

**Newman Tyneside Circle** invites you to come and hear John Murray speak about Mgr Kevin Nichols: the poem. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle, on **Tuesday 14 January** at 2.30pm.