

### First reading

**Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23**

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

**Responsorial Psalm O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation. Ps 90(89)**

1. You turn man back to dust,  
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'  
To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
or like a watch in the night.
2. You sweep them away like a dream,  
like grass which is fresh in the morning.  
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;  
by evening it withers and fades.
3. Then teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Turn back, O LORD! How long?  
Show pity to your servants.
4. At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon  
Us; give success to the work of our hands.  
O give success to the work of our hands.

### Second reading

**Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11**

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

### Gospel Acclamation

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### Gospel

**Luke 12:13-21**

At that time: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions.' And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, "What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?" And he said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' " But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So is the one who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.'

## 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**  
**Deacon Kevin Atkinson**

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**Parish Website:** [www.stpatricks-felling.co.uk](http://www.stpatricks-felling.co.uk)  
**School Website:** <https://stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com/> Tel: 0191 - 4693251  
**Diocesan Website:** [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)  
**Chaplain to the QE:** **Deacon Paul Nichol** Tel: 0191 - 4452072

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

### 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year C - 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Year C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>		St P	10.00am	Kathleen & Tommy McKenna & Joan Neil
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	St John Vianney	St P	10.00am	Praying for John & Noreen Baron
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday			No Service
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	The Transfiguration	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday	St P	10.00am	George Laurie
Fri	8 <sup>th</sup>	St Dominic	St A	10.00am	Susan Harland
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Year C	St A	6.00pm	Margaret Robinson (90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>		St P	10.00am	Betty Law
St A = St Alban's; St P = St Patrick's Weekday Masses at St Patrick's are Celebrated in the Parish Centre Weekday Masses at St Alban's are Celebrated in the Chapel in the Presbytery					

We pray for all those who are sick or unwell at this time.

We pray for **Rita Mears** who died recently. Her funeral service took place last Friday at St Alban's. May she 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***  
**'Set your minds on things that are above'**

Today's readings are about material things and our attitude towards them. Are they at the centre of our lives? The texts also suggest that what we *are* is more important than what we *have*.

Qoheleth, 'the Preacher', who wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes 300 years before Christ, gives a pessimistic view of the world. Is it worth working hard and worrying about our wealth, since we have to leave it to others after our death? He declares: 'All is vanity!' (**First Reading**)

**The Gospel** develops the same theme. The main problem with wealth is that it risks taking centre stage in our life, and displacing God from His rightful position. What really matters is making ourselves rich in the sight of God.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, develops similar ideas. As Christians, we should put aside our former preoccupations – in particular greed – and turn our thoughts to 'things that are above', for Christ is 'all and in all'.

As the **Psalm** encourages us, we ought to praise and thank the Lord in words and songs rather than grumble and worry. We should listen to his voice *today*.

So this week, we might want to make some time to listen to what the Lord is telling us about ourselves, and about our relationship with others and with money.

**Recruiting Altar Servers:** Parents whose children are entering school year 4, or above, who would like them to train to be altar servers are invited to let Fr Martin know.

**Learning to play the Church Organ:** Anyone who has piano playing to level 5 or above and might be interested in learning how to play the church organ, please let Fr Martin know.

**Global Debt Crisis:** In response to the Global debt crisis CAFOD has organised a worldwide petition to be presented to World leaders at the COP 30 climate conference in Brazil in November. Many of the world's poorest countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis. In Africa 34 countries spend more on debt payments than on health or education. Debts are now being paid at the expense of hiring doctors and teachers, building schools, hospitals and sewage systems, preparing for floods or coping with drought. Often countries have repaid the original debt several times over but the debt will never be cleared as the interest on it keeps growing. Pope Francis spoke many times of the need for action saying it is 'More than a question of generosity this is a matter of Justice'. **Please sign the petition after Mass on August 9th/10th.**

**Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION.** Bishop Stephen invites you to a **Jubilee Day** on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead**. Everyone is welcome! There'll be guest speakers from the Prisons' Chaplaincy and the Justice & Peace Refugee Project, and a choice of seminars/forums to reawaken and empower us for mission. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a prayer space in the chapel, and praise and worship led by Durham musicians 'Set A Fire'. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25>. For enquiries email Amy at [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk). Search on Facebook, X and Bluesky using the hashtag #DHNAlive25.

*Congratulations and Welcome to*  
**Grace Elizabeth Marron**  
*Who was Baptised at St Patrick's last Sunday*

**Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2025-2026:** The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The 2025-2026 CCRS course programme is now available on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs> For further information contact the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email [education@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Thank you for your offerings:** We ask you to please consider **making your offering by Standing Order**. This is by far the easiest way to donate, either on a weekly or monthly basis. (Details below). If you pay income tax **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