

First reading

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you.

Wisdom 9:13-18b

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

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Gospel Acclamation

Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees.

Gospel

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

Luke 14:25-33

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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Deacon Kevin Atkinson

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Parish Website: www.stpatricks-felling.co.uk
School Website: https://stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com/ Tel: 0191 - 4693251
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The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

23rd Sunday of Year C - 7th September 2025

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat	6 th	23 rd Sun of Year C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	7 th		St P	10.00am	Ayo Elumah
Mon	8 th	Birthday of Mary	St P	10.00am	Word & Holy Communion
Tue	9 th	Weekday			No Service
Wed	10 th	Weekday			No Service
Thu	11 th	Weekday	St P	10.00am	Word & Holy Communion
Fri	12 th	Weekday	St A	10.00am	Word & Holy Communion
Sat	13 th	Exaltation of Cross	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	14 th		St P	10.00am	Denis & Margaret Lenehan

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 congratulate Bishop Stephen who on Tuesday of this week will celebrate his silver jubilee as a priest, with a Mass at lunchtime in the Cathedral. We continue to hold him in our prayers.

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
'O Lord you have been our refuge'

Usually attributed to King Solomon, the **First Reading** shows God as one who is always ready to grant the gift of wisdom to those who truly seek it.

The **Second Reading** is taken from St Paul's letter to Philemon, a leader in the Colossian church. Paul is writing about slavery. He knows he cannot do much to change this deep-rooted social structure, but seeks instead to change people's hearts. He invites the recipients of his letter to see everything and everyone in relation to Christ, in whom there is only unity.

The **Psalm** reminds us that, compared to the wisdom of God, our greatness is as nothing – yet the Lord is a faithful refuge for us.

Christ's call en route to Jerusalem (**Gospel**) is a radical one. Indifference to all the things that distract us is the way of the disciple. God's life can deepen in us through the many gifts God has given to us.

In the coming days, let us place ourselves within the friendship of the Lord, which is both a place of refuge and source of strength. May we go forward in joy as we try to embrace the crosses of our lives.

We welcome the Dominican Priest **Fr Jude Ibeh** who will be celebrating our Masses this weekend.

Are you Interested in Becoming a Catholic or just learning more about the Catholic Faith? This years RCIA (Roman Catholic Initiation of Adults) programme is due to start on **Tues 23rd September**, at 6.30pm, based at St Patrick's Parish Centre. The programme will consist of around 20 sessions based on the Sycamore Video Course supplemented by some additional materials. Each meeting will last around an hour and a quarter and meetings will not take place when schools are on holiday. If interested please let Fr Martin know.

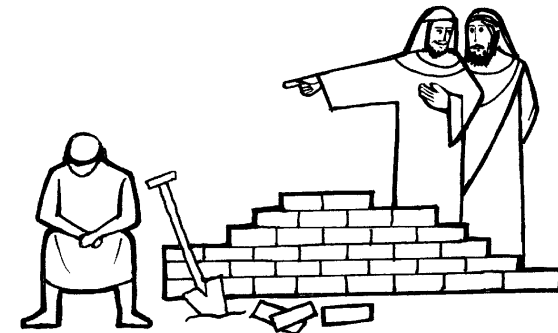
Little Sisters of the Poor – Pie & Pea Supper: St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are having a Pie & Pea Supper on Wednesday 24th September at 7pm. Bingo, Raffle and Entertainment. Tickets at £8 each, are available by ringing the Little Sisters on 0191 2731279

Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION. Bishop Stephen invites you to a **Jubilee Day** on **Saturday 27th 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. 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>.

CAFOD: Response in Gaza: Your donations since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and medicines to treat chronic illnesses. 1,400 households given cash to buy supplies in the last month and currently 2,000 people given new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, they are working tirelessly to help people and with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. Find out how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East. As Cardinal Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem) says, "*Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering.*"

Children's Liturgy: Next Sunday 14th September there will be Children's Liturgy during the 10am mass. All children of primary school age are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Congratulations and Welcome to
Leo Jordan Batey, Kiannah Rose Hubbicks, Ivory Austin Lawson
Who was Baptised Last Sunday at St Patrick's



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

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