

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm

Come, Lord, and save us.

Ps 146(145)

1. It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free.
2. The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are It is
bowed down. It is the LORD who loves the
just, the LORD who protects the stranger.
3. The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Second reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." 'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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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Chaplain to the QE: **Deacon Paul Nichol** Tel: 0191 - 4452072

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A - 14th December 2025

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	13 th	3 rd of Advent	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	14 th		St P	10.00am	Rosemary Harvey
Mon	15 th	Weekday of Advent	St P	10.00am	McAloon, Wright & Bradley Families
Tue	16 th	Weekday of Advent			No Service
Wed	17 th	17 December	St A	10.00am	Sister Francine
Thu	18 th	18 December	St P	10.00am	Ellen Farrell
Fri	19 th	19 December	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	20 th	4 th of Advent	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	21 st		St P	10.00am	Breda Kinnane
<p>St A = St Alban's; St P = St Patrick's</p> <p>Weekday Masses at St Patrick's are Celebrated in the Parish Centre</p> <p>Weekday Masses at St Alban's are Celebrated in the Chapel in the Presbytery</p> <p>The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at</p> <p>St Patrick's Church on <u>Saturday 20th December 10.00 to 10.30am.</u></p> <p>St Alban's Church on <u>Saturday 20th December 5.00 to 5.30pm,</u> and available on Request</p>					

Our Christmas Mass Times

Wed 24th Dec Christmas Eve: St Patrick's 6.30pm (with carols from ~6.10pm)
Thu 25th Dec Christmas Day: St Alban's 9.30am

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; indeed the Lord is near!

'Rejoice' The word from the **First Reading** resounds in today's liturgy. Isaiah wants to show us that it is in the wilderness – the place of loneliness and desolation, and every human need – where rejoicing is to be found. It is exactly here, in the wastelands (the home of John the Baptist), where God's promise is to be discovered.

And what is God's promise? That he will save us (First Reading, **Psalms** and **Second Reading**) and, therefore, we must not lose heart. Even though we may feel we are stuck in the wild places, God is at work here.

The **Gospel** shows salvation explained and opened out: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear and lepers are healed. Christ's actions fulfil the words of the prophet Isaiah and, today, give us hope to face the difficulties of the world and of our day-to-day lives.

On this *Gaudete* ('Rejoice') Sunday, let's give thanks for all that is good, and pray that we might also trust in the joyful hope of that which awaits us.

The Children's Liturgy will take place **each Sunday during Advent**, at Mass at St Patrick's.

Advent Alms: Once again during the season of Advent you have the opportunity to support the work of St Cuthbert's Care. A donations basket is at the entrance of each church during this season.

The next Partnership RCIA meeting will be on Tues 6th January, 6.30pm at St Peter's Low Fell.

St Patrick's Christmas Raffle will be held on **Sunday 14th December** in the Hall at St Patrick's after Mass. There are many great prizes to be won. You will be able to buy tickets for this on the day.

Diocesan online Sycamore course for Advent: *What is God's invitation for me this Advent season?* The sessions will take place online using Zoom. They will be weekly on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.15pm on 4th, 11th and 18th December. Join us for as many sessions as you can, and why not bring a friend? Please register your interest using the link to receive the Zoom link.
<https://bit.ly/DHNSycamoreAdvent2025> or just visit the Diocesan website.

An Advent Penitential Service for the Partnership will be held at St Peter's Church, Low Fell, on **Wednesday 17 Dec 7.00pm**.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at
St Patrick's Church on Saturday 20th December 10.00 to 10.30am.
St Alban's Church on Saturday 20th December 5.00 to 5.30pm.

Northern Catholic Calendars for 2026 are on sale at the back of church. **£4.00** each.

St Alban's Church clean in preparation for Christmas will take place on Friday 19th December after the 10.00am Mass. All volunteers welcome.

CAFOD World Gifts Catalogues are available from the back of church. They offer an alternative ethical and sustainable gift option for Christmas and special occasions. By buying a World Gift you can make the world of difference to families fleeing conflict, farmers battling the climate crisis, and a community protecting the Amazon.

Cardinal Hume Advent Carols by Candlelight: 17th December, 5.30pm: Please join us to begin the final count down and put the Christ back into Christmas! Enjoy your favourite Christmas carols and a telling of the most important story of all. Wednesday 17th December. Doors open 5.30pm for mulled wine and mince pies, before gathering round our Christmas tree for a candle light service of carols and readings. To help with catering, please book your tickets via the link on our social media or scan the QR code below. Spaces are limited!



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