

**First reading** **Isaiah 7:10-14**  
 In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’ And Isaiah said, ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.’

**Responsorial Psalm** **Ps 24(23)**  
**Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.**

1. The LORD’S is the earth and its fullness,  
 the world, and those who dwell in it.  
 It is he who set it on the seas;  
 on the rivers he made it firm.

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?  
 Who shall stand in his holy place?  
 The clean of hands and pure of heart,  
 whose soul is not set on vain things.



3. Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,  
 and right reward from the God who saves him.  
 Such are the people who seek him,  
 who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**Second reading** **Romans 1:1-7**  
 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation**  
 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us.

**Gospel** **Matthew 1:18-24**  
 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel’ — which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

**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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Diocesan Website:	www.diocesehn.org.uk	
<b>Chaplain to the QE:</b>	<b>Deacon Paul Nichol</b>	Tel: 0191 - 4452072

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A - 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2025					
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> of Advent	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>		St P	10.00am	Breda Kinnane
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Weekday of Advent	St P	10.00am	Jim Murray
Tue	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Weekday of Advent			No Service
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES					
Wed	24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve	St P	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Thu	25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day	St A	9.30am	People of the Parish
Fri	26 <sup>th</sup>	St Stephen	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	27 <sup>th</sup>	The Holy Family	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>		St P	10.00am	Gerry Toberty & Toberty Sisters
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 <b>The Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> - available on Request					

**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**

**‘they shall call his name Emmanuel’ — which means, God with us’**

Our Advent time of waiting is almost ended and the excitement of Christmas celebrations begins, anticipated early by many around us. But as believers, we wait in quiet hope for the coming of our Saviour whose birthday is our reason to celebrate.

The **First Reading** speaks of this hope, voiced many years before Jesus is born by the prophet Isaiah; he speaks of one who will come to be Emmanuel, the God who is with us.

St Paul reminds us that the birth of Jesus is only the beginning; we will see his death and the holiness and power of his resurrection (**Second Reading**). This is our hope and the meaning of our faith.

The **Psalm** calls the disciple to holiness. The values of Jesus will be shown in the way we live our lives in purity of heart: “Let the Lord enter, he is the king of glory!”

The **Gospel** relates the story of Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus. Both are called, in different ways, to a very great trust, and to have faith in God’s promises. As Advent draws to a close, we pray for their gift of trusting faith.

**Carols Before Mass** will be sung on Christmas Eve from around **6.10pm**. (*Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be celebrated for your intentions*).

**If you wish to support the Christian Community in the Holy Land**, including Palestine, offerings can be left in the basket at the crib.

**The next Partnership RCIA meeting** will be on Tues 6<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30pm at St Peter’s Low Fell.

**St Patrick’s Christmas Raffle**. Thank you to all those who helped to arrange this and who supported this. The raffle raised **£770.00** for church funds.

**Northern Catholic Calendars** for 2026 are on sale at the back of church. **£4.00** each. Only a few copies left.

**Administrator – YMT:** Supporting the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and our small, dedicated team, we are looking for an Administrator to cover a period of Maternity Leave. Please note this role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check and YMT cannot accept CVs. You must complete our Application Form, available as part of the Applicant Pack. If you are interested, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Annie Leaver, Head of Human Resources at [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Thank You From Significance:** The Trustees of Significance thank everyone in our parishes and schools who supported the Grand Draw and all those who donated prizes. 1,005 tickets were sold which realised £5,025. The funds raised will help Significance to continue to support YMT and the Emmaus Village; and to provide opportunities to help young people to recognise their own worth and unique gifts. Congratulations to all our winners: Sr Immaculata (Oaklea Convent), Betty Carey-Reynolds, (Ashington), Fiona Standfield, (Diocesan Offices), Andrea Kawanzaruwa (Stanley), Ben Cantwell (Penshaw), Rebecca Leighton (Wallsend).

Thank you for the following collections:	<b>St Alban’s</b>	<b>St Patrick’s</b>
<b>Youth Sunday</b>	<b>£100.70</b>	<b>£118.81</b>
<b>Clergy Training Fund</b>	<b>£111.75</b>	<b>£193.66</b>

*I take this opportunity to wish you all every joy and blessing this Christmas. I extend a very sincere thank you to all those volunteers who do so much, often unseen, in service of the community. Your commitment and generosity is greatly appreciated. I pray that Christmas may be a time of peace for all as we recall the birth of Christ with gratitude and joy. Fr Martin*

*God, our Father, by the birth of your Son, your love became visible and dwelt among us. Come Holy Spirit, guide us in our work and prayer to build communities that care for each other and our wounded earth, communities that proclaim tidings of great joy for all people and promote peace. May faith strengthen us, hope encourage us and love guide us always. Amen.*

**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

**Safeguarding:** Our parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocesan policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are listed at the back of Church or alternately the Diocesan Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at [safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk).