

### First reading

**Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12**

Wisdom will praise herself and will boast in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she will open her mouth, and in the presence of his forces she will boast: 'Then the Creator of all things commanded me, and the one who created me gave my tent a resting place. And he said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob and in Israel receive your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall not cease to exist. In the holy tabernacle I ministered before him, and so I was established in Sion. In the beloved city likewise he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my dominion. So I took root in an honoured people, in the portion of the Lord, his inheritance.'

### Responsorial Psalm

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

**Ps 147**

1. O Jerusalem, glorify the LORD!  
O Sion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates  
he has blessed your children within you.
2. He established peace on your borders;  
he gives you your fill of finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth,  
and swiftly runs his command.
3. He reveals his word to Jacob;  
to Israel, his decrees and judgements.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his judgements.

### Second reading

**Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

### Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.  
Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world.

### Gospel

**John 1:1-5, 9-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## 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](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)  
**Chaplain to the QE:** **Deacon Paul Nichol** Tel: 0191 - 4452072

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas Year A - 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun after Chris	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>		St P	10.00am	Paul & David Clay
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday before E	St P	10.00am	Bill Henderson
Tue	6 <sup>th</sup>	The Epiphany	St A	10.00am	People of the Parishes
			St P	6.30pm	Roseann Cullen (Rosie)
Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday after E	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
			St P	12.00pm	Funeral Service: Norah McAtominey
Thu	8 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday after E	St P	10.00am	Michael & Iris Hollywood
Fri	9 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday after E	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism of Lord	St A	6.00pm	Peter Sloan
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>		St P	10.00am	People of the Parishes
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 The Sacrament of Reconciliation - available on Request					

We pray for **Norah McAtominey** and **Wilfred Brown** who died recently. A funeral service will be held for Norah on Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 12noon in St Patrick's followed by burial at Heworth Cemetery. A Funeral service for Wilf will be held on Wed 21 Jan 12noon at St Patrick's followed by burial at Heworth Burn Cemetery. May they 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**

**'we have seen his glory, glory....full of grace and truth.'**

The **First Reading** is a really a poem in praise of divine wisdom, a wisdom that dwells among God's people.

The **Psalm** recalls the security and peace which the presence of God brings among people.

In the **Second Reading** we hear about the theme of God's plan of salvation. This plan is centred in Christ and fully realised through him.

The **Gospel** is the great hymn to the Word of God. The Word of God is the source of life, whose coming among us makes us children of God.

As we continue to journey in the Christmas season, we pray for an ever greater attentiveness to the presence of God in Christ Jesus, with us.

**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 Feast of the Epiphany** is celebrated on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. There will be two Masses that day, **10.00am at St Alban's**, led by the school children and **6.30pm at St Patrick's**. Please make every effort to attend this Holy Day.

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

**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. You must complete our Application Form, available as part of the Applicant Pack. If you are interested, please contact Annie Leaver, Head of Human Resources at [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk)

The annual **Celebration of Marriage and Family Life Mass** will be held in the **Cathedral on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 12:00pm**. This event is open to all especially couples celebrating significant anniversaries in 2026 and includes those widowed and bereaved during the last year.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 31<sup>st</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026.** *Celebrating 100 years since the First Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Joseph Thorman.* Bookings are now open. We travel on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July and return on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026. If you would like to book, or for further information, please contact Tangney Tours, our Tour Operator by going to their website <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/> or by calling 01732 886 666.

**Safeguarding Administrator:** Supporting the Safeguarding team, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are looking for a consummate administrative professional who handles sensitive information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality. Similarly, you'll be a person who has an eye for detail recognising the need for accuracy and precision. Salary scale - £26,000 to £27,768. If you are interested in applying for this 12 month Fixed Term Contracted Safeguarding position, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Bernadette Aquino HR Business Partner at [Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk). The closing date for applications is 09:00am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January.



*'Build a year of peace, disarming our hearts and refraining from all violence.'*  
(Pope Leo)

*I take this opportunity to once more wish you all every peace and happiness in this New Year. May the God of peace, in Christ, bless our homes and families and inspire us to be builders of peace in our world. Fr Martin*

**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).