

First reading

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD. I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

Responsorial Psalm Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Ps 146(145)

1. It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is 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 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

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Gospel Acclamation

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

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

4th Sunday of Year A - 1st February 2026

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	31 st	4 th Sun of Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	1 st		St P	10.00am	Richie Charlton
Mon	2 nd	Presentation of Lord	St P	10.00am	<i>Service of Word & Holy Communion</i>
Tue	3 rd	Weekday			<i>No Service</i>
Wed	4 th	Weekday			<i>No Service</i>
Thu	5 th	St Agatha	St P	10.00am	<i>Service of Word & Holy Communion</i>
Fri	6 th	St Paul Miki	St A	10.00am	<i>Service of Word & Holy Communion</i>
Sat	7 th	5 th Sun of Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	8 th		St P	10.00am	Lindsay Bradley
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 need words that heal the wounds of life, words that build communities where enmity separates people and peoples.
We must say 'no to the war of words and images'". (Pope Leo)*

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

Blessed are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven

This Sunday's readings invite us to see our lives and values through God's eyes, rather than judging by human standards. Even when life hurts, we feel inadequate, or others disregard us, God's promised kingdom of justice and gentle compassion gives us cause for great hope and rejoicing.

In the **first reading**, the humble and lowly— those who hold fast to faith and integrity— are promised rest and tranquility in the Lord.

The **psalmist**, too, praises the Lord for his unfailing care for all the oppressed: the hungry, the captive, the blind, and the stranger.

The **Corinthians** are reminded that they were not chosen because they were exceptional people. Instead, God picks the ones others often dismiss, rather than the ones we might expect. None of us can boast in our own achievements, for we are 'in Christ Jesus' - all of our gifts are God's own work within us.

Jesus shows us the true heart of Christian living in the **Gospel**. In God's kingdom, it is not the rich, the successful and the powerful who are truly happy and fortunate, but the 'poor in spirit': the compassionate, the gentle, the persecuted, and the bereaved.

This week, then, we might ask God to help us see what being truly 'poor in spirit' means in our daily lives, and to recognise more and more our total dependence on God in Christ.

The next Partnership RCIA meeting will be on Tues 3rd February, 6.30pm at St Patrick's, Felling.

The annual **Celebration of Marriage and Family Life Mass** will be held in the **Cathedral on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 12:00pm**. All welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 31st July – 7th August 2026. *Celebrating 100 years since the First Diocesan Pilgrimage.* Bookings are now open. We travel on Friday 31st July and return on Friday 7th August 2026. Cf: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/> or by calling 01732 886 666.

Lourdes Pilgrimage – Youth Section Reminder that bookings for the Youth Section of the Lourdes Pilgrimage will close on 31st January. For more information or to register interest, please email: evie.rea@ymt.org

Holy Island SVP Summer Camps 2026: Applications are now open for children in school Years 5-7 for Holy Island Summer Camps. The children spend a week in our

centre on the island over the Summer holidays. Transport takes the children from Tyneside to our residential centre and all meals, accommodation and activities are included in the cost. For more information please visit our website: Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

Do you have some spare time on your hands and want a fulfilling volunteer role? Our residential centre on Holy Island needs volunteers in 2026. There are lots of roles: Working with the children on our **Vinnies Summer Camps**, during the Summer holidays as a caretaker, kitchen assistants, cooks, and volunteering to work directly with the children. It's hard work, but so much fun and very worthwhile! No cost, just your time and patience for an interesting week on this beautiful island! Or perhaps you are retired or have flexible holidays and could give some time to help at our Term Time Camps. We need people who can take on a caretaking role or help in the kitchen with serving meals, cooking or operating the dishwasher! These Camps allow hundreds of children from the Diocese and further afield have a great residential holiday in our centre. Guaranteed hard work but fantastic memories too! To join our fabulous team or find out more information about any of the roles and to volunteer, please visit our website: Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or contact BarbaraT@svp.org.uk

Children's Liturgy will be every Sunday during Lent at St Patrick's. February 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. All primary school age children are welcome.



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

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.