

First reading

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Responsorial Psalm

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Ps 51(50)

- 1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your merciful love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me completely from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- 2. My transgressions, truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.
- 3. Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence; take not your holy spirit from me.
- 4. Restore in me the joy of your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Second reading

Romans 5:12, 17-19

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

1st Sunday of Lent Year A - 22nd February 2026

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat	21st	1st of Lent Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	22nd		St P	10.00am	Rosemary Harvey (Cullen)
Mon	23 rd	Weekday of Lent	St P	10.00am	Bill Henderson
Tue	24 th	Weekday of Lent			<i>No Service</i>
Wed	25 th	Weekday of Lent	St A	10.00am	Sr Francine
Thu	26 th	Weekday of Lent	St P	10.00am	Isabella, Rogan, Taylor
Fri	27 th	Weekday of Lent	St A	10.00am	Special Intention (RK)
Sat	28th	2nd of Lent Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	1st		St P	10.00am	Gerard McWilliams

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

As we begin the season of Lent, the great season of renewal, we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's Resurrection and to renew our Baptismal Promises at Easter.

*"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful",
(Joel 2:13)*

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

“You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”

As we move into this holy season of Lent, the readings slowly begin to prepare us to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

The **First Reading** teaches us how God created a good world, giving life to man and woman. But Eve and Adam had ambitions for equality with God, leading to the beginning of our sense of alienation from the Divine.

The **Psalm** is recognised as a prayer of penitence, particularly suited for the Lenten season. It sees sin not purely in individual terms, but as an evil that can affect the whole community.

For Paul (**Second Reading**), the imagery of life and death provides a key to understanding what Jesus has done for us. Death signifies being cut off from a relationship with God, whereas life invokes an image of friendship and union with God. Through the life of Jesus, the new Adam, we are all restored to that friendship.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus, though genuinely tempted in the wilderness, remains faithful to his Father. He is resolute.

Let's begin the season of Lent by inviting God to show us how to find the freedom of spirit to live with open-hearted generosity, and to rediscover the joy and freedom in living for others, as did Christ himself.

Lenten Aims: During Lent we traditionally support the work of **St Cuthbert's Care**. If you wish to do so, please use the basket marked at the back of church.

Something to Follow for Lent: A Lenten Course focussed on helping people enter more deeply into prayer will be offered on **Wednesday evenings during Lent in St Patrick's Parish Centre, Felling at 6.30pm**, starting **Wed 25th February**. The course will offer lots of practical tips, wisdom from the bible, stories from the saints, and advice about common difficulties people face when praying. Each hour long session is based on a short filmed presentation by Fr. Stephen Wang, (Who is also the author of the Sycamore RCIA Course). Topics covered include:

Session 1 PRAYER FOR BEGINNERS **Session 2 SEVEN RULES OF PRAYER**
Session 3 PRAYING WITH THE BIBLE **Session 4 HOW TO PRAY THE MASS**
Session 5 SILENT PRAYER AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD

All are most welcome to attend all or any of these sessions.

Children's Liturgy will be offered every Sunday during Lent at St Patrick's. All primary school age children are welcome.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated during Lent on Fridays as follows:
Friday 27th Feb. **12noon in St Patrick's Church Hall, CAFOD Stations**
These will be followed by a SOUP LUNCH. All proceeds to CAFOD.

Friday 6th March 10.30am in St Alban's Church
Friday 13th March 12noon in St Patrick's Church Hall
Friday 20th March 2.45pm in St Alban's Church – led by Year 6
Friday 27th March 12noon in St Patrick's Church Hall
Friday 3rd April, 10.00am in St Alban's Church
If you would like to help lead any of these, please let Fr Martin know.

CAFOD Family Fast Day takes place this **Friday 27th February**. Please collect your **CAFOD fast day envelope** as you leave church, to be returned on the collection plate.

CAFOD Fast Day Prayer

God of growth, in the beginning you planted a garden and walked with us, your beloved creation. Teach us to tread lightly as we care for all you made. God the Sower, you plant seeds of your Kingdom in the soil of our hearts. Water them with your Word and weed out fear and selfishness. Cultivate in us your compassion so we may truly love our neighbours. God of Gethsemane, you chose the tree of suffering which would bring us new life. May its roots grow deep within us, inspiring us to seek justice so all people may flourish in the garden of your grace. Amen.

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The next Partnership RCIA meeting will be on **Tues 3rd March, 6.30pm** at St Patrick's, Felling. (There is a break for school Half term week).

Diocesan Lenten Reflection Resources: Lenten resources are available on the homepage of the [diocesan website](#). This includes **We Dare to Ask** which is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. The booklet, which includes a foreword by Bishop Stephen, is available to view and download now.

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