

First reading**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

Responsorial Psalm**The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.****Ps 23(22)**

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| <p>1. The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.</p> | <p>2. He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.</p> |
| <p>3. You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.</p> | <p>4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.</p> |

Second reading**Ephesians 5:8-14**

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Gospel Acclamation

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel**John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38**

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped 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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The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

4th Sunday of Lent Year A - 15th March 2026**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

Sat	14 th	4 th of Lent Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	15 th		St P	10.00am	Brida & Ken Clay
Mon	16 th	Weekday of Lent			<i>No Service</i>
Tue	17 th	St Patrick	St P	10.00am	Bill Henderson
Wed	18 th	Weekday of Lent	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Thu	19 th	St Joseph	St P	10.00am	Betty Goodacre
Fri	20 th	St Cuthbert	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
			St P	12.00pm	<i>Funeral Service: Harry Gair</i>
Sat	21 st	5 th of Lent Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	22 nd		St P	10.00am	Jean McAllister

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

"It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith, ... It is a sign placed in the very heart of humanity, a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all His children." 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
I washed and I see!"

God's loving vision is a light that guides us out of darkness and heals our spiritual blindness. God sees the potential in us through his loving gaze. His judgements are based on compassion and love, and not on our human standards.

In the **first reading** Samuel is surprised that God chooses the simple shepherd boy David to be the King of Israel, when his brothers all seemed so much more suitable. In time, David's descendant Jesus will become the true Good Shepherd: the Servant King who opens the eyes of the blind.

Psalms 22 (23) is the "Good Shepherd" Psalm. Its words of comfort describe how God tenderly cares for his people, giving them rest, guiding them through darkness, and richly anointing them with love.

St Paul's letter to the **Ephesians** calls us to wake from our sleep so that we can see ourselves as God sees us. We are children of light! Darkness no longer has a hold over our lives, and as children of light we are called to share fully in the life of the Risen Christ.

Today's **Gospel** describes the healing of a man from lifelong blindness. It shows how his eyes are opened not just physically but spiritually too, so that he can see who he truly is. He is now able to recognise Christ and declare his belief in Him. Just as Samuel was surprised at God's choice of a king for his people, the Pharisees cannot believe that Jesus chooses a "sinner" to be healed. Their judgements make them blind.

We pray for **Henry Edward Gair (Harry)** and **Margaret Walsh** who died recently. A Funeral service will be held for Harry at St Patrick's this Friday 20th March, 12noon followed by burial at Old Heworth cemetery. A Requiem Mass will be held for Margaret on Mon 23rd March 10.00am at St Patrick's followed by burial at Heworth Burn cemetery. May they rest in peace.

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

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 at 6.30pm**. 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: **4 HOW TO PRAY THE MASS** ;
5 SILENT PRAYER AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD
All are most welcome to attend all or any of these sessions.

Discerning our Mission: A parish open meeting will be held as follows:

Thur 19th Mar 6.30pm at St Patrick's

During these meetings we will be invited to reflect on and discern together our mission. This will include thinking about the four Diocesan Pastoral Priorities of:

Walking with Jesus and Enabling Encounters with Him

Renewing sacramental preparation as a journey of accompaniment and encounter. Deepening our communities as places of welcome, safety and belonging — sharing God's love with all.

Creating opportunities to walk with Christ throughout our entire lives.

Living Justly and Caring for Our Common Home

Stewarding our resources wisely — building a safe and sustainable future.

Being a Church that goes out to the margins.

Growing as One Diocesan Family

Growing as a synodal Church — learning to listen, discern, and walk together.

Clergy: sustaining priestly ministry with care and collaboration.

Growing the gifts and vocations of all the baptised.

Bring Formed by Christ for Mission

Educating for Mission — forming hearts and minds in Christ.

Walking with our young people — forming faith, hope, and leadership.

Growing our discipleship through lifelong, Spirit-filled formation.

All resources for the above are available on the Diocesan website.

Gift Aid Envelopes for the new financial year will be available for collection after Mass from this weekend.

Lenten Alms: 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.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated during Lent on Fridays as follows:

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: Please return to the collection plate, as soon as possible.

The next Partnership RCIA meeting will be on Tues 17th March, 6.30pm at St Patrick's, Felling. (There is a break for school Half term week).

Easter Flowers for St Alban's: There is a basket at the back of Church for donations for flowers for Easter. All contributions welcome.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mother's.