

First reading

Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm 33 *May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD*

1. Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
2. The word of the LORD is upright, and all his works to be trusted.
The LORD loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.
3. Yes, the LORD'S eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Second reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Gospel

John 14:1-12

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. 'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

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

5th Sunday of Easter Year A - 3rd May 2026

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat	2 nd	5 th of Easter	St A	6.00pm	Elsie Docherty
Sun	3 rd		St P	10.00am	People of the Parishes
Mon	4 th	The English Martyrs	St P	10.00am	William & Elizabeth Pearson
Tue	5 th	Weekday of Easter			No Service
Wed	6 th	Weekday of Easter	St A	10.00am	Fr Denis O'Mahony (NBF)
Thu	7 th	Weekday of Easter	St P	10.00am	Alexander & Lavinia Henderson
Fri	8 th	Weekday of Easter	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	9 th	6 th of Easter	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	10 th		St P	10.00am	Catherine Palmer

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

First Saturday of each month: 10.00-10.15am at St Patrick's and 5.30-5.45pm at St Alban's
And available on Request

Pope's Intention for May:

"We pray Lord that you may awaken in us a new awareness: that we learn to give thanks for every food, to consume simply, to share with joy, and to care for the fruits of the earth as a gift from You, destined for all, not just a few...give us a new heart, hungry for justice and thirsty for fraternity." (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
“Believe in God; believe also in me”***

As this grace-filled season of Eastertide continues, we are invited to place our whole trust in the risen Lord. Even when we are troubled or anxious, Jesus, 'the Way, the Truth and the Life', is there to comfort and encourage us, showing us the way to live our lives as Easter people.

In the **First Reading**, animosity between two factions within the Early Church leads to neglect of those in need. The Apostles resolve this by appointing seven wise, Spirit-filled people to a ministry of service as Deacons.

The **Psalm** conveys the utmost trust in God, whose words are always reliable, and whose kindness is granted to all who hope in him.

The **Second Reading** reassures us that we are part of a spiritual house, built with living stones. We are urged to place our trust in Christ and set ourselves close to him, the one chosen by God as the precious cornerstone. God has chosen us, too, to be his holy people, and called us into the light to proclaim his praise.

In the **Gospel**, the disciples are worried and confused as Jesus speaks of leaving them. But he encourages them to trust completely as he reassures them that he will continue to show them the Way. If they know him, they will know the Father too, who lives and works in him.

This week we might pray for even greater trust in the Lord who has such special love and care for us, and invites us to walk the Way of Jesus more closely.

We pray for Margaret Brown who died recently. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated for Margaret on Wed 13 May 12noon at St Patrick's followed by burial at Old Heworth cemetery. May she rest in peace.

Children's Liturgy for all primary school aged children will be held on the following Sundays at St Patrick's: May 31st, June 28th, and July 26th.

A Quiz Night will be held in St Patrick's Parish Centre on **Friday 15th May at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own snacks and drink, but we asked, if you can, to bring a food item which will be sent on to Joe's Place in Gateshead.

We remember in our prayers the children from Year 4 (4), Year 5 (1) and Year 8 (1) who will be celebrating reception of Holy Communion for the first time on Sat16/Sun17 May.

St Alban's Garden Weeding: Volunteers are needed to help tidy up the garden at St Alban's. The front side-gate is always open so you can come and do some weeding any time.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi will be Led by Bishop Stephen, **22nd – 29th October 2027**. £1725 per person. Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis – with deposit securing your place. The itinerary etc. can be found on diocesan website (www.diocesehn.org.uk).

SVP Camp – on Holy Island: Volunteers 18+ are needed to work alongside the children. Week 3 Sat 1st - 8th, Week 5 Sat 15th - 22nd, Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th Aug. If interested have a look at the website <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or email Barbara Taws barbarat@svp.org.uk. Helpers receive training and a DBS check.

Update From St. Alban's Catholic Primary School: Dear Parishioners, Thank you for your support and prayers during our Lenten journey - pupils have returned excited and ready for all of the fun and adventure that the summer term brings. Governors have been working with Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and are pleased that Mrs Swaddle will continue supporting the school as Executive Headteacher. She has been joined by Mr Keys, an experienced Headteacher, who will be at St Alban's full-time to lead the staff team. They look forward to continuing to work with the parishes of St. Alban's and St. Patrick's and invite you to St. Alban's next school Mass, on Friday 22nd May at 10am, which will be led by Year 6 pupils.

Prayer for Discernment

Heavenly Father, We thank you for your calling, your guidance, and your love that entrusts us with the mission of your Church in our diocese. Unite us as one family of faith, attentive to your Spirit and supporting one another with care and compassion. As we begin this time of discernment, bless and guide us, that it may be a spiritual journey of listening and honesty that moves us to action. Help us to reflect deeply on our mission and resources, to face reality with courage, and to choose what will allow our communities to flourish for generations to come. Keep us faithful to walking together, seeking truth with hope, and responding to your call with generosity. Form us as missionary disciples, ready to serve and proclaim your Gospel. Give us wisdom to make decisions that strengthen worship, service, teaching, and community. May all we do be rooted in prayer and guided by your Spirit, so that we may steward our resources faithfully and build a Church that is vibrant and welcoming. We entrust our Diocese to the prayers of Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, and to the intercession of the saints who have gone before us. Through Christ our Lord. 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

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