

### First reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

Ps 65

1. You visit the earth, give it water;  
you fill it with riches.  
God's ever-flowing river brims over  
to prepare the grain.
2. And thus you prepare it:  
you drench its furrows;  
you level it, soften it with showers;  
you bless its growth.
3. You crown the year with your bounty.  
Abundance flows in your pathways;  
in pastures of the desert it flows.  
The hills are girded with joy.
4. The meadows clothed with flocks.  
The valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy; yes, they sing!

### Second reading

Romans 8:18-23

Brothers and Sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

**Gospel Acclamation:** The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live for ever.

### Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.' Then the disciples came and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. 'Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

## 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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The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

### 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A - 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026

#### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

| Sat | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A | St A | 6.00pm  | People of the Parishes                       |
|-----|------------------|--------------------------------|------|---------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 12 <sup>th</sup> |                                | St P | 10.00am | Allan Neil                                   |
| Mon | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Weekday                        | St P | 10.00am | John Joseph McCabe & Bede Alban              |
| Tue | 14 <sup>th</sup> | Weekday                        |      |         | No Service                                   |
| Wed | 15 <sup>th</sup> | St Bonaventure                 | St A | 10.00am | Norma Parel                                  |
|     |                  |                                | St A | 12.00pm | Funeral Service: Catherine Boyle             |
| Thu | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Weekday                        | St A | 10.00am | Whole School Mass                            |
| Fri | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Weekday                        | St P | 9.30am  | Special Intention (BH)                       |
| Sat | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A | St A | 6.00pm  | People of the Parishes                       |
| Sun | 19 <sup>th</sup> |                                | St P | 10.00am | Edmunda, Agripino, Nariso, Loreto, Francisca |

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 and

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

*'Let us commit ourselves to building a Church that is entirely synodal, ministerial  
and attracted to Christ and, therefore, committed to serving the world'  
(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***

**Christ sows the seed of God's word in the world**

In today's **First Reading**, from the prophet Isaiah, we are encouraged by the effectiveness of God at work in the world through his word.

The **Second Reading** shows the eagerness of creation, which awaits God's gifts of freedom, growth and purpose. As St Paul reminds us, we, too, possess the first-fruits of the Holy Spirit.

These are recurring themes. The **Psalm** speaks of the abundance of creation through the care of the Creator.

The **Gospel** reveals that same Creator (as a sower) seeking a rich soil that will produce a good crop.

Perhaps, this week, we can renew our commitment to the way of Christ, and to remember the freedom and glory that we enjoy as children of God. We might also carry with us the words of the Gospel acclamation: 'The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live for ever'.

**We pray for Catherine Boyle** who died recently. A funeral service for Catherine will be held at St Alban's Church on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> July 12noon, followed by burial at Heworth Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

**Today is Sea Sunday** – when we pray for all sea farers. A collection will be taken as you leave church today to support the work of *Stella Maris* – the Apostleship of the sea.

**There will be a Whole School Mass** this Thursday in St Alban's Church to mark the end of term. All welcome. Please note **Mass on Friday will be at St Patrick's** and will be celebrated at **9.30am**.

**The next Children's Liturgy** for all primary school aged children will be held at St Patrick's on Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you** to all those who helped with and supported the cheese and wine evening at St Patrick's last Friday.

**The Diocesan Justice and Peace Project** are at present supporting 479 Asylum Seekers who are waiting for a decision and who receive some government support. 30 have had their claim refused and are destitute. They all receive a bag of essentials valued at approximately £10 and those who are destitute also receive a supermarket voucher. The project relies on donations especially such as rice, tinned fish, chickpeas, tomatoes, biscuits and toiletries. These can be left at the entrance of St Alban's or at either entrance to St Patrick's.

**Newman Tyneside Circle** invites you to come and hear Tom O'Loughlin speak on Luke 5:27-32 as a discipleship text: Christian hospitality and the contemporary rejection of liturgy, in the hall of Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle, NE2 3JX, on **Tuesday 14 July 2026, at 7.30pm**.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi** will be Led by Bishop Stephen, **22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2027**. £1725 per person. The itinerary etc. can be found on diocesan website ([www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)). Still a few places left.

**The Diocesan Pastoral Discernment – John Ingram Partnership:** On Wednesday 24th June laity and clergy met for a second time to explore a partnership response for Bishop Stephen and the diocese. The following common strands emerged:-

- a clear understanding that we cannot continue as we are
- a willingness to face difficult realities honestly
- the beginnings of a shared direction across the Partnership

This is an important place to have reached. At our next meeting (**16th July**), we will take a further step. We will not return to open-ended discussion. Instead, we will begin to identify a small number of clear Partnership priorities, which can then be developed into a plan. This will happen through smaller groups, based on geography, working to look at the current structures and resources and the issues we face. Thank you again for the time, honesty and care so many have given to this process so far.

**Congratulations to Catherine Rafferty** who this week celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Lourdes At Home:** As people from the Diocese prepare to travel to Lourdes on 31<sup>st</sup> July, there will be those who would like to participate from here in our Diocese who cannot be with us. The following is available:

**Blessing of Hands:** There will be Mass with the blessing of hands in St Mary's Cathedral, with Bishop Stephen as the principal celebrant. We all serve each other in our own way, whether it be as a registered helper, youth member, medical team, pilgrim or those who pray for the success of our pilgrimage at home. Everyone is welcome to this special Mass on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 6.30pm in the Cathedral**.

**Pilgrimage Hymn Book:** Many who are participating from home have asked if they can purchase a copy of the hymn book. These will be on sale at the Cathedral on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, and are priced £5.00.

**Centenary Pilgrimage Medal:** There is a special centenary medal this year which is based on the medal from the Holy Year of 1958. The medal has a maroon ribbon with a gold-coloured metal St Cuthbert's Cross attached. Again, these will be on sale at the Cathedral on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, and are priced £5.00.

**Live Streaming:** When in Lourdes, the Masses and services will be live streamed via the Diocesan Hospitalité YouTube channel and the Lourdes Sanctuary YouTube channel. More details will be available on the Diocesan Hospitalité Facebook page. We keep the success of the Centenary pilgrimage in your prayers.

**Copies of the Parish Financial Returns** for 2025-2026 are displayed on the notice board at the back of each church for your information.