

First reading

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

Responsorial Psalm

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Ps 45(44)

1. The daughters of kings are those whom you favour. 2. Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. forget your own people and your father's house.
3. So will the king desire your beauty. 4. They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
He is your lord, pay homage to him. they pass within the palace of the king.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

Gospel Acclamation

Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoice.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.' And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 16th August 2026

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	15th	The Assumption	St A	6.00pm	Burrell and Wilson Families
Sun	16th		St P	10.00am	People of the Parishes
Mon	17 th	Weekday	St P	10.00am	Billy Lavender
Tue	18 th	Weekday			No Service
Wed	19 th	Weekday	St A	10.00am	Carmina & Paul D'Silva (25th W Ann)
Thu	20 th	St Bernard	St P	10.00am	Sharon Douglas
Fri	21 st	Ded of St Mary Cath	St A	10.00am	Kathleen Harland
Sat	22nd	21st Sunday Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	23rd		St P	10.00am	Maurice Brown

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

*"The Church supports with humble firmness the choices that promote the dignity of every person, the cohesion of communities and the good of all."
(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 you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!’

The glorious taking up of Mary into heaven, though not mentioned in Scripture, has been celebrated since the sixth century.

The readings for today’s celebration are all triumphant in tone.

In the **First Reading**, a woman, in whom we can see either Mary or the Early Church, defeats the evil dragon (the Roman Empire) with the help of God, bringing the Messiah safely to birth.

Verses from **Psalms** 44 (45), originally part of a wedding song for a king, are also applied to Mary in today’s liturgy. She takes her place, in triumph, in the palace of the King, her Son.

In the **Second Reading**, Paul tells the Corinthians that Christ, raised from the dead, has put all his enemies under his feet, including death. In today’s feast we celebrate the fact that Mary, mother of Jesus, also enjoys the fruits of the Resurrection.

The **Gospel** recounts Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, where she voices her triumphant hymn of praise, the Magnificat, as she proclaims: ‘he who is mighty has done great things for me.’

This week, like Mary, we might also wish to praise the Lord for the great things he has done for us, and for the people around us.

Our Annual Mission Appeal will be given by Fr Pat O’Beirne of the Columban Missionaries next **Sat/Sun 22/23 August**. There will be a collection after communion on that day to support their work.

An African Day Celebration will be held on **Sunday, 30th August 2026** after Mass in the Church hall at St Patrick’s. This will be a joyful opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of African culture through traditional attire, delicious food, music, and dance. Everyone is warmly invited to stay after Mass, experience the vibrant culture of Africa, and enjoy a time of fellowship as a parish community. We look forward to celebrating with you.

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.

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

Are you Interested in Becoming a Catholic or just learning more about the Catholic Faith? This years Partnership RCIA (Roman Catholic Initiation of Adults) programme is due to start on Monday 5th October, at 6.30pm. The initial meeting will take place at St Patrick’s Church, in the Parish Centre. The participants will then be able to decide the venue and day for future meetings. The course will consist of around 20 sessions based on the Sycamore Video Course supplemented by some additional materials. Each meeting lasts around an hour and a quarter and meetings will not take place when schools are on holiday. If interested please let Fr Martin know.

*Congratulations to
Elodie Mary Laidlaw
Who was Baptised at St Patrick’s last Sunday*

Diocesan Pastoral Strategy Discernment – John Ingram Partnership.

Lait and clergy from across our partnership have been meeting to respond to the Diocesan Pastoral Strategy Discernment partnership phase of the process. We were also joined by lay reps from St Joseph’s, Birtley. In total four meetings were held and Form I has been submitted. The first two meetings were very useful in getting together as this large collection of churches (20) and beginning to appreciate the picture across the area. At the third meeting the focus was on smaller groups of parishes working together in 4 zones. At this meeting there arose a common consensus on the following points:-

- Merging of parishes and reductions of churches necessary now.
- Develop stronger relationships with our school communities.
- Promote and deepen catechesis, education for all, formation and lay leadership.
- A real taking account of the facts presented to us and action to address them.
- The importance of the John Ingram Partnership. We hope that the regular partnership meetings will allow the four zones to share good practice, enrich each other and discern actions and projects that can be supported more widely. A fourth meeting took place with the intention of completing relevant parts of Form I for each of the zones which would then be collated into one Form I submission to the Bishop. Bishop Stephen will reflect on all the submissions from across the diocese before the process moves on to stage 3 – The Deanery discussion (for us that is the Bede and John Ingram partnerships). I’d like to thank everyone who took part in these discussion and reflections. There was an openness to one another, to differing viewpoints and to the working of the Holy Spirit guiding us to what is best for the future of the church in our diocese. Please do keep the process and all the individuals involved in your prayers. We all want what is best to enable the diocese to serve God, the church and the wider community. Fr Adrian Tuckwell, Lead Priest of the John Ingram Partnership.