

First reading

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house."'

Responsorial Psalm

**O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

Ps 138(137)

1. I thank you, LORD, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.
2. I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.
3. The LORD is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

Second reading

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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

21st Sunday of Year A - 23rd August 2026

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	22 nd	21 st Sunday Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	23 rd		St P	10.00am	Maurice Brown
Mon	24 th	St Bartholomew	St P	10.00am	Isabella Rogan Taylor
Tue	25 th	Weekday			No Service
Wed	26 th	Weekday	St A	10.00am	Special Intention (RK)
Thu	27 th	St Monica	St P	10.00am	Peter Stempczyk
Fri	28 th	St Augustine	St A	10.00am	Special Intention (S)
Sat	29 th	22 nd Sunday Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	30 th		St P	10.00am	Jessica D'Silva (Birthday)

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 values democracy insofar as it guarantees the effective participation of citizens, enables them to elect and peacefully replace their leaders and prevents power from being monopolized by small elite groups motivated by particular or ideological interests."
(Pope Leo - MH)*

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

'Listen, Lord, and answer me. Save your servant who trusts in you'

In today's **First Reading**, Isaiah shows us how the Lord, as king, rules – he is one who cares for his subjects as for his own children. The worthy king holds the 'key' of absolute authority.

The **Gospel** recalls Simon Peter's answer to the question, 'Who do you say that I am?' As a trusted servant he is given the 'keys' of the king.

The apostle Paul, in the **Second Reading**, is moved by the richness and depth of the Lord's thoughts and ways. He speaks not through fear and awe, but rather by wonder and gratitude.

Likewise, the **Psalm** is a song of praise in thanksgiving for the faithfulness and love of the Lord, which always come before any response on our part.

Perhaps, this week, we might feel called to ponder anew that 'merciful love and faithfulness' of the Lord for us, and what our response to this might be. Who do we say the Lord is, and what might our answer mean for the way we live our daily lives?

Welcome to Fr Pat O'Beirne of the Columban Missionaries who will be giving our Annual Mission Appeal this Sat/Sun 22/23 August. There will be a collection after communion on that day to support their work. Fr Pat writes:

"The principal purpose of the week-end visit is to:

to raise awareness of our missionary vocation.

to encourage people to be more involved in the missionary work of the church,

to thank our loyal supporters.

to seek greater support for our mission magazine, "The Far East" and

to take up a Mission collection at all Masses."

Bongo Bingo in St Patrick's Parish Centre on **Friday 28th August starting at 7.30pm.**

All are welcome. Bring your own snacks and refreshments. Also if you are able, please bring a food item for our Justice and Peace Refugee Project.

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.

***Congratulations to
Carmina & Paul D'Silva***

Who during the week celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary

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.

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.

Diocesan Pastoral Strategy Discernment – John Ingram Partnership.

Laity 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.*