

First reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

The LORD is close to all who call him.

Ps 145(144)

1. I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.
2. The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.
3. The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

Second reading

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too." And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

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

Parish E-Mail: stpatrick.felling@diocesehn.org.uk Tel: 0191 - 4952277
Parish Website: www.stpatricks-felling.co.uk
School Website: https://stalbanspelaw.bwcet.com/ Tel: 0191 - 4693251
Diocesan Website: www.diocesehn.org.uk
Chaplain to the QE: Deacon Paul Nichol Tel: 0191 - 4452072

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

25th Sunday of Year A - 20th September 2026

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS					
Sat	19 th	25 th Sunday Year A	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	20 th		St P	10.00am	Rosemary Harvey & LDM of Cullen fam
Mon	21 st	St Matthew, Apostle	St P	10.00am	Sheila Robinson
Tue	22 nd	Weekday			No Service
Wed	23 rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Thu	24 th	Our Lady of Walsingham	St P	10.00am	Desmond Ford
Fri	25 th	Weekday	St A	10.00am	Whole School Mass: Bernadette Brown
Sat	26 th	26 th Sunday Year A	St A	6.00pm	Lagan & Garbarino Families
Sun	27 th		St P	10.00am	People of the Parishes

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

Home Mission Sunday

"Parishes exist to Evangelise"
(Pope Paul VI)

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

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways

These words summarise the themes found in this week's readings.

In Isaiah, the **First Reading**, the people, exiled in Babylon, are encouraged to trust in God. God has plans for them.

Today's **Gospel** is a parable from Matthew, and may cause us to stop and consider God's ways. This is not how we would act. It calls us to rethink our understanding of justice and generosity.

Psalm 145 (144) is a song of praise to God emphasising especially his greatness, and particularly his attributes of compassion, kindness, abounding love, lack of anger, and his closeness.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, is caught in a dilemma. He too has difficulty in understanding God's ways. He wants to be with Christ, but he also wishes to continue his work on earth. His measure is the Gospel and trusting in God's will for him – whatever it may be.

As we read, pray and live the readings this week, we may also try and pull ourselves up short on our preconceived notions of God's actions.

Today is Home Mission Sunday. There will be a **collection as you leave church** to help support the missionary efforts of the work carried out by the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate.

We pray for **Lawrence Chambers** (100), **Mary Harold** (91) and **Michael Mahon** (95) who have died recently. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated for Lawrence on Thurs 1 Oct 10.00am at St Patrick's followed by burial at Heworth Burn Cemetery. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated for Mary on Friday 2nd Oct 12noon at St Patrick's followed by burial at Heworth Burn Cemetery. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated for Michael on Mon 5th Oct 10.00am at St Patrick's followed by burial at Heworth Burn Cemetery. May they rest in peace.

All Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at St Patrick's Church are invited to a meeting in Church today **after Mass on Sunday 20th September** (this includes those most recently commissioned) to discuss the re-introduction of Communion under both kinds in October.

First Holy Communions 2026 – 2027 parents of children baptised as Catholics in school year 4 or above are invited to collect a form to enrol their children to prepare for the celebration of reception of Holy Communion in 2027. The forms are available from today at Saturday/Sunday Masses and will be available for the coming weeks.

Mass this Friday at St Alban's will be a whole school Mass to mark the beginning of term. All welcome.

Afternoon Tea will be held in St Patrick's Parish Centre on **Saturday 26th September starting at 1pm**. Everyone is invited for a bite to eat, a cuppa and a good catch up with friends. Hope to see you then.

The next Parish Open Meetings will be held as follows:

St Alban's Wednesday 30th September, 6.30pm

St Patrick's Thursday 1st October 6.30pm

At these important meetings parishioners will be given the opportunity to review the parish finances and to be updated on the discernment of the pastoral strategy initiated by Bishop Stephen. All parishioners are welcome.

The Partnership RCIA meetings – for all those seeking to know more about the Catholic Faith - this year will take place at St. Peter's Church, Low Fell. The first meeting will be held at **6.30pm on Tuesday 6th October**.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the recent **Columban Mission appeal**. St Patrick's **£422.54** and St Alban's **£194.15**.



Children's Liturgy at St. Patrick's for children of Primary School age will be on 27th Sept, 18th Oct, 29th Nov, 6th Dec, 13th Dec and 20th Dec. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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