

First reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God: 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 126(125)

Response : *What great deeds the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.*

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| 1. When the LORD brought back the exiles
Of Sion, we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy. | 2. Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the LORD worked for them!'
What great deeds the LORD worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad. |
| 3. Bring back our exiles, O LORD,
as streams in the Negeb.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. | 4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves. |

Second reading

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."' Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

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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

2nd Sunday of Advent Year C - 8th December 2024

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat	7 th	2 nd Sun of Advent C	St A	6.00pm	Bill Knowles
Sun	8 th		St P	10.00am	People of the Parishes
Mon	9 th	Immaculate Concep	St P	10.00am	Dec'd of 24 Greenwood Gdn's
Tue	10 th	Weekday of Advent			No Service
Wed	11 th	Weekday of Advent	St A	10.00am	Brian Grace Snr & Brian Grace Jnr
Thu	12 th	Weekday of Advent	St P	10.00am	Ellen Farrell
Fri	13 th	St Lucy	St A	10.00am	Class Mass: Year 6
Sat	14 th	3 rd Sun of Advent C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	15 th		St P	10.00am	Paul Clay

St A = St Alban's; St P = St Patrick's
 Weekday Masses at St Patrick's are Celebrated in the Parish Centre
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Available on Request

We keep in our prayers all parishioners who are sick and housebound at this time.

A Short Consultation Meeting for all those who wish to be involved in planning and preparing our Christmas Liturgies will take place after each Mass this weekend. All welcome.

The Advent Café will next meet on **Wed 11th Dec at 18.00** in St Patrick's Parish Centre. All welcome

**The Order of Mass can be found on Page 200 in the middle of your Hymn Books.
The Creed page 205.**

Journeying with the Word of God
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad!

The beginning of the Church's New Year, the Season of Advent, is a good time to look back as well as forward. We begin our prayer in the present moment with God, but we are not the same people as we were a year ago. Our journey of life with God has changed us, sometimes in surprising ways.

We may be able to sing with the Psalmist of the marvels of God, our hearts filled with laughter and gladness. Or it may be that our experience has been one of tears and, like the exiled Israelites, we need the words of encouragement from the **First Reading** to remind us that sorrow can be transformed by God into joy.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) remembers the faithfulness of the Philippians and prays that they may continue to grow in holiness and knowledge of God. We, too, might pray to have their faithfulness and to continue to grow in the love of God during the coming year.

John the Baptist hears the word of God in the wilderness and emerges to proclaim our Lord's coming (**Gospel**). His promises are anchored in a particular moment of history. Here, in our own time and place, we listen to God's word knowing that we, too, are invited to "Prepare a way for the Lord" in our own lives and in our world.

RCIA: The next RCIA Meeting for the John Ingram Partnership will take place this **Tuesday 10th December, 6.30pm** in the parish centre at St Patrick's.

Advent Alms - During Advent you can support **St Cuthbert's Care** if you wish using the baskets at the back of the church.

A Parish Christmas Raffle will be held **next Sunday, 15th December**, at St Patrick's after Mass in the Parish Centre. Tickets **only £5** per strip. Excellent prizes and cakes etc. available on the day. (Proceeds to Church funds).

CAFOD World Gifts Catalogues are available from the back of church. They offer an alternative ethical and sustainable gift option for Christmas and special occasions. By buying a World Gift you can make the world of difference to families fleeing conflict, farmers battling the climate crisis, and a community protecting the Amazon.

Supporting the Diocesan Justice & Peace Group: The Diocesan Justice and Peace Group are currently supporting 567 clients, most of whom have had their claims for asylum turned down and are, therefore, destitute. Some receive a weekly voucher of £45. Others receive a bag of groceries valued at £7. In October 537 food bags were supplied and 31 vouchers. Please support this project with your donations, as there were 59 new clients in October and there will probably be more this month. Thank you.

St Alban's School News: Dear Parishioners, A reminder that you are welcome to come to Advent services of prayer in St Alban's Church, led by the school children:

Friday 13th December, 2.45pm
Thursday 19th December, 9.30am

Please could Parish Prayer Sponsors pick up the prayer cards I left at either St Alban's Church or St Patrick's Church, so that you know who to pray for.

Thank you.

Mrs M Robinson

Your offerings are our sole source of income: Although we have re-introduced the collection at each Sunday Mass, we do hope that you might consider making your offering by Standing Order. This is by far the easiest way to donate, ideally on a monthly basis. (Details below). If you are a tax payer **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 stpatrik.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

Open-Door Event Wednesday 11th December: Each year before Christmas, Joe's Place arranges an Open-Door Event at St Joseph's Church in Gateshead. Many people who visit Joe's Place accept the invitation to come in, enjoy some quiet time, and light a candle. Some want to sit in quiet reflection listening to the music; others ask for help in lighting a candle, or in praying for a particular reason. This year's Open-Door Event is on Wednesday 11th December from 11.30am till 1.30pm. All are welcome to pray quietly in church and to offer this time to others by your presence.

If you Support Asylum Seekers with donations of foods etc. then please note that the last date to make some offerings before Christmas is Sunday 22 December. Thank you.

Prayer for the 2nd Sunday of Advent:

Merciful God, you sent John the Baptist to preach repentance.

Forgive us for the times when we have done wrong, when we have hurt other people and damaged our earth.

Lead us to make a change, to live differently, preparing a way and making your paths straight. Amen