

First reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. ±3

Response: Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

- Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD is my strength
And my praise and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation.
- Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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

3rd Sunday of Advent Year C - 15th December 2024

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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 & David Clay
Mon	16 th	Weekday of Advent	St P	10.00am	LDM Hughes & Knock Families
Tue	17 th	Weekday of Advent			No Service
Wed	18 th	Weekday of Advent	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Thu	19 th	Weekday of Advent	St P	10.00am	Helen Prendergast
Fri	20 th	Weekday of Advent	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	21 st	4 th Sun of Advent C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	22 nd		St P	10.00am	Breda Kennane

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.
We pray for Irene Dinning who died recently. May she rest in peace.

Our Christmas Mass Times

Tues 24th Dec Christmas Eve: St Patrick's 6.30pm (with carols from 6.10pm)
 Wed 25th Dec Christmas Day: St Alban's 9.30am

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

Journeying with the Word of God
The Lord is near!

This week, 'Gaudete Sunday', we are called to rejoice, for the coming of the Lord is near. At the same time, we are invited to live out our preparation in the details of our daily lives.

The **First Reading** from Zephaniah is a joyful exultation, because the Lord is bringing back Zion, his people. God is in our midst and he dances for joy in his love for us.

The **Responsorial Psalm** does not come from the Psalter, but is a Song of Joy from the Book of Isaiah. It is a joyful canticle of trust in the Lord and of thanksgiving for all that he has done for us.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, speaks of his desire of happiness for the Philippians. The Lord 'is very near', so we need not worry – but trust in God who will grant us the peace of his Son.

In the **Gospel** this Sunday we meet John the Baptist again. But this time we hear his direct teaching and advice to the different groups among his followers. He also tells them of the One who is to come, who will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and fire.

This week, may we remind ourselves that the Lord is very near, in our midst, and that this is our joy.

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

RCIA: The next RCIA Meeting for the John Ingram Partnership will take place on **Tuesday 17th January, 6.30pm** in the parish centre at St Patrick's.

The Advent Café will next meet on **Wed 18th Dec at 18.00** in St Patrick's Parish Centre. All welcome

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:

Thursday 19th December, 9.30am

Thank you.
Mrs M Robinson

We will be cleaning St Patrick's Church on Thursday 19th December, following the 10am Mass. All volunteers would be most welcome.

We will be cleaning St Alban's Church on Friday 20th December, following the 10am Mass. All volunteers would be most welcome.

Your offerings are our sole source of income: We ask you to please 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 stpatrick.felling@diocesahn.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

If you Support Asylum Seekers with donations of foods etc. then please note that the last date to make some offerings before Christmas is Fri 20 December. Thank you.

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

Jubilee 2025: Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we'll be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

Gracious God, we thank you for your gifts.
Teach us to trust you more than possessions or wealth.
Give us generous hearts. Inspire us to share what we have, and work for justice, so that all people may flourish and live in dignity. Amen