

First reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the LORD: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79)

Response: **Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.**

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse up your might and come to save us.
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the stock your right hand has planted, the son you have claimed for yourself.
- May your hand be on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have confirmed as your own. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." ' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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.'

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

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 - 452072

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

4th Sunday of Advent Year C - 22nd December 2024

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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
Mon	23 rd	Weekday of Advent	St P	10.00am	James (Jim) Murray & LD of family

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tue	24 th	Christmas Eve	St P	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Wed	25 th	Christmas Day	St A	9.30am	People of the Parish

Thu	26 ^h	St Stephen	St P	10.00am	Private Intention (NF)
Fri	27 th	St John, Apostle	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	28 th	The Holy Family	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	29 th		St P	10.00am	Gerry Toberty & Toberty Sisters

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 **Fr Kevin Cummins** and **Irene Dinning** who died recently. A funeral service will be held for Irene on Monday 6th January, 12.30pm at St Patrick's church followed by burial at Heworth Burn Cemetery. May they rest in peace.

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 is the fruit of your womb!”

Christ is coming! The readings this weekend are full of an expectation. God’s promise through Micah is fulfilled in the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, and their faith. In the **First Reading**, Micah proclaims that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem and lead his flock back to their land in peace.

The **Psalm** is a plea to the Shepherd of Israel for this return, and for the sending of the Messiah, the chosen one.

The **Second Reading** from the Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes the fact that the Christ who redeemed us took on a human body, like ours.

The **Gospel** helps us gather all these themes: obedience to God’s will; faith in his promises; and especially faith in the Incarnation – Jesus our Saviour, already becoming flesh in Mary’s womb.

May we journey through these last days of Advent in Mary’s company, so that Christ may be born in us.

Thank you to all those who supported the Parish Christmas Raffle at St Patrick’s which raised **£600.00** for church funds.

Carols Before Mass will be sung on Christmas Eve from around **6.10pm**. (*Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be celebrated for your intentions*).

If you wish to support the Christian Community in the Holy Land, including Palestine, offerings can be left in the basket at the crib.

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

The Collection for the Priest’s Training Fund raised **£63.78** (St Alban’s) + **£142.95** (St Patrick’s). Thank you for your generosity. **The Collection for Youth Sunday** raised **£85.05** (St Alban’s) + **£117.15** (St Patrick’s). Thank you for your generosity.

The Flowers on the Sanctuary at St Patrick’s have been kindly donated in memory of Joan Neil.

St Alban’s School News: Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmas from all at St Alban’s School. Thank you for your continued and generous support throughout this term and we look forward to meeting up with you again in the new year. We return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

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@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

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.

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>.

Christmas gift Suggestions

To your enemy, Forgiveness.

To an opponent Tolerance.

To a friend, your Heart.

To a refugee, a Welcome.

To all, Charity.

To every child, a Good Example.

To yourself, Respect.

I take this opportunity to wish you all every joy and blessing this Christmas. I extend a very sincere thank you to all those volunteers who do so much in service of the community. Your commitment and generosity is inspiring. I thank you all for the welcome you have extended to me. It is greatly appreciated. I pray we will all know something of Christ’s peace this Christmas. Fr Martin

Prayer for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Faithful God, you always keep your promises. Strengthen our trust, as we long for your kingdom of justice and peace. Make us a people of hope, sharing with the world the love and joy that we have found in you.
Amen