

**First reading****1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28**

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.' And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 84(83)****Response: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

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| <p>1. How lovely is your dwelling place,<br/>O LORD of hosts.<br/>My soul is longing and yearning<br/>for the courts of the LORD. My heart<br/>and my flesh cry out to the living God.</p> <p>3. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.<br/>Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; look on the face of your anointed.</p> | <p>2. Blessed are they who dwell in your house,<br/>for ever singing your praise.<br/>Blessed the people whose strength is in you,<br/>whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.</p> |
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**Second reading****1 John 3:1-2, 21-24**

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**Gospel Acclamation**

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

**Gospel****Luke 2:41-52**

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

**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**

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

The Diocese of Hexham &amp; Newcastle Registered Charity Number: 1143450

**The Holy Family Year C - 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024****MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

| Sat | 28 <sup>th</sup> | The Holy Family     | St A | 6.00pm  | People of the Parishes          |
|-----|------------------|---------------------|------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Sun | 29 <sup>th</sup> |                     | St P | 10.00am | Gerry Toberty & Toberty Sisters |
| Mon | 30 <sup>th</sup> | Octave of Christmas | St P | 10.00am | In Thanksgiving (NF)            |
| Tue | 31 <sup>st</sup> | Octave of Christmas |      |         | No Service                      |
| Wed | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Mary Mother of God  | St A | 10.00am | Priest's Intention              |
|     |                  |                     | St P | 12.00pm | Allan Lavin                     |
| Thu | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | SS Basil & Gregory  | St P | 10.00am | Larry Gallagher                 |
| Fri | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Octave of Christmas |      |         | No Service                      |
| Sat | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | The Epiphany        | St A | 6.00pm  | People of the Parishes          |
| Sun | 5 <sup>th</sup>  |                     | St P | 10.00am | Nellie Armstrong                |

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. The Requiem Mass for Fr Kevin Cummins will be celebrated on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 10.00am at St Oswald's, Wrekenton. A funeral service will be held for Irene on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 are they who dwell in your house!***

In the **First Reading** we hear about the birth of Samuel and his consecration to God. God's purposes always win through.  
In the **Second Reading** we are told that we are God's children and are invited to live a life in keeping with this great dignity.  
The story of how the twelve-year-old Jesus got lost in Jerusalem (**The Gospel**) shows that misunderstandings can occur even in the best of families, and gives us a glimpse of the true identity of Jesus.  
We pray that we may recognise the gift of belonging to the family of God.

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

**Please Note** there will be no service this Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January at St Alban's due to the funeral Mass of Fr Kevin Cummins at St Oswald's Wrekenton that day.

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

*Thank you to everyone for your cards, gifts and good wishes for Christmas. Your generosity is wonderful. I extend a special word of thanks to all those who helped in any way with our Christmas services. I wish you all a very Happy, safe and prosperous New Year. Fr Martin*

**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](mailto: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

**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 29<sup>th</sup> 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>.

**Northern Catholic Calendars for 2025** are on sale at the back of church. Only **£3.50**. The number of copies is limited, so buy while you can.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Prayer for the Christmas Season**

*Christ Jesus, as we celebrate your birth in a stable we remember all those among us who are left out, who live in poverty, who are homeless and who long to go home. Make room in our hearts for our sisters and brothers, so that we may reach out to them in love. Amen*

**A New Year Prayer**

*Lord God of the seasons, Lover of the ages,  
Master of every moment:*

*You who are beyond time yet within all time.  
We return to you what you have given to us —  
the moments, the minutes, the hours, the days,  
the weeks, the months, and the year of 2024.*

*We thank you for the many graces of this last year,  
and we thank you for the gift of our lives, the events,  
and the relationships that have mattered to us during this year.*

*We have lived another year and we have died another year,  
and now you are granting us the beginnings of another.*

*We hand over to you the year, 2024, with all that it gave us  
and all that it took from us, knowing that both are necessary,  
just like our breath. We trust you in both the givings and the takings,  
the inhalings and the exhalings.*

*May every breath of 2025 be a breath of the  
Holy Spirit, joyfully received and joyfully returned,  
opening our hearts to the joy of your love for us.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*