

First reading

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.' But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?' So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen upon them. Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. David said, 'Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm The LORD is compassionate and gracious Ps 103(102)

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| <p>1. Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.</p> | <p>2. It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.</p> |
| <p>3. The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.</p> | <p>4. As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions.
As a father has compassion on his children,
the LORD'S compassion is on those who fear him.</p> |

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Brothers and Sisters: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. 'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'

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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Deacon Kevin Atkinson

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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

7th Sunday of Year C - 23rd February 2025

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat	22nd	7th Sun of Year C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parishes
Sun	23rd		St P	10.00am	Joan Neil & Kathleen & Tommy McKenna
Mon	24 th	Weekday	St P	12.45pm	<i>Requiem Mass: Aidan Doyle</i>
Tue	25 ^h	Weekday			<i>No Service</i>
Wed	26 th	Weekday	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Thu	27 th	Weekday	St P	10.00am	Peggy Costello
Fri	28 th	Weekday	St A	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Sat	1st	8th Sun of Year C	St A	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sun	2nd		St P	10.00am	Betty Goodacre

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 Aidan Doyle and Margaret Rose Quinn (Rosa) who died recently. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated for Aidan on Monday 24th Feb 12.45pm at St Patrick's, followed by burial at Heworth Burn Cemetery. A Funeral Service for Rosa will take place on Friday 28th Feb 1pm at Saltwell Crematorium. 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
The LORD is compassionate and gracious

This week's readings speak about the compassion, love and mercy of God, and of our calling as Christians to allow the love he has given us to be expressed in our thoughts, words and actions.

In the **First Reading**, David has been pursued by King Saul, who intends to kill him. By chance, he and his men come upon Saul asleep in a cave. Saul is totally in their power, but David chooses not to kill God's anointed king. Instead he simply removes Saul's weapon from him. By his actions, David makes his righteousness clear to everyone.

The **Second Reading** speaks of our human nature. We are created by God, as was Adam, in finite bodily form that lives on this earth. In Christ Jesus we find our true eternal being, made in his image. We are called to live our lives according to his likeness.

The **Psalm** speaks of the ways in which God loves and heals us. He does not treat us according to our faults, but with mercy and compassion.

"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful", Jesus urges us (**Gospel**). His sayings are challenging and perhaps seem hard to live out. But we need not be sad: our recognition of weakness is also a cause for joy. We cannot live the life of a Christian without his help but need to rely on him, allowing him to deepen his life in each one of us.

This week I pray for the grace to depend more fully on Jesus, that his compassion, mercy and love may be shown in my life.

RCIA: The next RCIA Meeting for the John Ingram Partnership will take place this **Tuesday 4th March, 6.30pm** in the parish centre at St Patrick's.

St Alban's School News: After the half term holiday we will begin journeying towards Easter during Lent. You are all very welcome to join us for Lenten Celebrations of the Word in St Alban's Church each Friday at 2.45pm.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: Would you like to register as a helper for the Hexham and Newcastle 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? The pilgrimage will take place between Friday 25 July to Friday 1 August 2025. Adult and Youth section volunteer registration forms are now open and live until 31st March 2025. Please register via one of the following links. Thank you very much for registering your help and support. If you would like any more information about becoming a registered helper on the pilgrimage, please email: lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk or visit our Facebook page: *Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes*. Thank you so much for your support and for volunteering to help on our Diocesan Pilgrimage.

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp- Volunteering is a Work of Heart: Holy Island Children's Camp is looking for new volunteers to help in their Holiday Centre on Holy Island. Full training and support will be given and would suit someone wanting to give back to the Community by helping 9–12-year-olds have fun for a week. They are also keen to attract people who would like to help by volunteering in the Kitchen/Dining room and with caretaking. Term Time Camps need lots of volunteers. By running term time camps, Summer Vinnies Holidays for children can be sustained. Further information can be found at <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or if you'd like to chat about the role please email BarbaraT@svp.org.uk

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear **Tony Flannery** speak about **The Bible, history or myth? Why it is important to know**. The talk will be given twice at **Holy Name** parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle, on **Tuesday 11 March, at 2.30pm – and again at 7.30pm**.

Job Vacancy at the Diocese: HR Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – 30 hours a week. Closing date: 27 February.: Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Relaunch of the Diocesan Youth Council: YMT and the Diocese are thrilled to announce the upcoming relaunch of the Diocesan Youth Council. This initiative, paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, offers a space for young leaders to develop skills and engage in meaningful dialogue about the future of our Church. The first meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18 May 2025, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. We are actively seeking motivated students from Year 9 and above to join this transformative council. For more details on the council, how to nominate candidates, and to view the full announcement, visit: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/announcing-the-relaunch-of-the-diocesan-youth-council/>

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