



TO OUR PARISHES OF
ST. MARY & ST. THOMAS AQUINAS',
STELLA
& ST. AGNES', CRAWCROOK.

Parishes' Landline & answering machine: 0191 4142749;

Mobile No.: 07971 354750 (Fr. Rose)

Retired in residence at St. Agnes', Crawcrook: Rev. Fr. J. James.

Fifth Sunday of Easter. 3rd May, 2026.

Saturday 2 nd May	Vigil Mass	- Stella	5.00 p.m.	Steve Catlin.
Sunday 3 rd May	5 th of Easter	- St. Agnes - Stella	9.00 a.m. 10.15 a.m.	People of the Parishes. Urszula Antosik.
Monday 4 th	(The English Martyrs.)	- Stella	9.15 a.m.	The November Book.
Tuesday 5 th		- Stella - St. Agnes'	9.15 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	The Holy Souls. The November Book.
Wednesday 6 th		- St. Agnes' - Stella	10.00 a.m.	Priest's Intention. No Mass today.
Thursday 7 th		- Stella - St. Agnes'	10.00 a.m.	No Mass today. Jack & Elsie Kelly.
Friday 8 th		- St. Agnes' - Stella	6.00 p.m.	No Mass today. Living & Deceased Members Madine Family.
Saturday 9 th May		- Stella	10.00 a.m.	Our Lady's Intentions.
	Vigil Mass	- Stella	5.00 p.m.	Bob & Moira Houston.
Sunday 10 th May	6 th of Easter.	- St. Agnes' - Stella	9.00 a.m. 10.15 a.m.	Ralph Antony Simpson. Agnes & Raymond Forster.

Safeguarding. Our parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance, the CSSA and Diocesan policies at all times. Our Parish reps are:- Rachael Taylor (Stella) & Janet Dale (Crawcrook). The Diocesan Team can be contacted on (0191) 243 3305.

Confessions:- Daily after Masses. No Confessions next Saturday.

Please pray for: the sick:- Mark Armstrong; Jenny, Kathleen & Simon Burns; D. C.; Chloe Cant; Tommy Carr; Valerie Coleman; Michael Hogan; Avril & Paul Kimmitt Joyce Madine; Margaret March; Annie O'Connor; Jessica Rich; Natasha Rose; Matthew Stewart; Fr. Alan MacKnight.

Recently deceased:- Bill Conner (Requiem at St. Agnes' on 14th May at 10a.m.); Tony Noakes (Requiem at Stella on 15th May at 10.30 a.m.); Norah Veitch (Requiem at Stella)

Offertory Procession. This week: Fraser Loughran & Family (Sat.); Frank Lamb & Family (Sunday);
 Next week: Rory Loughran & Family (Saturday); Nathan Maltman & Family (Sunday).

200 Club Weekly Winner. This week's winner: C. Madine, No. 97. Congratulations Christine!

Parish First Holy Communion Group 2025/26. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers:- Hope Abiye; Lola Beadling; Nieve Bell; Jessica Bott; Harry Burns; Oliver Dickinson; Lola Draper; Indie Fitzgerald; Lucy Harman; Amelia Henderson; Freya Jordan; Jonas Kenna; Frank Lamb; Amari McClelland; Nathan Maltman; Lucy Miller; Dylan Lennon; Fraser & Rory Loughran; Mia Pow; Florence Rafferty; Ella, Olivia & Sophia Reed; Filip Sikorski; Jessica Smith; Emily Spoons; Erin Spoons; Eliza Thew; Noah Wightman.



Thank You! For your continuing generosity. A further £150 has been received in donations towards work at Stella.

ANNUAL MAY PROCESSION. Our Annual May Procession takes place at Stella today (Sunday), starting in the walled garden at 10.15 a.m. and then processing with the statue of Our Blessed Lady up the lane, then down the avenue into church. If you would like to join us, you will be very welcome.

Main Roof Work at Stella.

The new roof at Stella is now complete! The roofers are carrying out some running repairs to the remaining Westmorland slate pitches whilst on site, and will be renewing the garage roof too. Hopefully, the remaining slates will be swiftly moved so that we can have some more of the on-site parking back in regular use.

Redecoration of the church at Stella.

Following all the roofing work, it's now time to be looking at refreshing the interior of the church. Some areas have been touched up over the last twelve years, but the vast majority of the church has not seen fresh paint since the fire in Fr. Noel's time – over twenty-five years ago. I am currently in the process of receiving quotations – all being well, the work will be carried out over the summer.

Second Collection this Weekend. Just a reminder that with this weekend being the first in the month of May, there will be our usual monthly second collection – it will cover the collections for The Little Sisters, The Northern Brethren Fund, World Communications and the Lay Training Fund.

Stella Parish 200 Club Envelopes. There will be some adjustments to the numbering of the 200 Club, as explained by Terry last weekend. If you wish to switch to paying annually or by direct debit, have a word with Terry. We have spare numbers, if you would like to join!



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARIES – SUMMER FAYRE DATE!

The annual Summer Fayre at Stella will be taking place at Stella on **Sunday, 5th July at 2p.m.** It is NOT the Wimbledon Finals weekend! Please do enter this in your diaries. If you have items for the fayre, you can start bringing them along now. If you have prizes for our Summer Draw, these can be handed over to Fr. Rose.



Have you ever noticed? After the Lord's Prayer, the priest breaks the sacred Host during Mass. Why is this action done so deliberately? This is called the "Fraction Rite," and carries deep spiritual meaning. The breaking of the Host recalls the sacrifice and sharing of the Body of Jesus Christ and prepares the faithful to receive Holy Communion.

First, the priest breaks the Host because Jesus Himself broke bread at the Last Supper. At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples. The priest repeats this same action during Mass to remain faithful to Christ's example and command. It is a continuation of Christ's action.

Second, the breaking of the Host symbolizes Christ's Body given for us on the Cross. Although Christ's bones were not physically broken, His Body was offered in sacrifice for the salvation of the world. The breaking of the Host represents this total self-giving love. It is a symbol of sacrifice.

Third, the priest breaks the Host to prepare it for sharing among the faithful. In the early Church, one loaf of bread was broken and distributed to the community as a sign of unity. Today, the breaking of the Host still represents that believers share in one Body and one faith. It is a preparation for Communion.

Fourth, the action expresses unity among believers. Even though many receive Communion, all share in the one Body of Christ. The breaking of the Host reminds the faithful that they are united as one family in faith. It is a sign of unity.

Fifth, a small piece of the Host is placed into the chalice after it is broken. After breaking the Host, the priest places a small fragment into the chalice containing the Precious Blood. This gesture symbolizes the unity of Christ's Body and Blood and recalls the Resurrection, Christ is alive, whole, and present. It is a sign of wholeness and life. The Bible records the action of Jesus that inspires this ritual: "He took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them."

- Luke 22:19 In the end, the priest breaks the Host at the altar to follow Christ's example, recall His sacrifice, prepare for Communion, and express the unity of the Church. That simple breaking of the Host reminds the faithful that Christ gave Himself completely so that all may share in His life.

Message from Norah Dixon at St. Agnes'. The Summer Draw tickets will soon be available. Any prizes would be very much appreciated.

Weekly chuckle!

Two blondes were on their way to Disneyland and came to a fork in the road. The sign read: "Disneyland Left." So they went home.

My boss texted me, "Send me one of your funny jokes, Pete."

I replied, "I'm working at the moment, Sir. I will send you one later."

He replied, "That was fantastic, send me another one."

