



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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter. 17th May, 2026.

Saturday 16 th May	Vigil Mass	- Stella	5.00 p.m.	Living & Deceased Members Todd Family.
Sunday 17 th May	7 th of Easter	- St. Agnes - Stella	9.00 a.m. 10.15 a.m.	Jack & Elsie Kelly. Pat & Brian Morrison.
Monday 18 th	(Pope St. John I)	- Stella	9.15 a.m.	Kath Airey.
Tuesday 19 th	(St. Dunstan.)	- Stella - St. Agnes'	9.15 a.m.	Dario di Carlo. No Mass today.
Wednesday 20 th	(St. Bernardine.) Holy Day Vigil Mass	- St. Agnes' - Stella	10.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Priest's Intention. John Middleton.
Thursday 21 st	(St. Christopher M.)	- Stella - St. Agnes'	9.15 a.m. 10.00a.m.	The Holy Souls. Priest's Intention.
Friday 22 nd	(St. Rita of Cascia.)	- St. Agnes' - Stella	9.15 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	The Conner Family. The November Book.
Saturday 23 rd May	Vigil Mass	- Stella - Stella	10.00 a.m. 5.00 p.m.	Our Lady's Intentions. John Sloan.
Sunday 24 th May	Pentecost.	- St. Agnes' - Stella	9.00 a.m. 10.15 a.m.	Michael Moffitt. Urszula Antosik.

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. Confessions:- daily after Mass & Sat. 4.15 – 4.45pm. Exposition: Sat. 4.15 – 4.45.

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:-** Andy Walsh. Requiescat in pace.

Offertory Procession. This week: Amari McLelland & Family (Sat.); Jessica Smith & Family (Sunday);
 Next week: Lucy Miller & Family (Saturday); First Communion Children (Sunday).

200 Club Weekly Winner. This week's winner: M. Kearney, No. 32. Congratulations Mary!

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; Amari McClelland; Nathan Maltman; Lucy Miller; Dylan Lennon; Fraser & Rory Loughran; Mia Pow; Florence Rafferty; Ella, Olivia & Sophia Reed; Filip Sikorski; Jessica Smith; Emily Spoor; Erin Spoor; Eliza Thew; Noah Wightman.



Redecoration of the church at Stella. Following all the roofing work, we hope to refresh the interior of the church. The vast majority of the church has not seen fresh paint in over twenty-five years. We are in the process of receiving quotations – all being well, and depending upon the costs involved, the work will be carried out over the summer.



Stella Summer Raffle. Tickets are on sale— just £1 a strip. Prizes include:- Laphroaig Quarter Cask 48% whisky; 1 litre Smirnoff Vodka; Whitney-Neil Hand Crafted 43% Gin; 1 litre Napoleon Brandy; Jameson's Whiskey; 1 litre Baileys; Jose Cuervo Especial Tequila; Spiced 40% Rum; Graham's Ruby Port; Limoncello; Presentation Pack of Wines; Kath Kidston of London Hand Care set.

SUMMER FAYRE DATE! The annual Summer Fayre will be at Stella on **Sunday, 5th July at 2p.m.** It is NOT the Wimbledon Finals weekend! Enter this in your diaries. If you have items for the fayre, bring them along now. Tombola prizes can be handed to Fr. Rose. If you wish to help with the stalls again this year, please do sign up on the sheet that's on the table at the back of church.



LINKS WITH OUR PARISHES' PRIMARY SCHOOLS. As we continue to discern how the Lord's Mission may become our own, great progress is being made by our working party. The importance of good, strong family/school/parish links has been stressed by so many within our parish and school communities. From this week, our primary schools will be sending out our parishes' newsletter in conjunction with the weekly school communications. I wish to thank our head teachers, Mrs Wood and Mr Craig for their on-going support for our parishes and families, as well as our working party who are committing so much thought, time and effort in helping us to discern a constructive way forward, as we work ever more closely together.

Churches Together The annual service of prayer for Christian Unity will be on Sunday, 24th May at 3.00 p.m. at Holy Cross in Ryton Village. Please do come along and join us.

Roof Work at Stella. The roofers are renewing the flat and pitched roofs on the presbytery. The garage roof is also in desperate need of renewal. Hopefully, the remaining slates will be swiftly moved so that we can have more of the on-site parking back in regular use... ..and have the funds to carry out the additional work which should see us through the next 60 years!



Stella Parish 200 Club Envelopes. We have quite a few spare numbers, if you would like to join! Just complete an application form from the back of the church.

Have you ever heard someone say, "I'm going to attend Mass" while another says, "I'm going to offer Mass?"

Which is correct? It may seem a small difference, but it touches something deep about what the Mass truly is and how we participate in it. **Firstly**, the Mass is a sacrifice, not just a gathering, a meeting or a prayer service. It is the representation of the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, made present in a sacramental way. The Bible reminds us of this reality: "This is my Body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." - 1 Corinthians. So when we speak about the Mass, we not only talk about attending, we speak about entering into Christ's sacrifice.

Secondly, we do attend Mass, because physically we go and are present, but the Church does not see us as observers watching something happen. We participate fully, praying, listening, responding, and uniting ourselves spiritually to what happens on the altar. Attending Mass is real, but is only part of the fuller meaning.

Thirdly, we also offer Mass with the priest. This is where the deeper truth comes in. The faithful do not just attend, they also offer the Mass, but not in the same way as the priest. We unite our prayers, struggles, thanksgiving, and intentions with Christ's sacrifice being offered on the altar. The Bible expresses this spiritual offering: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." - Romans 12:1. This shows that every believer is invited to spiritually offer themselves with Christ during the Mass.

Fourthly, does the priest celebrate or offer the Mass? Acting in the person of Jesus, the priest celebrates and offers the Mass. He celebrates the Mass because he leads the liturgy. More importantly, he offers the sacrifice of the Mass, making present Christ's sacrifice on behalf of the Church. This is a unique role given through ordination. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1367) explains this clearly: The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice. So the priest offers the sacrifice sacramentally, while the faithful join spiritually.

Fifthly, the difference is about role, not importance. Sometimes people think that because the priest "offers" the Mass, the people are less involved; that is not the case. The priest has a distinct role, but the whole Church participates. The faithful offer their lives, prayers, and intentions, united with Christ's offering. Together, it becomes one act of worship. We all attend Mass and offer Mass. We attend because we are physically present, but also offer because we unite ourselves to Christ's sacrifice. The priest, on the other hand, celebrates and offers the Mass in a unique way, acting in the person of Christ. So the next time you go to Mass, remember; you are not just attending, you are participating in and offering something sacred to God.

Weekly chuckle!

Susie: My husband is a great handyman. He can repair almost anything.

Jane: My mother always taught me to beware of the man that can fix everything. You'll never get anything new!

