



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

Parishes' Landline & answering machine: 0191 4142749;
Retired in residence at St. Agnes', Crawcrook: Rev. Fr. J. James.

SS Peter & Paul. 28th June, 2026.

Saturday 27 th June	Vigil Mass	- Stella	5.00 p.m.	Joe Rutherford.
Sunday 28 th June	SS Peter & Paul	- St. Agnes'	9.00 a.m.	The November Book.
		- Stella	10.15 a.m.	Kathleen & Alex – Diamond Wedding.
Monday 29 th		- Stella	9.15 a.m.	The November Book.
Tuesday 30 th	(First Roman Martyrs.)	- Stella	9.15 a.m.	The Holy Souls.
Wednesday 1 st July	(St. Oliver Plunket)	- Stella	9.15 a.m.	Deceased McTaff & Price Family.
Thursday 2 nd		- Stella	9.15 a.m.	The Holy Souls.
Friday 3 rd	(St. Thomas.)	- St. Agnes'	9.15 a.m.	Bill Conner.
		- Stella	6.00 p.m.	Bill Robson.
Saturday 4 th July	(St. Elizabeth.)	- Stella	10.00 a.m.	Our Lady's Intentions.
	Vigil Mass	- Stella	5.00 p.m.	Robert McDarby.
Sunday 5 th July	14 th of the Year	- St. Agnes'	9.00 a.m.	Thomas Kelly.
		- Stella	10.15 a.m.	Alice Phillipson.

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:- No Confessions this week. Exposition: No Exposition this week.

Please pray for: the sick:- Mark Armstrong; 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.

Offertory Procession. This week: Olivia Reed & Family (Sat.); Lola Draper & Family (Sunday);
 Next week: Sophia Reed & Family (Sat.); Amelia Henderson & Family (Sunday).

200 Club Weekly Winner. This week's winner: E. McLoughlin, No. 39. Congratulations Eileen!

First Holy Communions 2025/26 – Thank You! Many thanks to our dedicated teams of catechists who have given so much of their time this academic year to help to prepare the children of our parishes for their First Confession and First Holy Communion. Thank you also to the children's parents, who have been so supportive of their children and our parishes' programme. If anyone is interested in joining our team of catechists for 2026/27, please do have a word with Fr. Rose.



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.

Many Thanks!

I gratefully acknowledge receipt of a cheque at the beginning of this month for the sum of £1,000 and £100 cash (USA) towards the cost of the roof work that is being carried out at Stella. Thank you for your continuing generosity to our parishes and our projects locally and overseas.





STELLA SUMMER FAYRE IT'S NEXT WEEKEND!

The advertising banners are now up on the gates and the railings - **Sunday, 5th July at 2p.m.** 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. **If you can help to put the tables up on Saturday at 10.30, it would be greatly appreciated.**

Have any items for the fayre? Do bring them along to church now. Items can either be left under the table at the back of church or taken down to the meeting room. Please don't leave it until the last minute – it gives us time to get everything organised for the stalls with a little time to spare!

Thank You! We're delighted that Fr. James is having a good break this year, taking full advantage of being retired! We are, therefore, very grateful to Canon John for celebrating our weekend Masses and for the daily Mass at Stella.

St. Agnes' Summer Draw. Prizes:- Hamper; Meat voucher; Summer Double bed throw; 9" electric fan; Garden Centre voucher; 1L whisky; bottles of wine; beach towel; sweets etc. Tickets: £5 a book. Drawn Sunday, 19th July.



Refugee Week 2026.

Thank you for your generous response to the request for toiletry donations during the Refugee Week. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.



Parishes' Monthly Second Collection.

Next weekend is the first in the month of July. Our July collection will be taken for the Apostleship of the Sea and the Development Fund. Please use the yellow envelopes for this collection if you have a Gift Aid to the parish.

WHY THE CHURCH READS THE OLD TESTAMENT, EVEN AFTER CHRIST.

Some people quietly wonder: "If Jesus has come, why does the Church still read the Old Testament?" The Church's answer is simple, deep, and unshakable: Christ did not erase the Old Testament, He fulfilled it. 1.

Jesus did not reject the Old Testament. He prayed it. He quoted it. He lived it. After the Resurrection, Scripture tells us: "Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them what referred to Him in all the Scriptures." (Luke 24:27) For Jesus, the Old Testament was not outdated, it was about Him.

2. The Old Testament is the language Christ speaks. Without the Old Testament, we would not understand:- the Lamb of God; sacrifice; covenant; priesthood; altar; blood; Passover. The New Testament does not replace these ideas, it assumes them. When the Church reads the Old Testament at Mass, she is teaching us how to recognize Christ.

3. The Church reads the Old Testament through Christ. The Church does not read the Old Testament alone. She reads it in the light of Christ. That is why, at Mass, the Old Testament reading is followed by the Psalm and then completed by the Gospel. What was promised is shown fulfilled. What was hidden is revealed.

4. The Old Testament shows God's faithfulness The Old Testament tells the long story of God:- calling; forgiving; correcting; saving. By keeping these readings, the Church proclaims: God does not change His mind about humanity. God keeps His promises. Christ is not God starting again. Christ is God finishing what He began.

5. Without the Old Testament, the Cross makes no sense. The Cross is not an accident. It is the fulfilment of sacrifice. Isaiah's suffering servant, the Passover lamb, the blood of the covenant, the bronze serpent lifted up, all point forward. Remove the Old Testament, and the Cross becomes tragedy, not salvation.

The Church reads the Old Testament not because she lives in the past, but because she knows where Christ comes from. The Old Testament is the root. Christ is the flower... ..and a flower without roots cannot live.

This week's chuckles!

A guy is walking down the street with his friend. He says to his friend, "I'm just a walking economy." His friend replies, "What do you mean?"

"It's like this: My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and the combination of these factors is putting me into a deep depression.

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?"

The pastor replied, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Which service? The 8:00 or the 9:30?"

