St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College

'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze'

Newsletter: Friday 13th November 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 25:14-30) we hear the Parable of the Talents in which Jesus reminds us that God has given each of us unique gifts and opportunities. The servants who used their talents wisely helped them grow, while the one who hid his talent out of fear missed the chance to make a difference.

As a school community, we are called to use our gifts with confidence and generosity. Whether through learning, helping others, showing kindness, or taking on new challenges, every talent has value. This week, let's ask ourselves: How can I use my gifts to make a positive difference to those around me? When we share our talents, we help our whole community flourish.

House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Bailey B (9H1)**
Hilda Highest Credits: **Jeorgy L (8H1)**
Hilda Attendance Hero: **Claudia C (11CCO)**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Hope R (7O1) and Seb B (10O2)**
Oswald Highest Credits: **Parker C (7O1)**
Oswald Attendance Hero: **Nikita M (9O1)**

Columba Student of the Week: **Harry S (9C2)**
Columba Highest Credits: **Savannah M (7C1)**
Columba Attendance Hero: **Asa A (8C2)**





Remembrance Day



On Remembrance Day, we were proud to come together as a community with our Catholic feeder schools and students from our school who are members of local uniformed services. Through prayer, reflection, and acts of remembrance, we honoured those who have served and sacrificed for others. The occasion reminded us of the importance of peace, gratitude, and service, values that continue to inspire our school community today.

We were also proud to see a number of our students representing local uniformed organisations at Remembrance services across the community over the weekend. Their commitment to service and their respectful participation in these important acts of remembrance reflected the values of dedication, respect, and citizenship that we seek to foster in our school.



Our thanks also go to the Craft Club, who designed and created our Remembrance wreaths this year. Their thoughtful work made a valuable contribution to our commemorations and demonstrated the importance of using our talents in service of the school and wider community. The wreaths served as a powerful symbol of remembrance, honouring those who have served and sacrificed for others.

Christmas Appeal 2026

It is that time of year again when we launch our Christmas Appeal. This year, we are once again proud to support Norah's North Pole, helping to bring some Christmas magic to children and young people who may otherwise go without.

If you are able to donate any new items, they would be greatly appreciated.



Suggested donations include:

- **Toys**
- **Games**
- **Books**
- **Gifts suitable for teenagers**
- **Arts and crafts items**
- **Toiletries and gift sets for young people**

All donations must be new and unused.

Your generosity can make a real difference to a child or young person this Christmas. Thank you in advance for your support and kindness.

Attendance and New Video Game Releases

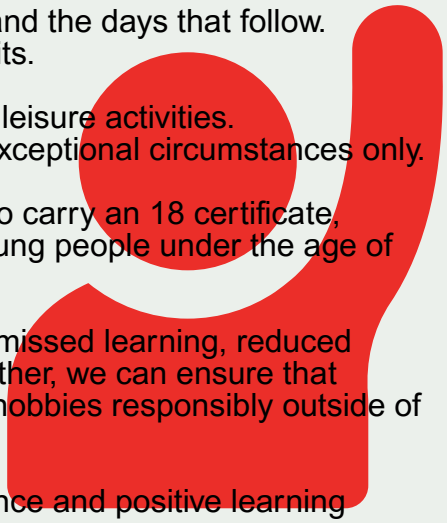
This month there are two highly anticipated video game releases, which are expected to generate significant interest among young people, including Grand Theft Auto VI, due for release on **19 November 2026**, and the annual football gaming titles such as Football Manager 27, released on **10 November 2026**.

Whilst we appreciate that many of our students enjoy gaming as a hobby, we would like to remind families of the importance of maintaining excellent attendance and ensuring that children attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.

Historically, schools across the country have reported increased levels of absence, lateness and tiredness following the release of major video games. In some cases, students have requested days off to play newly released games or have stayed up late, impacting their concentration, wellbeing and learning the following day.

We ask parents and carers to support us by:

- Ensuring that children attend school as normal on release days and the days that follow.
- Encouraging sensible gaming habits and healthy screen-time limits.
- Monitoring late-night gaming, particularly on school nights.
- Reminding children that education must always take priority over leisure activities.
- Ensuring that any absence from school is for genuine illness or exceptional circumstances only.

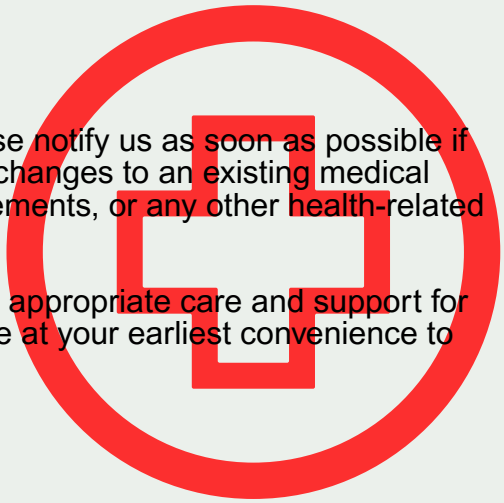


We would also like to highlight that Grand Theft Auto VI is expected to carry an 18 certificate, meaning it is intended for adults and is not suitable for children or young people under the age of 18.

Every lesson counts. Missing even a single day of school can mean missed learning, reduced progress and increased pressure when catching up. By working together, we can ensure that students remain focused on their education whilst still enjoying their hobbies responsibly outside of school hours.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting excellent attendance and positive learning habits.

Medical Information Update



To help us keep all students safe and supported in school, please notify us as soon as possible if your child develops a new medical condition or if there are any changes to an existing medical condition. This includes diagnoses, allergies, medication requirements, or any other health-related information that the school should be aware of.

Keeping our records up to date ensures that we can provide the appropriate care and support for your child during the school day. Please contact the school office at your earliest convenience to update your child's medical information.

Celebrating Rose's Success!



Congratulations to year 7 student Rose, who recently achieved an excellent result in her Rock 'n' Roll dance competition, placing third in the final alongside her dance partner, Ella, who attends a different school.

Having only turned 12 last week, Rose was competing in the Under 14s category for the very first time, making her achievement even more impressive. We are incredibly proud of her determination, talent and success, and look forward to hearing about her future accomplishments.

Sports Leaders Go Above and Beyond!



Our Sports Leaders have made us proud once again! Their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to volunteering in sport have earned them some fantastic awards. Together, these six students have contributed an incredible 477 volunteering hours—a wonderful achievement!

Congratulations to each of our award winners:

- **Daniel S**- 43 hours- Silver Award
- **Neave A**- 42 hours- Silver Award
- **Lucy P**- 35 hours- Silver Award
- **Nyla T**- 53 hours- Gold Award
- **Evie L**- 117 hours- Platinum Award
- **William O**- 187 hours- Platinum Award and Young Volunteer of the Year Award



A special mention goes to **William O**, his outstanding 187 hours earned him the Young Volunteer of the Year Award for completing the most volunteering hours overall. What an achievement!

Every one of these students deserves recognition for the time, energy and care they have given to supporting sport. They are fantastic ambassadors for our school and inspiring role models for their peers.

We are extremely proud of you all. Keep aiming high, making a difference and doing amazing things.

Remembrance Parade and Poppy Appeal



We are incredibly proud of Emily and James, who represented their Scouts and Explorers group at the Remembrance Parade in Seaham on Sunday.

As part of the service, James volunteered to deliver the reading on behalf of the Scout group and did an outstanding job. He received excellent feedback from his leaders for his confident and respectful contribution to the occasion.

Emily and James also gave their time on Saturday to support the Poppy Appeal, helping to sell poppies at Asda. Their commitment to supporting the local community and honouring those who have served is truly commendable.

Well done to both students for being such wonderful ambassadors for their Scout group and our school.

Congratulations to Former St Bede's Student Ellen-Marie Atkinson



A huge congratulations to former St Bede's student Ellen-Marie Atkinson on making her senior debut for Durham Women in their FA Cup fixture against Everton at the iconic Goodison Park. What a fantastic achievement!

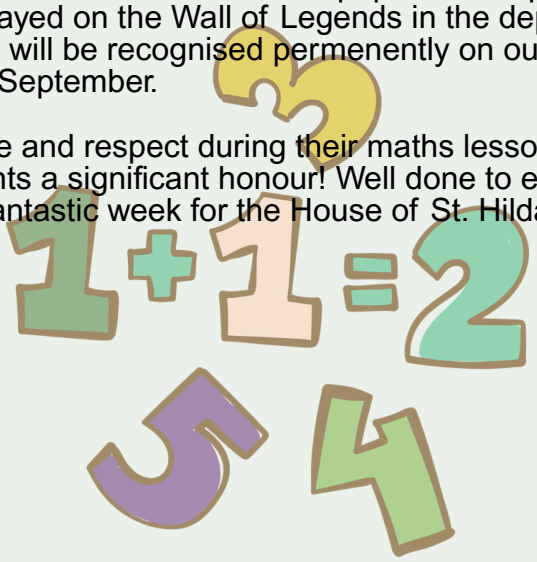
During her time at St Bede's, Ellen-Marie was a valued member of our girls' football programme and played an important role in our ESFA Girls' National Cup-winning team in 2024. Her commitment, talent and determination were evident throughout her school career, and it is wonderful to see her continuing to progress at the highest levels of the game.

We are incredibly proud of all that she has achieved and look forward to following her journey in the years ahead. Congratulations, Ellen-Marie, on this outstanding accomplishment. We wish you every success for the future and hope this is the first of many senior appearances to come.

Maths Wall of Legends

Each week, every member of the Maths Department's names one of their pupils to be appointed as a Maths Legend. These pupils have their name displayed on the Wall of Legends in the department, receive a personalised postcard to bring home and will be recognised permenently on our Roll of Honour for this academic year when unveiled next September.

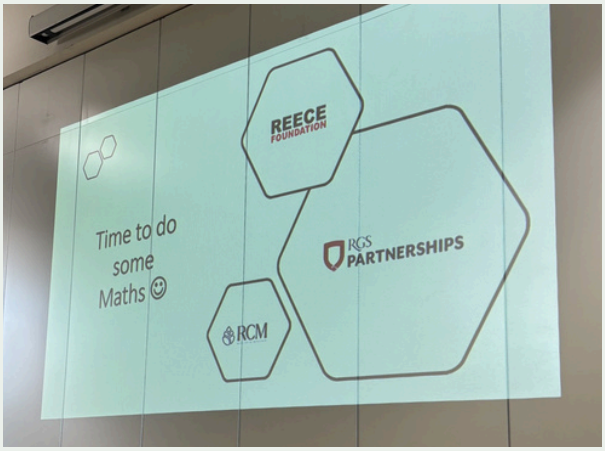
Maths Legends personify determination, excellence and respect during their maths lessons and, with most teachers teaching over 100 pupils, it represents a significant honour! Well done to each of the pupils below who have been named this week. A fantastic week for the House of St. Hilda in particular - well done, the wall is red!



Mr Fowler- Carl D (11JFO)
Miss Houghton- Oliver R (8C2)
Mrs Keniry- Cruz M (10H2)
Mr Marrs- Ola C (7H1)
Mr Taylor- Courtney W (10H2)
Mr Teasdale- Libby S (7H1)
Dr Treanor- Jacob H (8H2)

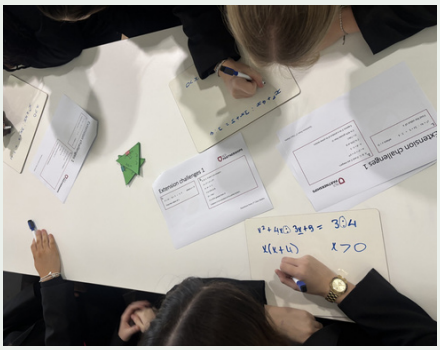
Maths Visitor from Royal Grammar School, Newcastle

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Fiona Swift to school. Since January 2025, the Maths Department has been in partnership with RGS, with over 60 pupils taking part weekly in either GCSE Further Maths or GCSE Maths revision lessons.



Fiona spent time with some of our Year 10 pupils who are interested in taking the additional qualification of GCSE Further Maths as well as leading a 90 revision masterclass for our Year 11 Further Mathematicians prior to their mock exam. Pupils were engaged, determined and keen throughout and Mrs Swift was really impressed by the culture she experienced.

We are excited for how our partnership is continuing to develop and we look forward to sharing some more exciting news in the weeks ahead!







History Workshop Brings the Reality of the First World War to Life

On 11 November, Armistice Day, Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE History students took part in a memorable and thought-provoking workshop to support their studies of Britain: Health and the People.

The session focused on the experiences of Thomas Parker, a First World War soldier, and the physical and medical challenges faced by soldiers on the battlefield. Through an engaging and powerful performance, an actor brought Thomas Parker's story to life, recounting his experiences of war and providing students with a vivid insight into the realities of service on the Western Front.

Students listened with great interest and maturity, asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating an excellent understanding of the historical issues being explored. The workshop also gave students the opportunity to handle and examine a range of historical artefacts, including a genuine Brodie helmet worn by British soldiers during the First World War. These artefacts helped students to make tangible connections with the period they are studying and further deepened their understanding of battlefield conditions and injuries.

The timing of the event made it particularly meaningful. Taking place on Armistice Day, the workshop provided an opportunity for students to reflect on the sacrifices made by servicemen and women during times of conflict. Throughout the session, students conducted themselves with the utmost respect and dignity, recognising the significance of the day and honouring the memory of those who served.

Events like these play an invaluable role in bringing history to life and enriching our students' understanding of the past beyond the classroom.









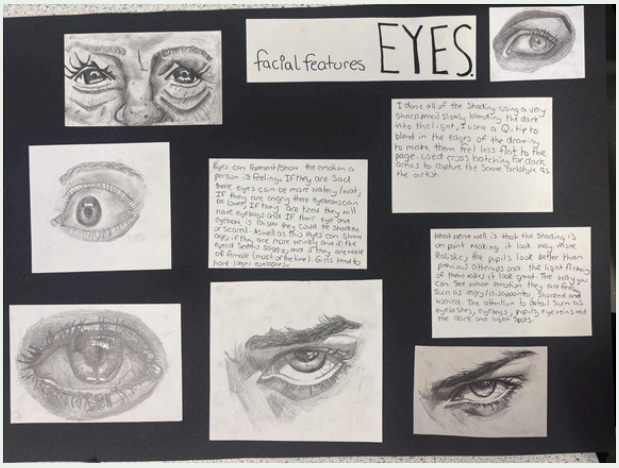
Showcasing Creativity

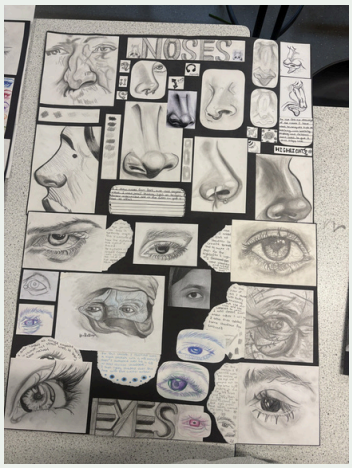
Eye And Nose Studies

In Mr Billingham's class, our talented young artists have been developing their observational drawing skills, carefully exploring proportion, tone and shading to create realistic studies of eyes and noses.

The attention to detail and progress shown throughout this project has been fantastic.

Well done to **Saniya, Biramrit, Daniel and Max** for their outstanding work!





Year 10 Photography

Year 10 Photography students have been exploring portrait photography inspired by contemporary artist Hattie Stewart. Using their own photographs as a starting point, they experimented with bold colours, playful doodles and graphic line work to transform portraits into vibrant and expressive works of art. Through this project, students developed both their photography and illustration skills while exploring creative ways to communicate personality and identity. The finished pieces demonstrate a fantastic combination of creativity, confidence and artistic flair, resulting in a colourful collection of unique and eye-catching portraits inspired by Stewart's distinctive style.





Spanish Educake League

We would like to recognise and celebrate the fantastic homework and revision efforts of our KS4 students in Spanish on Educake. A special mention goes to Leo W, who has answered an incredible 2,148 Spanish questions so far. This is a remarkable achievement and a wonderful example of dedication, perseverance and commitment to learning. Well done, Leo!

¡Excelente trabajo!



Spanish Stars

We are delighted to announce this week's Expertos de Español! These students have really stood out to their teachers in Spanish lessons this week. ¡Enhorabuena!

Señorita García- Harry W (11LHA)- Excellent progress in the writing mock exam, demonstrating growing confidence and some lovely developing structures in written responses. Keep up the good work!

Señorita Atkinson- Harry S (11JFO)- Excellent enthusiasm and attitude to learning in lessons, reflected in the fantastic progress he has made in his Spanish mock writing exam. Keep up the great work!

English Stars of the Week

A huge well done to our English Stars of the Week, who have impressed their teachers with their hard work, commitment and achievements in English lessons. Whether through excellent class contributions, outstanding written work, or a positive attitude towards learning, each of these students has demonstrated the qualities that make them true stars. Congratulations to all of this week's nominees!



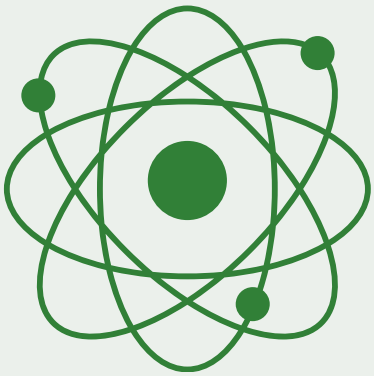
Miss Barkley- **Zach L (7O1)**
Mr Johnson- **Cataliya S (8O1)**
Ms Hamilton- **Amelia C (10C2)**
Mrs Dolan- **Bailey B (9H2)**
Mrs Wild- **Nathan C (11JFO)**
Mrs Cook- **Olivia R (Year 11)**
Miss Milburn- **Eldon L (Year 8)**
Mr Logan- **Shannon R (Year 9)**

Keep up the fantastic work and continue to let your talents shine both in and beyond the classroom!

Lab coat Legends

In science we want to award and celebrate the excellent effort put in by our different students. Working hard in science lessons builds problem-solving skills, encourages curiosity, and helps students understand the world around them. It shows determination by often involving analysing complex problems, predicting outcomes and conducting experiments.

Mrs Hayward- **Moses I (13CH1)**
Mr Moss- **Evie L (10H2)**
Mr Griffths- **Mercy S (10C2)**
Miss Armstrong- **Layton W (11JMI)**
Mr Day- **Leo C (10H2)**
Mr Balls- **Emily M (10C1)**
Mrs Lord- **Tilly-A T (10C1)**
Mr Gooch- **Harry P (8C1)**

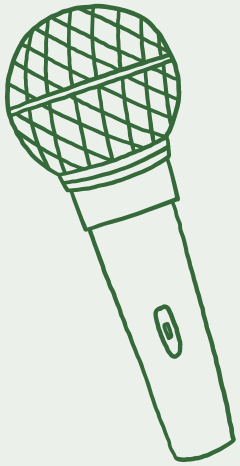




Musicians of the Week

This week, we are delighted to recognise students who have gone above and beyond in their musical endeavours. Through practice, perseverance and a love of music, they have made a fantastic contribution to our school's vibrant musical community.

Mr Robinson



Ola C (7H1)- Detailed answers in lesson and well presented worked

Tianna D (8C2)- Superb and neat composition work

Lucy T (9H1)- Excellent KT performance of With a little help from my friends

Mr Teasdale

Savannah M (7C1)- Excellent performance through the ensemble singing activity

Jacob M (8C1)- Excellent compositional skills through the 16 bar rhythm task

Evan Turns (9H2)- Great ensemble performance of Wonderwall by Oasis





Humanities Students of the week

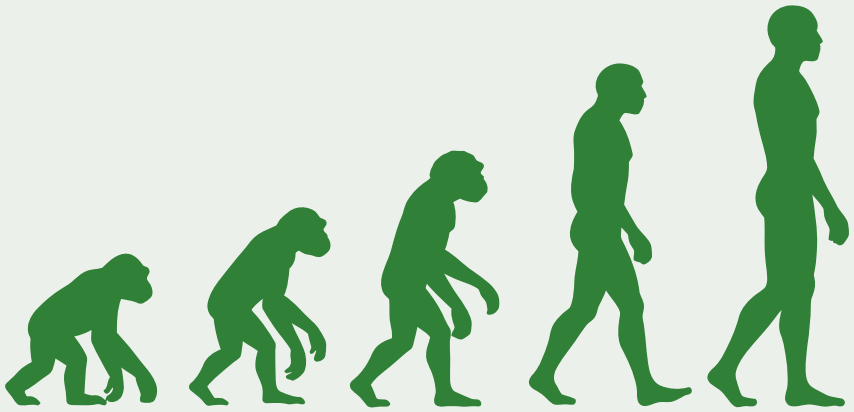
The following students have been recognised this week by their Geography and History teachers as working really hard and producing excellent work in their lessons. Well Done.

History Heroes

Miss Jackson- **Aaron K (10O2)**
Mr Johnson- **Elsie M (10C2)**
Ms Laverick- **Savannah M (7C1)**

Map Masters

Miss Scott- **Owen C (12CH2)**
Mr Harper- **Leon R (9C2)**
Mrs Martin- **Edy I (7O2)**



Celebrating St Hilda's Feast Day

On Tuesday 17th November, we will celebrate St Hilda's Feast Day across the school. Members of Hilda House will gather for a special collective worship, while pupils in the other houses will take part in themed assemblies across the week to learn more about the inspirational life, faith and leadership of St Hilda.

The celebrations will continue at lunchtime with a red-themed menu and festive red decorations in the HeartSpace, helping to create a vibrant atmosphere throughout the day.

To mark the occasion, every student in Hilda House will receive a special sweet treat during afternoon meeting and, in keeping with the theme of the day, it will of course be red!

We look forward to a joyful day of celebration and reflection as we honour St Hilda and the values she inspires within our school community.



Career of the Week: Accountant

Could you help a business make million-pound decisions?

This week we're spotlighting the career of an Accountant; a profession that helps organisations manage money and make informed decisions.

Career Sector
Business • Finance • Professional Services

What does an Accountant do?
Accountants help organisations manage their finances by preparing reports, analysing spending, managing budgets, calculating taxes and providing expert advice.

One of the best things about accountancy is its versatility. Accountants work across many sectors including **sport, healthcare, education, technology, retail, manufacturing and charities.**

Why consider this career?
Demand for finance professionals in the North East is expected to remain strong, with professional occupations continuing to provide significant employment opportunities through to 2035.

Key Skills
Successful accountants often demonstrate:

- Numeracy
- Analytical thinking
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Organisation
- Attention to detail



How could I get there?
GCSEs
A Levels, College Course or Apprenticeship
Higher or Degree Apprenticeship, University or Professional Qualifications
Career as an Accountant

Useful School Subjects
Maths | Business | Economics | Computing | English

Did You Know?
An interest in football, technology, fashion or engineering doesn't rule out a career in finance. Almost every organisation needs people with financial skills, meaning accountants can work in a wide range of industries.

This Week's Careers Challenge

- Find an organisation in Sunderland that employs finance or accounting professionals.
- Research an accountancy apprenticeship in the North East.
- Discover what AAT, ACCA and CIMA stand for and how they can help build a career in finance.

Want to learn more?
Search for "Accountant" on Unifrog to explore career pathways, qualifications and opportunities in more detail.


St. Bede's
Catholic School and
Byrne Sixth Form
Domino Adiuvante
Christmas
MARKET
Come and celebrate with us!
2 WEEKS TO GO!
Tuesday 1st December
4pm – 6pm | School
Get into the festive spirit...
with a magical Christmas Market,
packed with festive cheer and
a wonderful selection of gifts!
Shop for unique gifts from our talented
local artisans stall holders including:
Candles ♥ Scents ♥ Kids Toys
Hand Made Gifts ♥ Cards and more!
We have something
for everyone!
Face Painting
Mince Pies
Meet Santa
Festive Gifts
Tombola and more!
Support our school and help raise funds for the development of our school nurture garden
Start your festive celebrations with us!

Key Dates

- **Monday 16th November- Year 10 Parents' Evening (More information to follow)**
- **Monday 7th December- Year 11 Parents' Evening (More information to follow)**
- **Thursday 10th December- Christmas Concert 6pm**
- **Friday 18th December- Break up for Christmas Holidays, 12.30pm finish**

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



Home and School Links

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Website: www.st-bedes.org
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Our Parish: Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden
Our Diocese: Hexham & Newcastle

