

CHRISTMAS AT USHAW . . . Until 21st December there is the opportunity to buy a unique gift produced by some of Durham's finest artists, including paintings, sculpture, engravings and textiles.

Ushaw Christmas Tree Festival: Ushaw's 2019 Christmas Tree Festival will be bigger and better than ever, with a display of 100 Christmas Trees! Official launch is on 29th November. Price of entry is £3 for a day pass and £6 for annual membership.



Christmas Carols at Ushaw: Join us for Christmas Carol services on Tuesday 17th December & Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm. Also Thursday 19th December at 12.30pm.



CAFOD . . . After this year of huge uncertainty for many people around the world, we are looking forward to Advent and to the joyful preparations for that season of hope – a time when we anticipate the coming of Christ, the light who shines in the darkness and brings hope to all.

In these challenging times, the generosity of parishes like yours has been a shining beacon that has made it possible for CAFOD to bring hope and joy to people around the globe. Your parish, St Patrick's, gave £1,489.94 this year – that money has helped us to reach out in love to our brothers and sisters in need.

Thank you, once again, for helping CAFOD to keep the flame of hope burning brightly in some of the hardest-to-reach corners of the globe.

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| Eucharistic Ministers 22nd December |
| John Bowron, Gwen Gallagher Jackie Jeffels, Christine Pope |
| Ministers of the Word 22nd December |
| Val Railton, Hilary Boyce |
| Home Communion 21st / 22nd Dec. |
| Des Murray, Christine Poole Catherine Dixon-Barker, Chris Edwards |
| Church Cleaning ~ Week Beg. 16th December - Team 4 |
| Bidding Prayer Rota ~ December Terry & Patricia Egerton |

 **Everybody welcome** to tea and coffee in the Parish Centre after Mass.

PARISH SHOP . . . Please make a visit after Mass, we now have on sale **Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and Christmas Gifts**

GENERAL ENQUIRIES, CHURCH & PARISH CENTRE BOOKINGS
Please contact Kathryn Wood in the Parish Office Tel. (01642) 580171



15th Dec. 2019

St. Patrick's R.C. Church
Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ
Parish Priest : Fr. John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321
E-mail : stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com

Advent is a hope filled time, a time of expectation and anticipation but, most of all, it is a time of waiting: waiting for the Messiah to arrive in our lives and in the world. In these weeks before Christmas our reflection and prayer as a community focus on the various ways that the Lord is near to us: he is the One who is continually coming into our world with his good news of freedom and joy; we are the people who welcome him and become his hands, and mouth and feet. We can reflect on the joyfulness that is ours because we are in Christ's presence, he is near to us, but we must regret the times when our actions have been far from him. If we do not use these days of Advent properly by waiting patiently for Christ to come into our lives at Christmas, especially by recognising and welcoming him in the sacraments and in other people, then we will not be ready to meet him when he comes.



For the desert places in which we walk, the paths we cross, guide our feet, take us to places where you would go. Give us words that you would use that in this Advent season of promise and preparation we might point the way with John the Baptist to the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

DIVINE MERCY . . . THIS SUNDAY at 7.15pm in the Crèche at St Patrick's Church. Homily 'Behold your Mother' followed by The sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. 

 **ST. PATRICK'S LADIES GROUP** are holding a 'Christmas Raffle' this Sunday The raffle will be drawn in the Parish Centre after Mass. Please come in and have a tea/coffee and collect your prize. Many thanks for your support.

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT . . . Pg. 88

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| 15 | Sunday | 9.00am 7.15pm | People of our Parish Divine Mercy ~ Crèche |
| 16 | Monday | 9.15am | Cath Callaghan |
| 17 | Tuesday | | No Mass or Eucharistic Service |
| 18 | Wednesday | | No Mass or Eucharistic Service |
| 19 | Thursday | 6.30pm | SVP Rosary ~ All Welcome |
| 20 | Friday | 9.15am | Anthony Ward |
| 21 | Saturday | 9.15am 9.45 - 10.15am | Eva Jordison (SVP) Sacrament of Confession |

4th Sunday of Advent . . . Pg. 92

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| 22 | Sunday | 9.00am | Michael Douglas |
|  | | Riska Okninski, Monica McShane, Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning (nee Mockler), Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Veronica Connors, Betty Griffiths, Sadie Todd | |
| ANNIVERSARIES: | | Pat Walton, Patrick Casey, Ronald Healy, Denis Casey, Audrey Gooding | |
| MASS ATTENDANCE: | | 8th December . . . 176 | |
| OFFERTORY COLLECTION: | | 8th December. . . £408.08 plus ave stos. plus weekly standing orders which currently average £291.48 per week. | |

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

- * **St. Patrick's** - Christmas Day
10.00am Mass
- * **St. Cuthbert's** - Christmas Eve
6.30pm Mass (Carols from 6.00pm)
- * **St. Mary's** - Christmas Eve 12 Midnight
Mass (Carols from 11.30pm)




Gwen Gallagher is collecting used Postage Stamps for Assistance Dogs u.k., an organisation that trains dogs to help disabled people in their own homes. She would be grateful if parishioners would leave their used postage stamps in the porch. Many thanks.

SPUC CLUB DRAW . . The next draw will take place **this weekend, Sunday 15th December.**

St. Patrick's S.V.P will be donating all collections between now and year end to the Crisis Appeal for babies in the Sudan. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Shopping Fair Trade Style: Great opportunities to buy a wide range of Fairtrade Christmas gifts, jewellery, toys, decorations, cards, foods and lots of other treats in the Fairtrade popup shop in the Dundas Arcade, Middlesbrough (same place as last year in the old Boyes' premises). An Aladdin's Cave with many new products made by skilled artisans. Something for everyone. The shop is open Monday – Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm.



CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING

Volunteers are required to help with the Christmas church cleaning which will take place on Monday, 23rd December following 9.15am Mass, if you can spare an hour please come along - coffee/tea and mince pies provided.

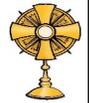
The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December . . May every country take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

JOIN US IN THE PARISH CENTRE FOR NEW YEARS EVE
8pm ~ Music, Dancing, plus Live Entertainment.



The event is bring your own food and drink and entry is only £2.50.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Weekdays at 7am with the Divine Mercy

Come Lord, we welcome you to be with us in a special way this Christmas, to share with us your presence, to renew us in the light of your love.

Many thanks to Sainsbury's, Whitehouse Farm, Stockton, for donating so many beautiful flowers to St. Patrick's Church. They are much appreciated and enjoyed.