

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Palm Sunday Lent Year A – 5th April 2020

| | <u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's</u> | <u>St Bede's</u> | <u>St Joseph's</u> |
|---|---|------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Mass without congregation</u> | | | |
| Sat 4th | Richard H Hunter RIP (MH) | | |
| Sun 5th | <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> 10:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish) Fr Jeff will bless palm leaves in church. <u>They will be available when church reopens</u> | | |
| Mon 6th | 10:00am Nuala Sinclair RIP and Ursula Croft RIP | | |
| Tue 7th | 10:00am Brian Alderson RIP (VMD) | | |
| Wed 8th | 10:00am Marie Doherty RIP | | |
| Thur 9th | <u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u> 7:00pm Gordon Todd RIP <u>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9:00 pm</u> | | |
| Fri 10th | <u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> 3:00pm The Solemn Commemoration of The Lord's Passion 6:00pm – 8:00pm Stations of the Cross by Fr Jeff, followed by Veneration of the Cross | | |
| Sat 11th | <u>HOLY SATURDAY</u> 6:00pm Fr Jeff will celebrate the EASTER VIGIL privately in church (not live-streamed) Pro Populo (People of the Parish) Log onto the Diocesan website for the Easter Vigil Celebration at our Cathedral in Newcastle | | |
| Sun 12th | <u>EASTER SUNDAY</u> 11:00am Gordon & Helen Duncan RIP and Malcolm Craig RIP 4:30pm – 5:30pm HOLY HOUR with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament | | |

Week by week, each day will have a theme to help us to pray for those affected by Covid-19:

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| <u>Sunday</u> | will be Pro Populo; | <u>Thursday</u> | for Young Families |
| <u>Monday</u> | for the Bereaved; | <u>Friday</u> | for The Government and Scientists |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | for Hospital Staff | <u>Saturday</u> | for All Areas National and International |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | for the Sick and Housebound of our Parishes | | affected by Covid-19 |

Please keep these themes in your prayers.

Feast Days this Week: HOLY WEEK

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available **by appointment.**

Bulletin Items: If you would like a notice included in the next bulletin, please email parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com by **Wednesday evening** at the latest. Alternatively, post through the letterbox at English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's

HILDA PARTNERSHIP



English Martyrs and
Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's



St. Joseph's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest: Fr. Jeffrey Dodds

Deacons: Jeffrey Parkes, Paul Hargreaves

Retired Priests: Fr. Denis O'Mahony, Fr. Pat McKenna

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10.00am til 2.00pm

Contact: Gill Hall Tel. 01642 806469

email parishfamilystockton@gmail.com

Facebook page: @ParishFamilyStocktonRC

Diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk

Palm Sunday Year A – 5th April 2020

A Message to the Parishes:

Palm Sunday

In our reading today from the Gospel of Matthew, we have the entry of Jesus into the city Jerusalem, the Holiest of places, the place where God dwells. In contrast it was the place of where the Jewish elite and the Roman empire collaborated to oppress the people of Israel. Matthew records this as the first time Jesus has visited Jerusalem, in doing so he adds significance, and furthers the revelation of who Jesus is. Everything has been prepared and when the disciples ask, 'what shall we say when taking the Ass and the Colt?' Jesus refers to himself for the first time as God, by saying, "Tell them the Lord has need of them," Jesus reveals himself verbally and then by riding upon the colt. "All the city was stirred...". You can imagine the excitement with the crowds shouting, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" and the people lay down leaves and their coats as a sign of homage. The people of Israel had longed for such a time, when things would go their way. A time to be liberated from their oppressors and they saw Jesus as the one, he could be their king, their messiah.

However, like ourselves, the people of Israel had a bias, a bias of what the Messiah would look like, what he would say and what he would do. Because Jesus challenged all of their preconceived ideas, even those of his own disciples; he was betrayed and rejected.

We are now living in challenging times, our routines, our norms have been removed, we may even feel oppressed. But Jesus is still present to us. Do we lay down our palms or put up barriers when we listen to the voice of God when reading scripture, or when we listen to the voice of another, when we reach out to those in need or when we join in Spiritual Communion? Laying palms saying, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord' or barriers saying, 'it's not the same, it's not really Christ present'.

The people of Israel rejected Jesus because he wouldn't conform to their ways. Let's make sure that we don't do the same.

God Bless.

Deacon Jeff

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for April:

Freedom from Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



Sick and In Need of Prayer: Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family who are ill.



 Please pray Anthony Coyne for all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen

Please be aware of the developing situation regarding the Coronavirus.

After the evening of Friday 20th March all public liturgies will cease and the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed until further notice.

Masses will be celebrated by Parish Priests but **without a congregation** on a daily basis. Thus, congregations can join in spiritual communion with priests.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be deferred until such time that congregations can gather safely.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered on request as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed.

First Reconciliation and **First Holy Communion** are postponed until such time that congregations can gather safely.

Confirmation is deferred until such time that congregations can gather safely.

The Sacrament of Matrimony should be deferred until such time that congregations can gather safely.

Anointing of the Sick will only be done under extreme circumstances and in accordance with the strict hygiene guidance.

We are aiming for the Parish to keep in touch and your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated; if you know of anyone who is without support, please let us know, however we would hope that this is a time for families and communities to pull together. A Parish Census form can be found on the Parish Website under Extra Events Coronavirus update for those who wish to let the Parish have their contact details; this is asked for in accordance with GDPR guidelines. This information will help us to help you.

These are unprecedented times but if we work together, we will come through. God will help us.

St. Joseph, Protector of Holy Church - Pray for us

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parish Family: Supporting Each Other:

Times are challenging and it is important that we keep in touch with each other so that we can keep cheerful, help each other and pray together. Members of our Parish family from the Eucharistic Ministry Teams have volunteered to ring people who we know are self-isolating so that we can offer them a hand of friendship and faith. If you haven't heard from us yet and you are self-isolating, or you are on your own and would like a friendly chat, or if you know of someone in our Parish family who is lonely, please let us know so that we can arrange to contact you.

Ring or text: St Bede's - Karen 07939 495837 or Bernie 07922 154863 St Joseph's - Mary 07523 861661
English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul - Joan 07528 523873

St Anthony, patron of the elderly, Pray for us. St Rita, patron of the lonely, Pray for us.

IMPORTANT: CENSUS FORM

Would every parishioner, including those who are housebound, complete and return a CENSUS FORM. The completion of this form will help us to comply with GDPR legislation but most importantly, in light of the COVID-19 restrictions, this information will be used to help us communicate better as a parish family. You can find the form on the Parish Website under Parish News, Extra Parish Events at the top of the Coronavirus update page www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk Please print off and post the completed form back to the Parish Office or alternatively put your information in an email to parishfamilystockton@gmail.com. Thank you.

GIFT AID Envelopes

It is important that donors don't use the remaining stock of March 2020 envelopes if they want to take advantage of the tax relief. Please retain your offerings until we return to church when you will be able to pick up your new supply of envelopes.

CATALYST - Stockton based Charity: Have volunteers who can collect prescriptions, deliver food etc for all who were all socially isolating and in need of assistance. The contact telephone number is **01642 524500**.

Prayer to be recited during the current Coronavirus situation

Pope Francis – Prayer to Mary for Protection during the COVID–19 Pandemic.

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –

and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Mass and Devotions: The parish website has lots of information about Masses and Devotions which are available online. You can pray the various Mysteries of the Rosary and The Angelus through the Parish Facebook page.

Sing Resurrection Easter Sunday: At 10.00am join Christians across the UK in singing "Thine be the Glory" and "Jesus Christ is Risen today" in your garden, out of your window, in fact, wherever you are.

Wednesday Word: remember to check Wednesday Word each week during Lent using the link www.wednesdayword.org

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Vicariate for Faith and Mission - Holy Week at Home

Check out this resource on the diocesan website at www.rcdhn.org.uk This will help you and your families experience and celebrate Holy Week.

How to keep busy and amused in Covid-19 Times:

Minute to Win It games are great fun for children and adults alike using things from around the house you can challenge each other and laugh a lot. <https://challengestodo.com/minute-to-win-it-games/>

Future Learn offers short on-line learning courses for free, all sorts of things to choose from <https://www.futurelearn.com>

Gareth Malone's at home choir, join him to learn to sing "Bring me Sunshine" in chorus <https://decca.com/greatbritishhomechorus/>

If anyone would like to share any other ideas, please email parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com

NEWS FROM UGANDA: Fr. Vincent reports that the last harvest was a good one, but they had to move quickly since the dry season was short. His new truck came in time to help carry the produce which included maize and beans. The families were able to sell part of their crop to buy fertilizers for this season's crops. Father will help more than 30 new families with capital to buy good quality maize and bean seeds. The rains have started so the malaria cases will be on the increase. Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Uganda Mission Fund and made it possible for us to help Fr. Vincent in his work. God bless you all!

Foodbanks: As a result of social isolation, distancing and supermarket shelves laying empty, food banks in our borough are experiencing a significant shortage of supplies and are struggling to support those most in need. You can help by donating money which will enable the foodbanks to buy supplies. Go to **Gofundme.com** and search for Emergency Appeal for Foodbanks in Stockton-on-Tees.



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Jamie's Paws for Thought: Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless.

God is merciful and will hear your prayer. *St Pio (Padre Pio)*