

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Year A – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>
<b>Live-Streamed Mass</b>		
Sat 18th	<b>Not live-streamed</b> Patricia Deans RIP	
Sun 19th	<b>10:00am</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	
Mon 20th	_____	
Tue 21st	<b>10:00am</b> Deborah Evans RIP	
Wed 22nd	<b>10:00am</b> Chris Payne RIP	
Thur 23rd	<b>10:00am</b> Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Sheila & Ronald Corking	
Fri 24th	<b>8:30am</b> Daniel Oliver & Family	
Sat 25th	<b>Not live-streamed</b> Pat Chapman RIP	
Sun 26th	<b>10:00am</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	

**Week by week, each day will have a theme to help us to pray for those affected by Covid-19:**  
Please keep these themes in your daily prayers.

<u>Sunday</u>	will be Pro Populo	<u>Thursday</u>	for Bishop Robert
<u>Monday</u>	for Farmers	<u>Friday</u>	for Prisoners
<u>Tuesday</u>	for our Secondary Schools	<u>Saturday</u>	for Shop Workers
<u>Wednesday</u>	for those Who Work at Sea		

**Feast Days this Week:**

**Monday:** St Apollinaris, *Bishop & Martyr*  
**Tuesday:** St Lawrence of Brindisi, *Priest & Doctor*  
**Wednesday:** St Mary Magdalene  
**Thursday:** St Bridget of Sweden, *Religious, Patron of Europe*  
**Friday:** The Martyrs of the Diocese  
**Saturday:** St James, *Apostle*

**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](mailto:parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com) by **Tuesday evening** at the latest. Alternatively, post through the letterbox at English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's Presbytery, Redhill Road, Roseworth, Stockton-on-Tees. TS19 9BY  
Please remember to add your contact details in case we have a query.

**ST. HILDA PARTNERSHIP**



English Martyrs and Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's



St. Joseph's

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Year A – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

<b>Clergy</b>	<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr. Jeffrey Dodds <b>Deacons:</b> Jeffrey Parkes, Paul Hargreaves <b>Retired Priests:</b> Fr. Denis O'Mahony, Fr. Pat McKenna
<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>Hours:</b> Tuesday to Friday 10.00am till 2:00pm <b>Contact:</b> Gill Hall Tel. 01642 806469 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:parishfamilystockton@gmail.com">parishfamilystockton@gmail.com</a>
<b>Internet</b>	<b>Facebook page:</b> @ParishFamilyStocktonRC <b>Parish website:</b> <a href="http://www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk">www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk</a> <b>Diocesan website:</b> <a href="http://www.rcdhn.org.uk">www.rcdhn.org.uk</a>

**Reflection 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

In a survey that was undertaken earlier this month 60% of respondents said they would never shake hands with a stranger ever again as a result of COVID 19.

On the news, they featured a number of people for whom the idea of shaking hands had become utterly repellant, yet not many months ago I suspect that the same people may well have said that it was the height of bad manners not to shake hands with someone you were meeting for the first time.

The news item featured a couple of academics who felt very differently about shaking hands - one 'for' and one 'against'. They also disagreed about when people began to shake hands in the first place, with one saying it was something introduced by the Romans, the other certain that it did not begin until the French Revolution.

As to what to do instead of shaking hands, one suggested what has become known as the 'fist bump', the other seemed keen on the traditional Buddhist greeting - hands joined accompanied by a modest bow of the head.

At the time, I regarded all of this as something that was interesting, but not perhaps of huge importance. But then I began to worry about what I would do when I had to greet someone or exchange peace with them when we are able to celebrate Mass again without any restrictions. What would be the best thing to do? How do I know whether or not the person in front of me is for or against hand shaking? Will hand shaking even be allowed?

Then I read our second reading today. Saint Paul reminds us in that reading that the Holy Spirit is always there to help us, no matter what.

Whenever we don't know what to do, the Spirit knows and guides us along a path that might be familiar, but which could be brand new and unexpected.

So as the restrictions that we have become used to begin to ease let's put our trust in the God who sustains our souls and allow His Spirit to lead us wherever God's love takes us.

**God bless, Deacon Paul**

## **Parish News**

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

**Recent Bereavements** Please pray for Fr Michael Hickey, Michael Fitzgerald and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**Parish Family: Supporting Each Other** Members of our Parish family from the Eucharistic Ministry Teams are ringing 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.*

**Opening of Churches in Stockton** Permission has been given by Bishop Robert to open English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul. Please look out for details of days and times. At the moment access will be for **Private Prayer Only**. A number of Parishioners from our three Parishes have already volunteered to clean the church and to act as Stewards; if you would to help, please contact the Parish Office on 01642 806469 for further details.

**IMPORTANT: Census Form** If you haven't yet filled in a Parish Census Form which asks for contact details, family members and involvement in the Parish, please ring the Parish Office on 01642 806469 for one or look on the Parish Website under Parish News, Extra Parish Events. This information will be used to help us to keep in touch with you, especially whilst we are unable to gather as a Parish Family. Thank you.

**Newsletter Distribution** Many people are able to look at the Newsletter through the parish website, but if you know of someone who doesn't have the internet and would like to have a copy of the Newsletter please ring or text the name and address to Colette 07849712694 and a copy will be hand delivered. Let's keep in touch as a Parish Family.

**Dr. Maria Szubert** Would like to thank everyone for Cards, Mass offerings, and prayers during her ongoing illness. She would like people to know she has been in some very dark places during her illness and without your prayers and good care of the nursing staff she wouldn't be here. So thank you all and may God Bless you. Please remember to Social Distance! and Hand Washing.

**News from Uganda** During the pandemic Fr. Vincent has had people at his door asking for help who would normally not need to come. He has also discovered that many people, including children, are HIV positive. To receive free medication they need to register at a clinic. In normal times many registered with clinics in other areas to avoid the stigma attached to Aids. During lockdown there are no motorbike taxis or other means of public transport making it difficult to travel to other districts. Fr. Vincent is finding it very stressful dealing with the many physical and mental problems which the people bring to him daily. Please pray for Father at this very difficult time. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Uganda Mission Fund.

**Mary's Meals** During these difficult times there are children who still need feeding. Mary's Meals is a worldwide charity set up in Medjugorje to ensure that children who do not have enough will be fed. Please keep them in your prayers and if you wish to continue to make donations, please post them through the Presbytery letterbox. Visit <https://www.marysmeals.org> for more details about the work that Mary's Meals do.

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

**The Spiritual and Pastoral Development Group** which is made up of various members of our Parish communities, continues to meet via a Zoom conference to discuss the initiatives that are already in place to support you, our Parish Family. If you have any suggestions for consideration, please contact Fr Jeff at the Parish Office on 01642 806469.

## **Prayer and Liturgy News**

 **Parish Family Stockton Mass by Phone Service** You can now listen to Father Jeff celebrating Sunday Mass. This is available after 12:00 Noon by telephone on 01642 130032. Calls are charged at local rate. There may be a short delay so please be patient; the recording will then start to play.

**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 already being there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

### **A prayer for our Church Community**

We pray that the God of glory may make His light shine in our Church Community as He works among us and blesses us with His presence.

### **A prayer for those preparing our churches for re-opening**

We pray for all those preparing our churches for private prayer and for the resumption of Masses, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit to ensure a spiritual and safe homecoming for all the faithful.

### **A prayer for those affected by the Covid virus**

Lord, there are many who have suffered and I pray for them. For those who mourn, I ask peace of heart. For carers and hospital staff I ask blessing and safety. For the sick and those remaining at home I ask health and strength. For those who have died I ask happiness and rest.

### **A prayer for those staying at home**

Lord, at this time I must stay with you at home. I make of my home your house and of my heart a sanctuary in which you ever dwell. Give me patience and joy, Lord Jesus, and grant those who visit you in Church and in the Blessed Sacrament to value so great a gift and cherish so great a love that leads you to choose to be with us now and always. Amen.

Father, bless this house in which you keep me safe. Let your light shine in every corner of this place. May your Son, raised in an ordinary home, come to me in the ordinary things of each day. Send your Spirit to anoint my heart and give me wisdom to accept your will. Amen

## **Finances**

**Offertory Envelopes** Please continue to use your offertory envelopes and if you wish, you can deliver them to one of our Presbyteries and they will be collected from there; alternatively, please keep them until our churches reopen. If anyone would like to make a donation, please ring the Parish Office on 01642 806469 and Fr Jeff will give you the paying-in details. Inevitably, income has reduced but we still need to pay bills, so please do what you can to help. This is an opportunity to set up a standing order with your bank which makes giving your weekly offering so much easier.

**GIFT AID** Your contribution to the Parish can be increased by 25% if you pay tax. There is no catch. Please contact your Parish Gift Aid organiser, email the Parish Office or speak with Fr. Jeff who will advise you.

## **Partnership News – taking in Hartlepool, Billingham and Stockton**

We continue to pray for our Partnership of St. Hilda that we will continue to support each other, not only at this time but in the future, as we face the aftermath of the Covid-19 virus. May our parishes here in Stockton work together to build up God's Kingdom in our own area.

**Holy Rosary Church in Billingham will be open for Private Prayer only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am till 11:00am.**

**St. Joseph's Church in Hartlepool will be open for Private Prayer only on Sundays from 11:00am till 12:30pm then 4:00pm till 5:30pm and Wednesdays from 2:30pm till 4:00pm.**

## **Diocesan News**

### **Do you need to speak to someone for support?**

Dedicated counsellors and listeners are available at the Cathedral Listening Service on 0191 232 6953.

### **The Vicariate for Faith & Mission Ring a Prayer resource**

**07375 934713** This phone number is available to those who are without access to the internet during this lockdown and cannot use our normal email service of [adminfaith.mission@diocesohn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesohn.org.uk). You can ring and leave your name and address and we will post you prayer resources out for free.

**Vacancies** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

**Property Surveyor** based in Newcastle with extensive travel throughout the Diocese. Full-time. Two year fixed term contract.

**Justice and Peace Refugee Project Co-ordinator** based in Newcastle. 18 hours per week. 12 month fixed term contract.

**Department for Education, Administrator (maternity cover)**

For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk) or contact us on 0191 243 3301

## **Worldwide Church News**

### **Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for July - Our Families**

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

## **...and now for some Light Relief...**

**Jamie's Paws for Thought:** The only thing children wear out faster than shoes are parents and teachers.

