

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Year A – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

<b><u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u></b>		<b><u>St Bede's</u></b>	<b><u>St Joseph's</u></b>
<b><u>Live-Streamed Mass</u></b>			
<b>Sat 25th</b>	<b>Not live-streamed)</b> Pat Chapman RIP		
<b>Sun 26th</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)		
<b>Mon 27th</b>	_____		
<b>Tue 28th</b>	<b>9:00am</b> Diamond Jubilee of Fr Denis O'Mahony (CAP)		
<b>Wed 29th</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Betty Wallace RIP (RM)		
<b>Thur 30th</b>	<b>9:00am</b> Paul Kennedy RIP (AW)		
<b>Fri 31st</b>	<b>9:00am</b> Special Intention of BS		
<b>Sat 1st</b>	<b>Not live-streamed)</b> Norah Chadwick RIP (CR & JC)		
<b>Sun 2nd</b>	<b>10:30am</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 School Chaplains
<u>Monday</u>	for Deacons	<u>Friday</u>	for The Unemployed
<u>Tuesday</u>	for Those who are Lonely	<u>Saturday</u>	for Our School Children
<u>Wednesday</u>	for the Poor throughout the World		

**Feast Days this Week:**

**Wednesday:** St Martha  
**Thursday:** St Peter Chrysologus, *Bishop & Doctor*  
**Friday:** St Ignatius of Loyola, *Priest*  
**Saturday:** St Alphonsus Liguori, *Bishop & Doctor*



**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 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

### 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Year A – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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

### Reflection

What is our greatest treasure, something for which we would sell everything we own? Do we ever dream what we would do if we won the lottery? In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us two short parables about the Kingdom of Heaven being like a treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great value, and challenges our response to this Kingdom.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God? The catechism explains: 'The Kingdom of God lies ahead of us. It is brought near in the Word incarnate, it is proclaimed throughout the whole Gospel and it has come in Christ's death and resurrection...it is in our midst in the Eucharist...The Kingdom of God means Christ himself' (CCC2816). Both the people described in the parables were searching: the treasure in the field was hidden and probably took some effort to find, the merchant was looking among many pearls to find the one of great value and this probably needed concentration and a discerning eye. We are encouraged to seek the presence of Jesus in our daily lives: 'seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness' (Matt 6:33), 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you' (Matt 7:7). What they find is of enormous value for they both sell everything they own to acquire it: this is their chance of a lifetime. We can ask ourselves, how much do we treasure Jesus and our life with him?

The words: 'sells all that he has', can seem a little frightening to us at first, but it is important to note that the man is full of joy (Matt 13:44). Contrast this with the rich young man Jesus met who was unable to give away all he possessed and 'went away sorrowful' (Matt 19:22). What we are asked to do is to give first place in our hearts to Jesus and to lay down anything which may interfere with this. This may mean 'selling' some of our time in order to meet Jesus in prayer; 'selling' the temptation to do unnecessary work or shopping and make Sunday a special day for rest, worship of God and time with our families; it may mean 'selling' our approval from friends and colleagues in order to be honest or chaste in our relationships. All these things can be done with joy when we realise how great the treasure we receive in exchange.

## 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 Francis Mulligan, Malgolzata McGuffog 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. **Initially, access will be for Private Prayer Only;** please look out for details of days and times. A number of Parishioners from our three Parishes have already volunteered to clean the church and to act as Marshalls; if you would like to help, please contact the Parish Office on 01642 806469 for further details.

**THIS WEEK: English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's Church will be open on Wednesday from 11:00am until 12:00 Noon and Friday from 10:00am until 12:00 Noon and Sunday from 11:30am until 1:00pm.**

**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 07849 712694 and a copy will be hand delivered. Let's keep in touch as a Parish Family.

**News from Uganda** During the pandemic, starvation continues to be the big problem in Fr. Vincent's Mission area. Many people work in shops which have been closed during lockdown, while others work on farms in the bush and need transport to reach them. No work means no pay. Using money sent from the Mission Fund Fr Vincent drives 20 miles in his pickup truck to buy beans, rice, maize flour and dried fish to distribute to those in need. Recently we have been able to send £4,500 from the Uganda Mission Fund to the White Fathers in London. This has been acknowledged and will be sent by electronic banking to Fr. Vincent's Provincial in Kampala. The money will then be made available to Fr. Vincent for his work. Father will receive the whole amount we sent without any deductions. Please pray for Father at this very difficult time


**Recent Donations to the Uganda Mission Fund** 2 x £100, £70, £60, 3 x £40, 5 x £20 & £10. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed. God bless you all!

**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 does.

**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 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. Amen.

**A prayer for those affected by the Covid-19 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. Amen.

**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

**Prolife Holy Hour** Father Nick Jennings is going to have a Prolife Holy hour on Sunday 2nd August at 4:30pm from Crook. Please join in to pray for the unborn and respect for life. To be live-streamed from Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert, Crook – check their website for bulletin: <http://www.ourladyandstcuthbertscrook.org.uk/>

## 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** Would any parishioner wishing to sign up for Gift Aid, or wishing to change their existing standing order payment, please email the Parish Office and we will send the required forms out to you. Providing you are a taxpayer and pay enough tax to cover the amount which we claim there is nothing else for you to do, currently HMRC give the Parish 25p for every £1 gift aided. You can cancel at any time just by contacting John Flynn (St Joseph's), Kevin Williams (English Martyrs & Ss Peter & Paul's) or Mary Nolan (St Bede's). Everything will be arranged for you; all you need to do is fill the form in and return it in the provided S.A.E.

## 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.

**To St Mary's Parishioners** Just a brief update: St. Mary's church inside is nice and clean and safe and sound. We are having some essential repairs done to the downstairs toilet which was scheduled before lockdown but rain stopped work. We have received one or two donations and Gift Aid envelopes over the last few weeks but if you would like to hand in any envelopes or can make a donation we would be very grateful. Telephone Kath on 07906 655089 to make arrangements please. No news on an opening date for St Mary's so far but good news for Fr Jeff and his Parishioners. Thanks also to everyone who has been involved in streaming the Masses and Services. Most people seem to have found somewhere to attend Mass. Hope you are well and we can catch up soon.

## 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 and 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@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk). You can ring and leave your name and address and we will post you prayer resources out for free.

## 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** Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm and look forward to the future with confidence.

*St John Paul II*

