

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 Pat Kearns, Mary Igoe and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Opening of Churches in Stockton Permission has been given by Bishop Robert to open English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul. Details of days and times of Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are on the back page. If you would like to volunteer to be a Marshall, please contact the Parish Office on 01642 806469 for further details. Please note that you must ring 07716 944610 to secure a place at the Saturday Vigil or Sunday Morning Masses; full details on the back page. There is no need to book for weekday Masses or to attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

NEWS FROM UGANDA: The money we sent to Fr. Vincent recently from the Uganda Mission Fund has enabled him to help many families with food. Father bought good quality maize flour, rice, sacks of beans and over 60kg of dried fish. Families prefer maize flour because they can use it for porridge, baking and other forms of food. The dried fish is good for the young children. Fr. Vincent says they had started registering cases of acute malnutrition during the 7 months of lockdown. It is estimated that with the money sent recently he has been able to help more than 50 families. Fr. Vincent writes "I am indeed happy that with your support I am making a difference in people's lives especially during this period." Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the fund and made this help possible. Please pray for Fr. Vincent and his people.

Mary's Meals: a total of £180 has recently been passed on to Mary's Meals to assist them in their work ensuring that children who do not have enough will be fed. Sincere thanks to all who kindly donated.

Holy Family India Project: a total of £190 was kindly donated to this project during the quarter ended June. Many thanks to all the generous donors.

Minsteraces is now open and have put in place all necessary precautions re social distancing etc. A weekend reflection on our encounters with gratitude, prophecy and hope has been organised with a choice of three weekends: **Friday 11th until Sunday 13th September, Friday 2nd until Sunday 4th October or Friday 20th until Sunday 22nd November.** A suggested donation of £140. Further details tel. 01434 673248 or email info@minsteraces.org

Message from Jonathon Bowes: On Saturday the 3rd of October I will be ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Robert at the Cathedral. Due to the current restrictions we have had to limit the number of those attending to only 30 people. However, the Mass will be livestreamed. The following day at 12 noon I will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Joseph's in Hartlepool. If you would like to attend please could you email me at Jb_bowes@hotmail.com so that I can add you to the list. I hope that during that week I will be able to celebrate Mass with you in Stockton. Please keep me in your prayers as I prepare for this amazing day. God Bless. Jonathon

STOP PRESS!!!

Good News - New Priest to Stockton

Bishop Robert has appointed Fr Oliver Keyes CSsR to our Stockton Parishes. He is to be an Assistant Priest to support Fr Jeff in his parish work to allow him to carry out his diocesan duties as Episcopal Vicar for the South of the Diocese and for Vicar for Care of the Clergy. Fr Oliver is planning to join us in the autumn and will be living at St Joseph's Presbytery. He is currently at St Paul's in Alnwick. I know you will make Fr Oliver very welcome and I look forward to working with him. We have a good team and Bishop Robert is keen to strengthen and develop the area.

Partnership News — taking in Hartlepool, Billingham and Stockton

St Patrick's Fairfield is also open for Mass. Please check the St Patrick's newsletter on www.parityfamilystockton.org.uk

Holy Rosary Church in Billingham will now be open for Mass Monday, Friday and Sunday 10:00am and Wednesday at 7pm.

St. Joseph's Church in Hartlepool is also open for Mass. Please check: hartlepool.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for August: The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Psalm:

137(138):1-3,6,8

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Readings for Next Sunday

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

First reading

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalm

62 :2-6.8-9

Second reading

Romans 12:1-2

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

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.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.

Prayer of St Julian of Norwich

Lord, let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for thee or thine, but quiet homes of prayer and praise, where thou mayest find fit company, where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide, sweet spaces kept for thee; where holy thoughts pass up and down and fervent longings watch and wait thy coming.

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.

...and now for some Light Relief...



Jamie's Paws for Thought:

One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness – it is usually returned. C Flint