

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>
<b><u>Mass without Congregation</u></b>		<b><u>Feast Days this week</u></b>
Sat 14th	<b><u>10:00am – Live-streamed</u></b> Valerie Ellis RIP	—
Sun 15th	<b><u>10:30am - Live-streamed</u></b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time
Mon 16th	—	St Edmund of Abingdon, <i>Bishop</i> St Margaret of Scotland
Tue 17th	<b><u>9:00am - Live-streamed</u></b> Mr Goggin	St Hilda of Whitby, <i>Abbess</i>
Wed 18th	<b><u>9:30am - Live-streamed</u></b> Betty & Don Wallace RIP <b>St Joseph's Church open for Private Prayer</b> 11:00am – 12:00 Noon	The Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul
Thur 19th	<b><u>Requiem Mass – John Fitzpatrick RIP</u></b>	—
Fri 20th	<b><u>9:30am–Live-streamed</u></b> Angela Armstrong RIP <b>St Joseph's Church open for Private Prayer</b> 11:00am – 12:00 Noon	St Edmund, <i>King &amp; Martyr</i>
Sat 21st	<b><u>10:00am – Live-streamed</u></b> Fr Sarves RIP	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun 22nd	<b><u>10:30am - Live-streamed</u></b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b>Our Lord Jesus Christ the King</b>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation – available by appointment only**



**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.

**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**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time Year A – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Clergy**

**Parish Priest:** Jeffrey Dodds  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Oliver Keyes  
**Deacons:** Jeffrey Parkes, Paul Hargreaves  
**Retired Priest:** Pat McKenna

**Parish Office**

**Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 10.00am till 2:00pm  
**Contact:** Gill Hall Tel. 01642 806469  
**Email:** [parishfamilystockton@gmail.com](mailto:parishfamilystockton@gmail.com)

**Internet**

**Parish YouTube:** [Stockton Parish Family](https://www.youtube.com/StocktonParishFamily)  
**Facebook page:** [@ParishFamilyStocktonRC](https://www.facebook.com/ParishFamilyStocktonRC)  
**Parish website:** [www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk](http://www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk)  
**Diocesan website:** [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Often in business, employees carryout self-knowledge exercises to identify strengths and weaknesses. The idea is that, if they identify the areas to improve, they can draw up a specific action plan and have that constant professional development in mind. When I have completed the exercise previously I have found it really easy to identify my weaknesses and struggled to identify my strengths. But we all have skills or gifts, financial or otherwise, that can be used and developed or hidden away in fear. If I'm honest, previously I should have put on my development plan to use better the skills and abilities that I already had.

The parable of the Talents speaks to us on several levels about exploiting and underusing gifts that we are given. The story Jesus tells us not only applies to the spiritual gifts that we have received but also to the intellectual gifts and to the opportunities we have been given. It is our obligation as Christians to use all we have in the service of the Lord. That said, it does not require that we transfer everything that we own to the church. It does mean however, that we use all opportunities that come our way to enhance the role of the Lord on earth. Gifts used in that way are multiplied and lead to greater opportunities. Gifts that are unused simply remain that; unused. We are responsible and accountable to the Lord for everything we have been given. We together are the Church, the Body of Christ and through us, its members, the church receives an abundance of gifts to be used for evangelisation. Too often though, through fear, our talents aren't used as they should be and then we become trapped, seeking only to preserve the past. If we are to live out our mission and ministry as Baptised Catholics, then we must use what we have been given for the spreading of the Good news of Jesus.

Regards & God Bless.

Deacon Jeff

## **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 Don Bradley, John Fitzpatrick, Mick Tinnion and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

### **Fr Olly has arrived!**

We welcome Fr Oliver Keyes to our Stockton Parishes. Fr Olly will be assisting Fr Jeff in his three Parishes and will be joining him for Holy Mass soon. Look out on Facebook. May God bless Fr Olly as he settles into his new home.

**Private Prayer:** St Joseph's will be open for Private Prayer on Wednesday 18th and Friday 20th November between 11:00am and 12:00 Noon. There is no need to book for these periods.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Marshalls are required to be in attendance when our churches are open. Without them we would not be able to open. The Marshalls are there to help and advise you:**

- ✓ To assist with the mandatory Test & Trace system, please give your name and contact telephone number to the Marshall at the door.
- ✓ Remember to sanitise your hands before you enter church.
- ✓ A Marshall will advise you where you are to sit.
- ✓ If you wish to light a candle, please do so before you sit down.
- ✓ Please do not block access to benches.
- ✓ Please remember to sanitise your hands before you leave church.

Let's keep everyone safe. *Fr. Jeff*

### **Thank you!**

Peter Roddam has decided to step down from the Finance Committee after many years of faithful service to the Parish. Peter kept an eye on things financial as well other aspects of Parish life and always had the best interests of the Parish in mind.

Mauveen Brown has also decided to stand down from keeping the accounts. Mauveen has been involved in this very important work for over 30 years. Such work is so important to the smooth running of any Parish.

We wish both Peter and Mauveen well as they enjoy a well-deserved rest. God bless them both. Fr Jeff.

**News from Uganda:** Family conflicts are on the rise due to lockdown. On one day recently Fr. Vincent had to mediate in 3 conflicts in different families. Father also took 2 people for mental health help, he says 'I do what is possible. This is a problem that has arisen out of Covid-19 struggles.' Sincere thanks to those who contribute to the Uganda Mission Fund.

**Please pray for Fr. Vincent and his people.**

**Operation Christmas Elf 2020:** PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) are unable to run their usual collection of toys or Family Days this year, for obvious reasons, so instead they are asking people to donate a book token to the value of £10 which they can send in a Christmas card to a prisoner's child. Book tokens can be bought online from [www.nationalbooktokens.com](http://www.nationalbooktokens.com) or from all local bookshops (if bought online they can be sent straight to PACT – Operation Elf, 29, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UA). If you wish to support Operation Elf you can find out more information, and let PACT know, via their website [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk) – you can also leave a Christmas message for a prisoner's child. Please note that book tokens need to arrive before 23rd November to give time for them to be distributed. Thank you.

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

**Vocations Discernment Course:** For men thinking about becoming a Priest. A six-week course will be held online. For more details and to register, visit [vocations@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdhn.org.uk). See poster in church.

**Bishops' Conference Statement on the Publication of the IICSA Report:** The Catholic Church in England and Wales welcomes the Report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse relating to the institutional response of the Church in its duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. We thank the IICSA Panel for their work. The Report will now inform the ongoing reform and improvement of safeguarding in all aspects of the Church's life. The full statement is available on the Parish website.

## **Worldwide Church News**

**Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for November: Artificial Intelligence:** We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

## **Prayer and Liturgy News**

### **First Reading**

**Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31**

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty ; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

### **Psalm:**

**127(128):1-5**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord

Indeed thus shall be blessed

and walk in his ways!

The man who fears the Lord.

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

You will be happy and prosper.

all the days of your life

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table.

### **Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.' The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

**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.**

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



**Jamie's 'Paws' for Thought:** "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years." *Mark Twain*