



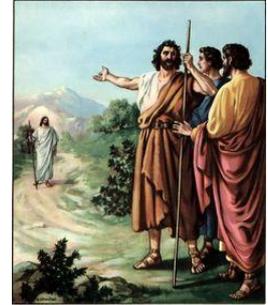
St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 13th December 2020

John the Baptist says in this weekend's gospel, "There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me." The Lord stands among all of us, but he remains unknown to many. Our calling is to make him known, to allow him to shine forth in our world through our lives. John spoke of himself as a voice crying in the wilderness. John used his voice to make known the light. We too are asked to use our voice to make Christ known. In what we communicate and how we communicate it, we allow the Lord to speak through us.



Merciful God of peace, your Word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world. Amen.

Father God, your Son, Jesus, lived an ordinary life in Nazareth with human parents, brothers and sisters. He understands the difficulties faced in families. We pray for all of those involved in providing support for their families in these difficult times.

Lord hear our prayer.

During this Advent period, we pray for the time, the space and the grace to reflect on the meaning and purpose of our lives as we await with expectation the joy of the Christmas birth.

Lord hear our prayer

Gracious God, may those who have died be granted the peace of your heavenly Kingdom. Give rest to the souls of those who have gone from our lives to meet with You and may they now, released from pain or sorrow, find life eternal at rest in your presence.

Lord hear our prayer



Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December: For a life of prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

3 rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
13	Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
14	Monday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.15am	For Priests and Seminarians
15	Tuesday		
16	Wednesday		
17	Thursday		
18	Friday	9.15am	Carol Mayr-Harting
19	Saturday Vigil Mass	4.00pm	Robert Parkinson Confessions after Mass
4 th Sunday of Advent			
20	Sunday	9.00am	
Anniversaries:		Helen Genery, Kathleen Ferguson, Thelma Brown, Pat Walton, Patrick Casey (PJ), Ronald Healey, Elsie Tweezell, Denis Casey	
		Riska Okninski Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Veronica Connors, Betty Griffiths, Sadie Todd. Rose Marie Bruno, Teresa Carrick	



Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by helping us to see Christ in every person we meet. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Luke 1:46-50, 53-54**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**
- **Gospel ~ John 1:6-8, 19-28**



Masses at St Mary's on a Wednesday at 12.00 noon and Sunday at 6.00pm.

It is with sadness the Diocese has informed parishioners of the death of Fr. Gerard Martin who died peacefully in hospital on Monday 30th November 2020, he was 92 years of age. Fr. Gerard was ordained to the priesthood on 17th July 1953. He has faithfully served the people of our Diocese, including St. Joseph's RC Church in Norton: July 1961 to August 1966. His Requiem Mass is at 1.00pm on Tuesday 15th December and it is hoped that the Mass will be live-streamed through the Diocesan website.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.





MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve 24th December

St Cuthbert's RC Church Vigil Mass 5.00pm

St Patrick's RC Church Vigil Mass 7.00pm

Christmas Day 25th December

St Mary's RC Church 10am

Tickets are available after Mass

SPUC CLUB DRAW . . . The next draw will take place this Sunday. Please could you drop off any outstanding monies at Christine's home address of 242 Oxbridge Lane or she will be happy to collect - just give her a call on 01642 653673 or 07980 290432.

Pope Francis Proclaims 'YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH'

With the Apostolic Letter 'Patric corde' ('With a Father's Heart;'), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a 'Year of Saint Joseph' from the 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. The Holy Father wrote 'Patric corde' against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of 'ordinary' people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds a prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage and defend us from every evil. Amen.



You can watch a video on You Tube proclaiming the Year of Saint Joseph by copying and pasting the following link into your search engine:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=YSN8PFtZclg>

Advent is a season of reflection, anticipation and reconciliation as we await the birth of our Lord and Saviour. The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales are bringing you a podcast series featuring a full read of St Mark's Gospel on the weekdays of the season and also the National Office for Vocation is releasing five films focusing on the different states of life that God can call us to. Visit cbcew.org.uk then select 'what's on' to find out how to access the above.

Durham Cathedral - Lighting of the Christmas Tree and Blessing of the Crib - Sunday 13th December at 3:30pm . . .

Watch live online as the lights on the magnificent 20 feet tall Norwegian spruce are switched on by representatives of the NHS in celebration of the work they do especially at this challenging time, and the Crib is blessed. This service will be live-streamed on Durham Cathedral's Facebook page.



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THANK YOU to all St. Patrick's parishioners who are delivering bulletins, providing treats and for all other acts of kindness during these difficult times.

Please forward any prayers, thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and I will include them on the bulletin. Thank you.

Please could you pass this newsletter round the parish by forwarding to your parish contacts. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters please email stockton.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk or stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com to be removed from the mailing list. If you know of any parishioner who would like to start receiving the bulletin please ask them to e-mail the above. This bulletin, and also English Martyr's & St Peter & Paul's, can be accessed through the Parish Family Stockton website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk.