



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,

Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper

Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 27th December 2020

Joy at Christmas



Father God, when your precious Son became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem in poverty and simplicity you changed our world. As we imagine those surroundings, we join with the Shepherds and the Wise Men in wonder and praise. We thank you for our material lives, praise you for our spiritual lives and trust in you for our eternal lives. Amen.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH			
27	Sunday	9.00am	Lawrence & Eva Jordison
28	Monday <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	9.15am	John Brydon
29	Tuesday <i>St Thomas Becket</i>		
30	Wednesday		
31	Thursday		
1	Friday <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	n.b. 10.00am	For Families
2	Saturday Vigil Mass	4.00pm	Mary Rita Cooper Confessions after Mass
2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS			
3	Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Anniversaries:		Edward Mooney, Mary Ross, Rita Cooper	
		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	



Emmanuel, God with us. Help us receive the Light of Christ in our hearts and share it generously and joyfully in our families and communities.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 104:1-6, 8-9**
- **Second Reading ~ Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**
- **Gospel ~ Luke 2:22-40**



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ROBERT . . . As we approach Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work for your parish and the diocese in this time of pandemic. To those who have helped to keep our churches open for Mass and those who have reached out to the less fortunate I want to say a big thank you. It is by our faith and unity that we can be a sign to the world of the love Christ showed us in becoming one of us in the holy season. I would like to wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Thank you to all St Patrick's Welcome and Cleaning Team. The church could not have opened all these months without your dedicated hard work, time and service. You are doing an absolutely brilliant job and much appreciated by all. May God Bless and pour many graces upon you. (Deacon Mick)

Christmas Mass is limited in number to ticket holders only. We can all join together as a parish in prayer on Christmas Day by lighting a candle in front of a Crib or card with a Nativity Scene and saying the following prayer, keeping our Parish family and all those in need in our prayers.



Glory to God in the Highest!

My precious Lord Jesus, I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth. Your love for us is unfathomable; it is glorious, transforming, awe-inspiring, and deeply personal. You chose to come and dwell among us, being born into poverty, rejection and humility. Yet Your mother knew whom she bore, her heart was filled with the tenderest love as she adored her Child and her God. Help me, dear Lord, to come to love You with the heart of Your mother. Invite me to adore You with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds. Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth and change my life on account of this perfect gift of Yourself. I love You, dear Lord Jesus. Help me to love You with all my heart. New-born Saviour of the World, I trust in You. Mother Mary and St. Joseph, pray for me and for all. Amen

Bishop Robert shares his 2020 Christmas message and tells us how, *“On the first Christmas night the shepherds were the first to witness the glory of the Lord and to see for themselves the light of the world ... Only he can give us the joy and hope that we need to steer us through life and bring us to the eternal light we all desire.”* Visit the Diocesan website to listen to Bishop Robert’s message.

The traditional Christmas Eve celebration of Midnight Mass comes live from the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul, Clifton, Bristol. The Bishop of Clifton, the Rt Revd Declan Lang, will preside and the Mass. Choir members, socially distanced to protect against Coronavirus, will sing well-loved carols including O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night and Hark! the Herald Angels Sing. The Mass setting is Missa Universalis, composed by the Cathedral’s director of music, Richard Jeffrey-Gray. **You can watch it live on BBC One from 23.45pm.**



HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents we remember the slaughter of the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. We thank You for the precious gift of human life. For life in the womb, coming from your creative power. For the life of children, making us glad with their freshness and promise and for the life of young people, hoping for a better world. We pray for those in our community who work in your name to defend human life against every threat of violence, especially against the weakest – the elderly, the dying, women, children, the disabled and the unborn – that they may be strengthened and affirmed in their work. Amen.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD . . . A devotion to Our Lady always puts us in touch with our honoured position as human beings, for Mary was fully human, fully open to the word of God. We see ourselves mirrored in her life.



Heavenly Father, You blessed the Virgin Mary with the fullness of grace. She is our model of faith, hope and love. We give this New Year to her intercession and ask for her holy prayers. Place our needs into the protection of her motherly love. Amen.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ we would like to thank you all for very generous donations you have made to your SVP conference here at St Patricks. This has enabled us to continue helping some of the needy with food, clothes or household goods. We do get furniture donated and arrange transport to people in need. We have also received children's toys which are very gratefully received and distributed to children most in need and they are really happy to receive them. During this Pandemic we are limited to visiting people, mainly on the doorstep or contact by telephone. **Please if you know of anyone who would like us to contact them or are in need please let us know.** Please accept our thanks from all the sisters and brothers of your SVP and may GOD bless you all.

I have just received a letter from Fr George Kavalam, in India. He is fit and well, but reports how bad things are in India with the Covid Crisis. Many poor people have lost their jobs, transport is shut down and International mail is severely disrupted. Everyone has to wear masks and social distance from each other. He has been moved to a nearby Parish, which due to the previous Priest's illness had got very run down. He is now working hard to build it up again. He still lives at Basna Post, those who are in touch with him. He sends Christmas Greetings to all at St Patrick's and, like us all, is praying to God for the vaccines to work and get us back to some sense of normality soon. (Martin Driffield)

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.



