



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
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Sunday 3rd January 2021

John is a witness to the light. We are children of God who are promised new life by Jesus who revealed the Father's love to us. God's word is a creative word who gives life to all, in love. It has been an eventful year that leaves lasting memories. We have the fidelity of God to sustain us in the many challenges of life. We need light in the darkness and hope in the uncertainty that is around us. God has given us the Eternal Word and the Living Word of Scripture to guide us. We pray to welcome and appreciate those words more fully, asking that our words may be in harmony with them. As we stand on the threshold of another year, we take time to recall the greatest event of all: God has entered our world and has made it his permanent dwelling.

Lord, let me set aside some time today to reflect back on how the light of your presence has impacted on my life during this past year. Let me be grateful and give thanks for all I have received from you directly and through the gift of other people. Amen.



The star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us, that we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ.

Lord hear our prayer

Father God, Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: we give thanks for His presence with us in our homes and in our lives. Guide us in our relationships with family and neighbours, especially those in trouble or need and bless those who have guided and enriched our own lives.

Lord hear our prayer

Lord God, as we face the start of 2021 we pray for Your world. Let the star of your justice always shine in the hearts of those who are in authority. Enable all nations to recognize the sanctity of each and every human life in their care so that all may experience an abundance of peace and security. Most especially we pray that this year will see the end of the pandemic as the programme of vaccination continues worldwide.

Lord hear our prayer

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey here on earth and pray that they may come into Your presence and Kingdom. We pray for all those who have come before Your face and now rejoice in the fullness of life eternal.

Lord hear our prayer

2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS			
3	Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
4	Monday	9.15am	Special Intention
5	Tuesday		
6	Wednesday The Epiphany of the Lord		
7	Thursday		
8	Friday	9.15pm	Monica McShane
9	Saturday Vigil Mass	4.00pm	Margaret Foley (SVP) Confessions after Mass
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD			
10	Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Anniversaries:		Rita Cooper, John Patrick Doran, Yolanda Coates,	
		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	



A Prayer to St. Joseph

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.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20**
- **Second Reading ~ Ephesians 1:3-6 15-18**
- **Gospel ~ John 1:1-18**



Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January ~ *Human Fraternity*



May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

How are these prayer intentions chosen? The faithful from around the world suggest Papal Prayer Intentions in each country to their national office, which selects some of them and sends those to the international office of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in Vatican City. Through prayerful discernment the international office selects a large number of them and submits them to the Pope to help his discernment. After his prayer and discernment he entrusts to the International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network the official set of monthly prayer intentions, which are then translated into the major world languages and published in print and digital formats

The Star of Bethlehem led the Magi to the Child Jesus. This journey accomplished two things; the Magi's' acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as the son of God and the presentation of gifts to him. While this event happened two thousand years ago, it has meaning for us today. First and foremost, we have the opportunity to acknowledge Christ in our lives and to be eternally grateful for his birth. Second, Epiphany gives us a time to reflect on the gifts we would like to share with Christ. Today we ask Christ our Lord to bless our home and make it his dwelling.

EPIPHANY PRAYER FOR THE HOME . . . Bless, O Lord, this household and family, and allow all of us to find a shelter of peace and health. Inspire each of us to develop our individual talents and to contribute wisdom and good works for the benefit of the whole family. Make our house a haven for us all, and a place of warmth and caring for all our friends who come to visit us. Enlighten us with the brilliance of Your Epiphany Star, so that, as we go into the world, we might clearly see our way to You and discover You in our work and play. This we ask to your glory and in the power of your kingship. Amen



Pat Kennedy MPS has shared a Reflection ('Magi: A Reflection for the Epiphany') which you can read on the Diocesan Website

Pope Francis gave his traditional Christmas Message and Blessing , Urbi et Orbi, to the City of Rome and the World. The theme of the Pope's Christmas message looks at how Jesus was born for everyone, "the Son that God has given to the entire human family". This can be read by visiting www.cbcew.org.uk

2021

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. The events of 2020, including a pandemic, racial tensions, joblessness, and political battles created an unprecedented time of unrest and anxiety. While some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead, others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing. Praying at the start of the New Year doesn't always bring immediate change at the stroke of midnight, but it begins the opening of our hearts to God's Words of hope and peace.



Father, as we stand at the beginning of this New Year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our expectations for the year that is ahead of us, but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. Help us to trust you and to seek Your will during this coming year. 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.

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.



Irish Blessing

**May joy and peace surround
you, contentment latch your
door, and happiness be with
you now and bless you
evermore.**