

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
23rd Sunday Ordinary Time Year B – 5th September 2021

	<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>Feast Days this week</u>
Sat 4th	6:00pm Priest's Intention	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 5th	—	10:30am Betty Sparks RIP (SVP) 3:00pm HOLY HOUR Celebrating the Centenary of The Legion of Mary	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	23 rd Sunday Ordinary Time
Mon 6th	—	—	—	—
Tue 7th	—	—	10:30am Funeral Service John Blackburn RIP	—
Wed 8th	9:30am Priest's Intention	—	1:00pm Funeral Service Mary Croft RIP	The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thur 9th	—	9:30am 100 th Anniversary of The Legion of Mary (8 th September)	—	St Peter Claver, Priest
Fri 10th	6:30pm Priest's Intention	—	—	—
Sat 11th	6:00pm Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 12th	—	10:30am Margaret Blackwood RIP (PM)	9:00am Irene & Roy Whitehead RIP (S&P)	24 th Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 9th September
St Joseph's
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 10th September
EMSSPP Sanctuary
6:00pm – 6:30pm

Saturday 11th September
EMSSPP Sanctuary
5:30pm – 6:00pm

Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469

ST. HILDA PARTNERSHIP



English Martyrs and Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's



St. Joseph's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

23rd Sunday Ordinary Time
Year B – 5th September 2021

Clergy

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

Parish Office

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10.00am till 2:00pm
Contact: Gill Hall Tel. 01642 806469
Email: parishfamilystockton@outlook.com

Internet

Parish YouTube: Stockton Parish Family
Facebook page: @ParishFamilyStocktonRC
Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk
Diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Reflection 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

In the few weeks that have elapsed since I last wrote a Reflection, it feels as though there has been a distinct shift in the weather.

It was hardly wall to wall sunshine at that time, but it was dry and warm enough to venture outdoors and do things if you wanted to do so.

Now though it feels very different, at least it does to me. Today for example, Wednesday, it's dull, grey and drizzling. It was much the same yesterday, and not much different on Bank Holiday Monday - I wanted to do some repairs to my car that day, but had to keep stopping because of showers.

It's colder too, and my grass is covered by a relatively thin but still very obvious blanket of leaves. Those schools who have not gone back already will be opening their doors in a matter of days - in other words, Autumn is here...

This should not come as a surprise to us. Seasons come and go year on year as we all know, and every single day presents us with change in some shape or form- changes for better or for worse, from small almost indistinct changes that might affect us and no-one else, to rather more dramatic changes that affect everyone. A glance at the current news suggests a number of examples of this.

And it's not always the case that we are on the 'receiving end' of change. We might well be the one that brings about change, for good or bad.

Nothing in other words stays the same.

Nothing is constant forever.

Except God's love for us. That love remains the same throughout our lives, from beginning to end, no matter what we do in between.

So let's not worry that Summer is over, and that all that we have to look forward to are the cold, dark months of Autumn and Winter.

Instead let's remind ourselves that in those dark months God is as much with us as he was in the midst of Summer, His love for us unaffected by time, place- or temperature...

Bulletin Items: If you would like a notice included in the next bulletin, please email 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.

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 John Blackburn, Mary Croft, Ian Etherington and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Covid: Let's take a step forward

You will be aware that the legal requirements re social distancing, mask wearing etc. were removed by the Government on 19th July and it is now up to each one of us to help to keep us all Covid free. Thank God, Covid infection rates in our area are now reducing but we still need to be cautious.

In view of these changes in circumstances we are now able to give a seat to everyone who wants to attend weekend Masses. It is no longer necessary to book a place in advance. Each church can now be filled to its capacity.

However, a number of measures will remain in place for the present time so that our churches remain safe places to attend Mass.

- ✓ Churches will be sanitised between Masses and other services
- ✓ We will record the names and contact numbers for everyone attending to help with track and trace if needed
- ✓ You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave church
- ✓ You will be asked to wear a face mask in church
- ✓ A marshal will direct you to your seat.

Our marshals have a very important role to play in keeping us safe. We know you will co-operate with them as they do their job to seat people making best use of all the available space in church.

The obligation to attend weekend Mass remains suspended for the present time.

Thank you all for your co-operation. Fr Mark.

Holy Mass Intentions: Holy Mass can be celebrated for many reasons – the death of a loved one, for someone who is sick, an anniversary, a birthday or in thanksgiving for a favour received from God. Envelopes in which to place your offering are available at the back of churches - please clearly write the description of your Intention request on the envelope and, if you have a preference, indicate the name of the church where you would like it to be celebrated. If you have a particular date in mind for the Holy Mass then please give us as much notice as possible - every effort will be made to accommodate your request, but dates are allocated on a first come first served basis. Please also remember to include your name and contact number in case we have any queries. If you would prefer to make your offering by bank transfer, please contact the parish office for the bank account details. Thank you.

A Thank You From Fr Jeff Dodds

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and kindness while I was Parish Priest during these past five years in Stockton. Time has flown, and we have done so much together to build up our church communities and reach out to the needy both locally and internationally. The coronavirus pandemic has challenged us to think and worship in new ways. I never thought we would be broadcasting Masses and other liturgies across the whole world via the Facebook platform. We have done this as a parish team inspired and led, I believe, by the Holy Spirit. There is much good work to be done by yourselves and other new parishioners that God will bring your way. I am confident that your new Parish Priest Fr Mark Millward will continue the good work we have begun and bring much of it to fulfilment. It is always exciting as God guides us in building up His Kingdom.

Please continue to pray for Fr Luke Wilkinson and me as we take up our new appointment this weekend. We both have fond memories of Stockton, which will keep us talking for many a month as we settle into our new roles. I hope you will visit Hexham soon and pop into St Mary's Presbytery. Please let me know, and I will put the kettle on. My contact email address is parish.priest@stmaryshexham.org.uk



Congratulations: to Joanne and Marty who were married in English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul last weekend. May God bless their marriage.

Baptism: We welcome into our parish family Anya Marie Hope, Daisy Elizabeth Joanne Hope, Easton Lee Waterfield, Caura-Josie Hitchinson, Caitlin Alaina Dizon, Bobbi William Harper, Alycia Rose Helena Gibson, Noah Christopher Michael Gibson, Ezra Pitt, Trey Michael Bramley, Aine Elsie Rogan and Shaun- Lee Harry Poulter. Please pray for them and for their parents and God parents. May they all grow in their faith in the years ahead.

We are now in a position to recommence the Sacrament of Baptism. A limited number of dates and times are available. Please contact parishfamilystockton@outlook.com as soon as possible to secure a date.

Thank you, Deacon Jeff.

Readers Weekend 11th/12th September: We have not been able to have our Lay Readers proclaim the Word of God at Mass in the way we normally do. Only one Reader has been allowed and many have not been able to join us at Mass.

At our Sunday Mass on this weekend we shall celebrate the ministry of proclaiming God's holy Word and ask Readers to commit themselves again to this important service. Eventually we shall return to our patterns of ministry that we had before the Pandemic.

The Legion of Mary: will celebrate its Centenary this year on 7th September. To mark this significant milestone, there will be a Holy Hour at 3:00pm on Sunday 5th September in St. Joseph's. Everyone is welcome to come along.

SVP Update: We recently received two anonymous donations for which the conference is very grateful so thank you to the people who made them. I would also be grateful if the person who donated via a Postal Order is able to get in touch to help answer a query. If anybody needs any support or wants to know more about the SVP please call Alan on 07939912354.

St Bede's Red Mission Boxes: - Could you please ring John Evans on 01642 895739, who will arrange to collect your Box/Donation. Like all charities, The Missions have suffered financially over the past year, so please be as generous as possible. Thank you.

Latest News from Fr Vincent: Uganda is still in lockdown - Churches, schools and many places where Fr. Vincent's parishioners used to earn a living are closed so there is still a lot of suffering. Many children are undernourished. Every Tuesday Father's parish compound becomes a nutrition centre where parents come to look for food supplements for their children. Using donations sent to him Fr. Vincent has bought over 100 kg of maize flour mixed with soya flour which is very nutritious for the children. Each family is given about 5 kg or less depending on the number of children. Adults are given maize flour for porridge and a kilo of dried fish to supplement their diet. Father says "I will keep this up as long as I can, but for the moment it's the life support to the very poor families here."

FIRST STEPS – Exploring the Catholic Faith Online

Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join us on a journey this Autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. We gather weekly via Zoom and invite you to come along to find out more. Starts **Wednesday 22nd September at 7pm.** If you are interested to find out more, you can enquire/register using the **Online Enquiry Form** or email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk. For full details, please see the poster on the noticeboard.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for September: An Environmentally, Sustainable, Lifestyle.

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Prayer and Liturgy News

23rd Sunday– Year B – 5th September 2021

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you. 'Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water

Psalm:

145(146):7-10

Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Second Reading

James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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...

Thought for the Day: Bad news goes about in clogs. Good news in stocking feet. *Welsh Proverb.*