

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
All Saints Day Year B – 31st October 2021

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 30th	6:00pm Lawrence Stephenson RIP (PS)	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 31st	—	10:30am Cecilia Hodgkiss, Betty Wing & Martin Wing RIP	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	All Saints Day
Mon 1st	—	—	—	—
Tue 2nd	—	—	9:30am In Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered (CO)	The Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed
Wed 3rd	9:30am Albert Swales	—	—	St Winifride, <i>Virgin</i> St Martin de Porres, <i>Religious</i>
Thur 4th	—	9:30am Marie Sayers RIP (AT)	—	St Charles Borromeo, <i>Bishop</i>
Fri 5th	6:30pm Anne & Bill Foley RIP (MF)	—	—	—
Sat 6th	6:00pm Ian Langford RIP	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 7th	—	10:30am Pro Populo (People of the Parish) 4:00pm Holy Hour	9:00am Vincenza Morgan RIP	32 nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 4th November
St Joseph's
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 5th November
EMSSPP Sanctuary
6:00pm – 6:30pm

Saturday 6th November
EMSSPP Sanctuary
5:30pm – 6:00pm

Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469

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.

ST. HILDA PARTNERSHIP



English Martyrs and Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's



St. Joseph's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

All Saints Day – Year B
31st October 2021

Clergy

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Millward
Assistant Priest: Fr. Oliver Keyes
Deacon: 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](https://www.youtube.com/StocktonParishFamily)
Facebook page: [@ParishFamilyStocktonRC](https://www.facebook.com/ParishFamilyStocktonRC)
Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk
Diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Reflection Solemnity of All Saints 2021

Our Gospel reading this weekend is taken from Matthew. In it, Jesus begins to teach the crowd that had gathered as He and His disciples made their way up a hill.

His teaching takes up three full chapters of Matthew's Gospel- 5, 6 and 7- known together as 'The Sermon on the Mount'. In today's Gospel we hear the very first part of that Sermon, more commonly known as the Beatitudes- a sort of list of rewards (for want of better words) that await those who demonstrate the attributes or qualities that Jesus describes.

So if you are someone who is pure in heart, one day you will see God.

If you are someone who shows mercy to others, you will have mercy shown to you- and so on.

This is not of course the first time that God's people have been taught in this way. God gave a very clear list of what He expected of His people to Moses on Mount Sinai- the Ten Commandments.

You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour- and so on. (Exodus 20:1-17)

So why do we need another list? Why do we need what some call a 'New Testament Ten Commandments'?

Remember that Jesus came to perfect the Law, not to abolish it - so not stealing, not lying and not doing any of the other things prohibited by God remains just as important as it ever was.

But these are things we are told *not* to do.

Can we get to Heaven just by *not doing* certain things?

If the lives of the Saints we commemorate this weekend are anything to go by, the answer is surely 'No'.

Each and every one of them was proactive in some way- they *did* things out of their love of God and their desire to spread His Good News in whatever way they could. They translated the words we hear every week in our readings into action.

As we listen this weekend to the Beatitudes and ponder on the lives of the Saints may we in our turn do something positive this coming week purely and simply to glorify our God.

Deacon Paul

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 all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Covid: UPDATE

We have received updated guidance from Bishop Robert regarding our Diocese Covid procedures following the recent meeting of the Bishop's Council. As you are aware, legal restrictions were lifted in July, however local infection rates and hospital admissions are now increasing and health officials in the region are advising that maintaining Covid control measures such as face covering, and social distancing throughout the coming autumn/winter period will be vital to controlling infections. It is still down to all of us to keep each other safe by reducing the potential spread of infections.

Some controls are being relaxed, but a number of measures will continue for the present time so that our churches remain safe places to attend Mass.

- ✓ You will still be asked to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave church
- ✓ It is recommended that you continue to wear a face mask in church, unless you are exempt
- ✓ Churches will continue to be cleaned between Masses and other services
- ✓ Please try to keep 1m distance from those not in your household or 'bubble'
- ✓ The one-way system in church will continue
- ✓ Ministers, servers and readers can return to their normal duties
- ✓ We will no longer be taking contact details for test and trace

Our marshals have a very important role to play in keeping us safe. Please follow their guidance and 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 and understanding. Fr Mark.

Offertory collection: Please note that from this weekend we will return to passing the offertory basket/plate around at Mass. Thank you. Fr Mark.

Congratulations: to Rhiannon and Daniel who were married in St. Bede's last Saturday. May God bless their marriage.

A Prayer Meeting will be held at 2.00pm every Thursday in the chapel at St Joseph's to pray the Peace Rosary and the Jesus Rosary. For more details, please contact Jon Morgan on 07726 690757.

SVP Update: If you are aware of anyone in need who we might be able to help, even if it's just a phone call or a visit, please speak to one of the conference members or call Alan on 07939912354.

Would you like someone to talk to? A trained listener is available who can offer a confidential listening service to anyone who needs a listening ear. This could include issues such as loss, anxiety, loneliness or any other matters of concern. An initial phone call can be made with the option of meeting one to one or continuing on the telephone. Please contact the parish office on 01642 806469 or email parishfamilystockton@outlook.com leaving your name and contact details and a listener will get in touch.

'Being listened to and heard is one of the greatest desires of the human heart'

Diocesan Day of Reflection for Lay Leaders: Is being held on **Saturday 6th November** 2021 10:30am – 3:30pm at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, High West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1LX (*book by Friday 29th October*) See the poster in church for further details. The cost of the day will be paid by your parish and tea & coffee will be provided but please bring a packed lunch with you. Contact the Parish office if you wish to attend.

Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers will be at 11am on **Saturday 20th November** at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Bishop Robert will celebrate the Mass and it is hoped that we see servers come together from across the Diocese. It will be great to see everyone after missing last year and building on the great success of the previous Diocesan Altar Servers' Mass in 2019.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes Pilgrimage: Preparations are beginning for our annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Friday 29th July - Friday 5th August 2022. It is hoped that this year, we will be able to travel together as a Diocese once more.

In order to aid the planning stages, it would be helpful if you could indicate your interest in travelling to Lourdes in July 2022 and state if you would be willing to offer any help or volunteer for any of the roles that support the smooth running of the Pilgrimage. Please contact lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk for an 'expression of interest' form.

CHARIS - Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service

On the 8th June 2019, Pope Francis initiated a new structure for Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. CHARIS' objective is to serve and create communion between the different realities existing in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for the proclaiming of the Gospel in the world. International, national and now Diocesan Service of Communion teams have now been created with the emphasis on three priorities, given by Pope Francis:

- To help deepen and promote the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church.
- To promote the ecumenical dimensions of the Catholic Renewal and foster the commitment to serving the unity of all Christians.
- To promote service to the poor and social action through Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Our Diocesan CHARIS Team are inviting you all to our launch events to discover about CHARIS and also to ask how CHARIS can be used by the Diocese and parishes to further Pope Francis' vision of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Launch date and venue: **Saturday 13th November 11am – 2:30pm English Martyrs & SS Peter and Paul**, Redhill Road, Stockton, TS19 9BY To book your place at either of the launch events, please email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk. Alternatively, you are welcome to turn up on the day at either launch event (COVID safety measures will be in place).

For more information about CHARIS please visit our Diocesan Webpage and you will find CHARIS under the Vicariate for Faith and Mission. Our email is charis@diocesehn.org.uk. John Wheeler, CHARIS Coordinator, Vicariate for Faith & Mission

Norton Village Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 19 December, at 4.30 pm. If any musicians would like to be involved/take part in the Service, please contact Pastor Cath Harris at cath.harris@thedestinychurch.co.uk by 31 October. Please supply name and contact details.

Apostleship of the Sea - Appeal for donations of Christmas Gifts

The seafarers have had an even more difficult time through lockdown, unable to leave the ships and visit home. Donations, particularly of men's toiletries, socks and gloves would be especially welcomed, but hats and chocolate/sweets would also be appreciated. Collection boxes will be placed at the back of EMSPP Church and by the door in the Hall. Please give if you can. Thank you.

Proud Catholics Do you identify as LGBT+ or are you questioning your sexual or gender identity? Would you like to attend a support group run by and for LGBT+ Catholics in the North East? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at St Andrew's RC Church, Worswick St. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 16th November at 7.30pm** (GMT). Gerard Swan, the Chairperson of Quest (a group which provides pastoral support to LGBT+ Catholics) will join us via Zoom, and together with him we will explore both the history of Quest and how it perceives its role today in the lives of LGBT+ Catholics. The meeting will be followed by social time. It will be possible to connect through Zoom for people who are not able or don't feel safe to come to St Andrew's.

For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit <http://www.proud Catholics.co.uk>

A message from CAFOD Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information, see cafod.org.uk/COP26 *May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.*

End of British Summer Time: please remember that the clocks go back this weekend.

The Year of the Eucharist was launched last Sunday: In next week's newsletter you will see opportunities for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as a beginning.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for October: Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelisation, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

Prayer and Liturgy News

First Reading

Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Psalm:

23(24):1-6

Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of Jacob.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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: Happiness is a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight on you. *Nathaniel Hawthorne*