

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
2nd Sunday Advent Year C – 5th December 2021

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 4th	6:00pm Anne & Bill Foley RIP (MF)	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 5th		10:30am Matthew Chipchase RIP	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish) 3:00pm Holy Hour	2 nd Sunday Advent
Mon 6th	—	—	—	St Nicholas, Bishop
Tue 7th	—		9:30am In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Fatima 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor
Wed 8th	9:30am Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH)	—	—	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese
Thur 9th	—	9:30am Joe & Mary Mannion and Family 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin
Fri 10th	5:00pm – 6:30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:30pm Special Intention of Michael Bryan	—	10:30am Funeral Service Pauline Robinson RIP	Our Lady of Loreto
Sat 11th	6:00pm Don & Betty Wallace RIP	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 12th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community 3:00pm Holy Hour	10:30am Brian Houseman RIP	9:00am Mary Moore RIP (GEM)	3 rd Sunday Advent

Thursday 9th December St Joseph's after 9.30am Mass	Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 10th December EMSSPP Sanctuary 6:00pm – 6:30pm	Saturday 11th December 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

2nd Sunday Advent Year C
5th December 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 Facebook page: @ParishFamilyStocktonRC Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk Diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Second Sunday of Advent.

Today's first reading from the prophet Baruch is beautiful:

“take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of integrity of God around you, put on the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head.”
 Bar 5:1

God desires our wholeness, St John the Baptist calls in the wilderness inviting us to turn our lives around and prepare a way for the Lord. There are times of wilderness in all our lives, times of dryness, sorrow or distress. Alone it is often very difficult to overcome our problems, but God promises that in life's ups and downs, twists and turns:

“Every Valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill will be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth”. Is. 40:4

God is with us! Emmanuel reaches out to us in so many ways, he comes in both friend and stranger who offer us their help and support – think of those who have helped you in difficult times, give thanks for them.

The Lord also offers us the beautiful gifts of the Sacraments to touch our lives with his mercy and compassion. This Advent there will be several opportunities to open our hearts and lives to healing and forgiveness. The sacraments of reconciliation and healing will be celebrated in our Advent liturgies advertised on this bulletin. God gives us opportunity to ***‘Prepare a way for the Lord’*** Is 40:3

Through these wonderful opportunities may we all ***‘put on the beauty of the glory of God’!*** Bar 5:1

Fr Mark

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 Pauline Robinson RIP and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Covid: UPDATE:

Some controls have been relaxed, but a few 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.
- Please try to keep 1m distance from those not in your household or 'bubble'

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.



St Bede's Church 70th Anniversary Sunday 5th December: To celebrate, the following events will be held on that day: **9:00am Holy Mass & 3:00pm Holy Hour.** A Cream Tea will also be served – a limited number of tickets will be available.



Christmas Display Appeal: If anyone has any greenery which could be used in the Christmas displays at EMSSPP could you please bring it to church before the 18th of December. Thank you.

The Rosary will be prayed straight after the Thursday 9-30am Mass at St Joseph's church, starting from Thursday November 25th.

The Divine Will group will meet in Thornton Hall at St Joseph's from Monday November 29th at 11 am, Father Colahan will lead. Everyone is welcome.

A Prayer Meeting: will be held at **1.00pm** 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.

Funeral collection: the collection in memory of Kath Stott RIP came to £68.21, which will be donated to The Stroke Association. Sincere thanks to all who donated.



Thank You: Ann Dennis and family would like to thank all parishioners for their cards, words of sympathy, flowers and Mass intentions on the death of their son Neil Anthony. Thank you.

St Bede's Red Mission Boxes: - Could you please ring John Evans on 01642 895739, who will arrange to collect your Box/Donation. With Christmas coming shortly early contact / collection would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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'

News from Fr Vincent: In October Fr. Vincent set up a Family Ministry Group to assist him with the increased number of distressed and psychologically disturbed people who come to him for help. Father and his team meet these needy people every Tuesday and Friday. They listen and give practical help where they can. The team has settled family disputes, land quarrels and comforted a lot of distressed people. It is a demanding ministry but as a team Fr. Vincent says they have already accomplished a lot. When funds allow it he plans to send two catechists to be trained as counsellors. **Please pray for Fr. Vincent and his people.**

The Northern Cross: look out for the Northern Cross paper which is being relaunched for sale in churches in **December**. In March 2020, the future for *Northern Cross* looked bleak but the paper has continued on a subscription basis and we would like to thank the hundreds of parishioners who have taken up the offer. This has enabled *Northern Cross* to continue to serve the diocese, as it has for over sixty years. With your support we are determined to ensure that it continues to be part of the Gospel voice of our area belonging to and reflective of the people of Hexham and Newcastle.

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.

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 EMSSPP Church and by the door in the Hall. Please give if you can. Thank you.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for November: People Who Suffer from Depression.

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Advent Events in our Parish Family:

Holy Hour: with a Reflection and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Sick, Counsel and Listening Ministry:- **Sunday 5th December - 3:00pm at St. Bede's**
Sunday 12th December - 3:00pm at EMSSPP
Sunday 19th December - 3:00pm at St. Joseph's ... followed by Carols on the Green at 4:30pm

Saturday 18th December - Parish Advent Retreat Day 10:00am – 2:00pm at St Joseph's – Please sign up.

Tuesday 21st December -Service of Reconciliation 7:00pm at EMSSPP

Walk with Me Advent: These small booklets are now available in church. They contain prayer and scripture readings for each day of Advent to help you prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. They are free, however any donation you can make towards the cost would be gratefully received. Thank you. Fr Mark

Advent reflections: The Vicariate for Faith and Mission has produced a set of booklets of Advent reflections, one for each week of Advent. The Seasonal Reflections page on the diocesan website can be found at : <https://diocesahn.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer/#seasonal>*. Last year's Advent booklet was very well received. As we prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and their relevance to our daily Christian living. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community.

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you forever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Psalm:

125(126)

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

2.The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

3.Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

4.They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysaniastetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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.

Year of the Eucharist: The Diocese Vicariate for Faith & Mission has produced a reflection booklet, entitled Encountering the Father, as part of the Year of the Eucharist. A copy has been emailed to those on our mailing list and the booklet is also available to view on our website www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk (under Parish News / Diocesan Events) and will also be made available for download on the Diocesan website www.diocesahn.org.uk. If anyone is unable to view the attachment or access the websites and would like a printed copy, then please let the parish office know.

...and now for some Light Relief...

Thought for the Day: "If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family's **Mother Teresa of Calcutta**