



## St. Patrick's R.C. Church

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

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper  
Tel. 01642 674321

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

During Advent we are called to focus on our relationship with God. We are called, in particular, to repent of sins and receive God's forgiveness. That way, we can be ready when Jesus comes. This Sunday's readings remind us that Advent is a time of waiting, a getting ready for the return of Jesus, not just a recalling of the first Christmas but a preparation for the fact that he will come again.

We are called to a fresh start in building a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Prayer, penance, acts of charity and kindness are preparations for the coming of the Lord. Advent provides an opportunity to pause and take a look at ourselves, to reflect on God's great love for us and to respond to that love by lives of Christian service.

*Lord Jesus, we ask you to prepare us during this holy Advent season as we get ready for your arrival. We look forward to the peace and joy you bring into our world. Help us to keep focused on your love and grace during this season. Strengthen our resolve to work for change and to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings. Amen.*

## Synod of Bishops on "Journeying together" – 2023

In preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023 Pope Francis is asking us **"How do we journey together as a local Church and what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?"**

For guidance we are offered ten questions framed from the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. **Please take the set of questions from the back of church.** You are invited to write down your reflections and return them to Canon Cooper.

**Each Parish in the Diocese has been asked to celebrate a special Mass for their dead. The Mass in St. Patrick's RC Church will be this Sunday, 28th November.**

*We pray in thanksgiving for all our departed family, friends and community members and for the many ways in which they touched the lives of everyone around them. May their memory always live on. Amen*



<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
28	Sunday	9.00am	Deceased Parishioners, Family & Friends during Pandemic
29	Monday	9.15am	Mary & Ken Sykes
30	Tuesday		
1	Wednesday		
2	Thursday		
3	Friday <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.15am	John & Bridget Matthews
4	Saturday		No Mass
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
5	Sunday	9.00am	Madelaine & Terry McDermott – Golden Wedding Anniversary
<b>Anniversaries:</b>		Agnes Borg, Malcolm Hall, John Butler, Joseph Hargan, Chris Marwood	
		Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Betty Griffiths, Rose Marie Bruno, Teresa Carrick,	



As followers of Christ, we wait with hope for his return. As we light the first candle of Advent we remember that it was from the manger at Bethlehem that he came and gave light to the world.

*Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by being open and seeing the light of Christ in others. Amen.*

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .**

- **First Reading ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**
- **Gospel ~ Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

**MEMORIAL MASS - Remembering those who died since the Pandemic began.**



The Book of Remembrance has been taken to Saint Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, so that all those named may be remembered at a Solemn Requiem Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert at **11.00am on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November.**



**Advent is when the Church re-sets the calendar of our remembering and celebrating the saving work of Christ.** This Advent we do this in the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist established by Bishop Byrne, '*Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb*' and in the prayerful reflections of individuals and groups engaged in the Synod called by Pope Francis. This is more of a challenge as we continue to emerge from the Pandemic.

Listening and belonging are Advent ways of expressing our communion, our unity with God the Father who gives His Son as judge and newborn child. These resources are offered as a lifebuoy, a remedy and a prayer book for the days ahead. Advent is a time to stretch and arouse our imagination for what it brings: a deep listening to one another as we discern what and where the Holy Spirit is stirring us. Enjoy the reflections and prayers. Happy Advent!

(Monsignor Andrew Faley. Episcopal Vicar for the Vicariate for Faith & Mission).

You can access the reflections for Advent by visiting the Diocesan website [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) then selecting Menu – Liturgy and Prayer – Seasonal Reflections.

## **PARISH SHOP . . Thank you for your support**

- ❖ Boxes of 18 Christmas Cards £3.99
- ❖ Small packets of 10 Christmas cards, a few left £1.30
- ❖ 2022 Catholic Diaries £2.99
- ❖ Two Weekday Missals at a special price of £29.99

Gifts and cards on sale in the Shop or on the table in church porch.

**HOLY ISLAND VINNIE CAMP 2022 . . .** Holy Island Camp will be running holidays for children in 2022. Our helpers are all volunteers and in order to go ahead successfully in 2022 we urgently need new volunteers. We need help in the kitchens, preparing food, washing up and clearing the dining hall, we also need caretaking staff who would be able to carry out a cleaning role. The work is tiring but also fun (you would be joining an established and very welcoming team) and the young people benefit enormously from a traditional seaside type holiday. The commitment can be for as little as three days a year in term time or more if you are able to help on multiple weeks or through the summer holidays. All helpers will be required to obtain a free Diocesan DBS check and some training. If you are interested please visit our website: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/about-camp>

**DIOCESAN VACANCY . .** St Anne, Darlington - Cleaner – Permanent, 3 hours per week. Closing date for applications, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website <https://diocesehn.org.uk> or contact us on 0191 243 3301

## **Christmas Tree Festival at Ushaw ~ 2nd December to 3rd January**

The festive season is here, and to celebrate we welcome the return of our Christmas Tree Festival! Join us for a collaboration of local artists, businesses, societies, charities, staff, volunteers and benefactors, making Christmas trees which are displayed around the building. There are traditional trees and trees made from all different kinds of materials!



After you've looked around and seen all of our Christmas trees, explore the great indoors of Ushaw with our awe-inspiring Chapels and Exhibitions. When you have finished exploring, head to The Refectory Cafe for Soup, Sandwiches, Cakes and refreshments. Entry to the Christmas Tree Festival is free with admission and included for Annual Pass holders – no pre-booking required.

**The Northern Cross is being relaunched.** In March 2020 the future of the 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 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.

**THANK YOU** to all St. Patrick's parishioners who are delivering bulletins, providing treats for other parishioners and friends.

**Please forward any prayers,** thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and they will be included 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](mailto:stockton.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk) or [stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com](mailto: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.