

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
3rd Sunday Ordinary Time Year C – 23rd January 2022

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 22nd	6:00pm Anne & Bill Foley RIP (MF)	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 23rd	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Danny Timms & family in thanksgiving for a complete recovery	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	3 rd Sunday Ordinary Time
Mon 24th	—	—	—	St Francis de Sales <i>Bishop, Doctor</i>
Tue 25th	—	—	9:30am Dominic Fletcher RIP 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle
Wed 26th	9:30am Don & Betty Wallace RIP (AF)	—	—	SS Timothy and Titus, <i>Bishops</i>
Thur 27th	—	9:30am The Late Alice RIP (SB) 12 noon Requiem Mass Pat Johnson RIP 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St Angela Merici, <i>Virgin</i> St Gregory of Narek, <i>Abbot, Doctor</i>
Fri 28th	5:00pm – 6:30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:30pm Colin Clamp RIP (BE)	—	2:00pm Funeral Service Peter Norman Crossen RIP	St Thomas Aquinas <i>Priest, Doctor</i>
Sat 29th	6:00pm Lawrence Stephenson RIP (PS)	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 30th	—	10:30am Frank Kelly RIP	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	4 th Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 27th January
St Joseph's
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 28th January
EMSSPP Sanctuary
6:00pm – 6:30pm

Saturday 29th January
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
3rd Sunday Ordinary Time Year C – 23rd January 2022

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

In September 2019, as a follow-up to the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis declared that in each Liturgical Year this Sunday, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, was to be designated the Sunday of the Word of God.

I am grateful to one of my Prison Chaplain colleagues for reminding me of this. Listening to the Word of God at Mass is something that is familiar to all of us, just as familiar as reading it at home for ourselves. Equally familiar is what follows- reflecting on what we have heard in church or read at home, and trying to understand what God is saying to us.

I think we all manage that well enough don't we? That being so, why does the Pope want a special day for the Word of God, when surely every day is such a day?

Maybe there's something missing in what we do. Maybe it's not enough to listen/read and then reflect.

In truth we need to listen/read, reflect and then *act* in whatever way we can by way of response to God's Word.

That could mean physically doing something- perhaps volunteering in some capacity or other to help others less fortunate than ourselves, such as those referred to in today's Gospel.

It could mean offering a prayer or two for the same people, who are after all our brothers and sisters in Christ- prayer being just as important as physical help, arguably more so.

And this I think is what the Pope is trying to encourage us to do, to act upon the Word of God rather than fool ourselves it's enough to give it some thought every now and again.

We all need to be reminded about things we already know from time to time- like me being reminded about the Pope's declaration- but the trick is to actually do something once we have been reminded.

What will you do this coming week in response to hearing the Word of God today?

Deacon Paul

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 Michael Kreczak, Peter Norman Crossen, Pat Johnson, Johan Ketterick and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

COVID MEASURES:

The following measures will continue to apply so that our churches remain safe places to attend Mass:

- **Please scan the QR code provided or give your details to the stewards for Track and Trace.**
- **You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave church.**
- **It is a requirement that you wear a face mask in church unless you are exempt.**
- **Please try to keep 1m distance from those not in your household or 'bubble'.**
- **If you have any cold, flu or gastric symptoms then please stay at home.**

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.

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

Baptisms: Please pray for Joseph Michael Bell and Thomas Jack Bell who received the Sacrament of Baptism last weekend. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

Thank you: Josie Clamp and family wish to thank Father Mark for the lovely funeral service for Colin and for the support he has given us over the last few weeks. We would also like to thank our parish family across the three parishes for the Mass offerings, prayers and cards, it has been a great comfort to us at this difficult time. We are sure that all your prayers will carry Colin to heaven.

White Flower Appeal: Due to a miscommunication the White Flower Appeal did not take place last weekend at St Joseph's, Norton. The appeal will now take place on Sunday, 30 January. The appeal at English Martyrs & SS Peter & Paul will also be held open for another two weeks and donations can be given to Brenda Elmer.

Pro-Life: A pro-life Holy Hour will take place on Thursday 25th January following 9:30 Mass at St Joseph Norton. Please come and pray for respect for life, the unborn. Thank you

Funeral Collection: The collection in memory of Des Brennan RIP raised £217.50 which will be donated to Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Thanks to all who contributed.

SPUC Youth Conference: Why not join people from around the country at the SPUC 2022 Youth Conference (18 – 30 years) which takes place from Friday, 25 February to Sunday, 27 February at the Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre, Stone, Staffordshire. The Conference aims to educate, inspire and empower our young people to work for the pro-life movement. Cost for the weekend is £135 and there is some sponsorship still available. For further details, please see poster at back of church or Contact Christine Pope, SPUC Stockton Office, 01642 602842

Vacancies: The Diocese is looking to appoint a **Health and Safety Officer** to co-ordinate and manage all aspects of health and safety across the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. This will include, but is not limited to, ensuring that all Diocesan personnel are kept safe and that Diocesan properties and projects, and the associated activities are safe and without risk as far as is reasonably practicable. Full-time, permanent. Closing date for applications – 27 January. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.diocesehn.org.uk or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Is God calling you to be a Priest?: The Diocesan Vocations Team have organised an overnight retreat for men aged 18+ to discern whether God is calling them to the Priesthood. **Date:** Friday 25th February 2022 5.00pm to Saturday 26th February (after lunch) **Place:** Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Minsteracres, Consett, DH8 9RT. **Cost:** £50 (including meals and accommodation) Spaces are limited. Please contact Fr Shaun Purdy to book a place or for more information: vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk 01670 812 200 Bookings to be made by Thursday 10th February.

SVP Update

South Sudan Appeal: The SVP in the North East is having its annual appeal to help the people of South Sudan. You have always been very generous and last year we were able to send £1000 from our three parishes to help out. If anyone wants to make a donation this year, please put it in an envelope marked "SVP – Sudan Appeal" and give it to one of the conference members or put in the collection at Mass. Thank you very much!

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'

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 to 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>

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.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for January: For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Prayer and Liturgy News

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.diocesehn.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.

First Reading

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Psalm:

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

Second Reading

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Gospel

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

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

Thought for the Day: It's not enough to discover Christ – you must bring him to others.

St John Paul II