

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C – 27th March 2022

	<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 26th	6:00pm Richard John Walburn RIP	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 27th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	9:00am Don & Betty Wallace RIP (AF)	4th Sunday of Lent
Mon 28th	—	—	—	—
Tue 29th	11:30am Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon Lenten Lunch 7:00pm Lent Study Group	—	9:30am Daisy & John Evans RIP (CJ) 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 30th	9:30am Deceased members of the Dunne & Atkinson families RIP	—	7:00pm Stations of the Cross	—
Thur 31st	—	9:30am Dorrie Tait & Marie Sayers RIP (AT) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1:00pm Requiem Mass Pauline Blackwell RIP	—
Fri 1st	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Margaret Jones RIP (MS) Followed by Stations of the Cross	11:30am – 12:30am Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (No Lenten Lunch this week)	—	—
Sat 2nd	6:00pm Deceased members of the Watson family RIP	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
Sun 3rd	—	10:30am Jim McNairney RIP	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	5th Sunday of Lent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 31st March
St Joseph's
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 1st April
EMSSPP Sanctuary
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 2nd April
EMSSPP Sanctuary
5:00pm – 5:45pm

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
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C – 27th March 2022

Clergy

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Millward
Assistant Priest: Fr Oliver Keyes
Deacon: Paul Hargreaves

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 4th Sunday of Lent Year C

I know it's Lent, but it felt a bit like Christmas at our house a couple of weekends ago. Our old patio table and chairs had seen over 20 years' service and were beginning to show their age, so we ordered some new ones from Ikea. Of course, being Ikea products the table and chairs arrived in many pieces in many boxes and had to be put together by me.

It was quite exciting opening those boxes and preparing for the task of putting the various pieces together, making sure I had everything including the all important instructions.

In light of my rather less than magnificent DIY skills the actual putting together took quite a while, but we now have a new patio table and chairs that will hopefully last us another 20 years. And yes, even though I put them together you *can* sit on the chairs without them breaking.

Deliveries like this to our homes have something special about them, particularly when you have to put in some effort to achieve the finished result. If only we could receive such things every day.

In truth, we do. Each day we receive gifts from God in some shape or form. I'm sure you can think of many such gifts that you have received this last week.

Sometimes, the gift needs a bit of effort, it's not a 'finished product' just as our Ikea delivery was not a finished product.

Lent is a bit like this in my mind. Through God's grace He helps us prepare for Easter by giving us time to reflect, time to think about what we have received from Him and what we are going to do with His gifts in order to accompany His Son worthily to Calvary and beyond. This requires some effort.

Lent is half over. In Ikea terms, our boxes are open, our instructions and our tools are to hand, and the basic structure of what we are building is there.

But we haven't finished yet. There is still work to do, so keep your eyes and ears open for more gifts to come from God to help your Lenten preparation.

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 Pauline Blackwell and for all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The following COVID MEASURES will continue to apply 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.**
- **We recommend that you wear a face mask in church unless you are exempt.**
- **Please still be mindful of social distancing.**
- **If you have any cold, flu or gastric symptoms then please stay at home.**

Please follow the marshals' 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.

Our marshals have a very important part to play in keeping us safe, but more numbers are needed for the rotas - please volunteer to assist with this vital role, if you are able to.

St Joseph's Refurbishment Appeal

The new the roof at St Joseph's has been completed and has cost almost £50,000. We would now like to renew the lighting and decorate internally and externally, and we anticipate that this may cost up to another £50,000. We urgently need your financial help in these endeavours please. You may be able to give a financial contribution and where possible Gift Aid it, you may have fundraising ideas or you may like to consider increasing your weekly offering and again when possible to Gift Aid your donation. However you can help or whatever you can do will be gratefully received. Thank you – Fr Mark. Donations towards the Refurbishment Fund of £4,161 have already been received – Sincere thanks to those who have contributed so far.

Refurbishment Appeal Concert: Date for your diary - on **Saturday 23 April at 7.30pm** Bella Canta Ladies Choir will be singing at St Joseph's. To raise funds for the roof there will be a retiring collection, a raffle and refreshments.

Latest News from Fr Vincent: As Fr. Vincent goes around the villages he is seeing many children who are suffering from malnutrition. Fortunately, the harvest this year was good and Father has already got more than 700 kilos of maize. He has saved some seeds for the next planting in mid March as people tend to eat all their harvest then turn to him for seeds to plant. ***Please pray for Fr Vincent and his people.***

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'.

St. Bede's Red Boxes: The Mission Boxes are now due for collection. Could you please leave the boxes at the back of Church, or ring John Evans on 01642 895739 who will arrange collection.

St Cuthbert's Care Lenten Alms 2022: Five members of our clergy are living with us at Holy Cross. **Canon Robert Spence** has asked to share a Lenten message with you all: "This has always been one of my favourite charities. I've always loved supporting St Cuthbert's Care right from the time that Sister Fintan engaged me as a football coach at the lovely children's home at Ryhope! I never thought I would end my days at Holy Cross Home in the care of the marvellous staff who keeps us all safe, peaceful, and happy. With your help, through your Lenten Alms, St Cuthbert's Care can bring a smile to the faces of countless folk of all generations' right across the North East. Thank you for all the support you give this great local charity. You are helping make Hexham and Newcastle the sort of church Pope Francis is urging us to be!" This Lent, we hope that we may be able to call upon your kindness to help us raise funds towards a new vehicle. Please give generously.

Do you feel called to accompany those seeking inner healing? The Diocese will be providing training in this ministry, initially to help you discern how God may be directing you. A residential training course will take place at Minsteracres Retreat Centre and will run across 2 sessions: **Session 1: 22nd - 23rd April 2022. Session 2: 15th - 16th July 2022.** For more information look for the poster on your parish notice board or contact the Vicariate for Faith & Mission admin team who can provide further details and application forms. adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Proud Catholics - Thine be the Glory 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, 19th April at 7.30pm (BST)** Join us as we journey together in hope through the blessed Easter season. The meeting will offer an opportunity to take stock and rejoice in the wonders of the risen Lord as well as exploring ways to keep the sense of hope and renewal alive through prayer, scripture, song and art. Together, let's experience peace, stillness, faith and inspiration in Christ our Paschal Mystery. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit our website <http://www.proud Catholics.co.uk>

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for March: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges

We pray for Christians facing bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Lent Study Group: Fr Mark will host a Lent Study Group at 7:00pm on Tuesday evenings in EMSSPP Hall. All are welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE - Holy Week Masses:

Tuesday 5th April 7:00pm at EMSSPP – SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

MAUNDY THURSDAY 14th April 7:00pm at **St Joseph's** – MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER

GOOD FRIDAY 15th April 3:00pm at **All 3 Churches** – CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION

HOLY SATURDAY 16th April 8:00pm at **EMSSPP** – EASTER VIGIL

EASTER SUNDAY MASS 17th April 9:00am at **St Bede's** and **10:30am** at **St Joseph's**

Stations of the Cross: see times on the back of the newsletter. **Please note the earlier Friday Mass time at EMSSPP.**

Online Retreat for Lent: The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow is holding an online retreat for Lent which is open to all and this year, to celebrate the 500 years since the conversion of St. Ignatius Loyola, is based on his life. Each day of Lent the retreat we provide an episode from the life of Ignatius, Music, Art, a reading from Scripture and a reflection. Participants can join an online group for a weekly meeting with others to share the fruits of their prayer. The retreat is available on the web (www.onlineprayer.net) as an App, or a book. For more details, see their website at www.iscglasgow.co.uk

Lent Reflection Booklet: The Diocese Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the second part of the booklet of Lenten reflections. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy, religious and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community. To access both booklets visit www.diocesehn.org.uk, select 'Liturgy & Prayer', then scroll down to Lent Reflections.

Sycamore for Lent: "We are pilgrims 'journeying together' whose listening and speaking is that of those who seek and not that of those who believe they have found". Sycamore opens up the heart of the Christian message and helps people to grow in faith. The films give an inspiring vision of Catholic Christianity. They involve some clear teaching and thought-provoking testimonies. The discussion groups, even online, help people grow in friendship and build a sense of community. The Diocese Vicariate for Faith and Mission invite you to join on such a journey this Lenten season. We will gather online each Sunday from 6 March to 10 April at 4.00pm until 5.15pm. Why not invite a friend to come along too? This is a free course. Please register at www.diocesehn.org.uk/whats-on/event/lent-sycamore-course.

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

First Reading

Joshua 5:9 – 12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you. The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Psalm

33(34): 2 – 7

R: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

2. Glorify the Lord with me,
together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." "The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

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.

and now for some Light Relief...

Thought for the Day: If God sends us on stony paths, He will provide us with strong shoes.

Alexander Maclaren