

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**  
**Third Sunday of Lent Year C – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

	<b><u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u></b>	<b><u>St Joseph's</u></b>	<b><u>St Bede's</u></b>	<b><u>Feast Days this week</u></b>
<b>Sat 19th</b>	<b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Sheila Earl RIP (C,M&M)	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 20th</b>		<b><u>10:30am</u></b> Cusack Family RIP (PW) <b><u>3:00pm</u></b> Legion of Mary ACIES	<b><u>9:00am</u></b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	3rd Sunday of Lent
<b>Mon 21st</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Tue 22nd</b>	<b><u>11:30am</u></b> Stations of the Cross <b><u>12:00 noon</u></b> Lenten Lunch <b><u>7:00pm</u></b> Lent Study Group	—	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Michael Lamb RIP <b><u>10:00am – 11:00am</u></b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
<b>Wed 23rd</b>	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Denis Carrol RIP (MD&PW)	—	<b><u>7:00pm</u></b> Stations of the Cross	St Turibius of Mongrovejo, <i>Bishop</i>
<b>Thur 24th</b>	—	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Katie McLoughlon RIP (PMc) <b><u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u></b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
<b>Fri 25th</b>	<b><u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u></b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Colin Clamp RIP (M&A) <b><u>Followed by</u></b> Stations of the Cross	<b><u>11:30am – 12:30am</u></b> Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b><u>Followed by</u></b> Lenten Lunch	—	<b>The Annunciation of the Lord</b>
<b>Sat 26th</b>	<b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Richard John Walburn RIP	—	—	Sunday Vigil Mass
<b>Sun 27th</b>	<b><u>9:00am</u></b> Mass for the Polish Community	<b><u>10:30am</u></b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b><u>9:00am</u></b> Don & Betty Wallace RIP (AF)	4th Sunday of Lent

<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>		
<b><u>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March</u></b> <b><u>St Joseph's</u></b> <b><u>after 9.30am Mass</u></b>	<b><u>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March</u></b> <b><u>EMSSPP Sanctuary</u></b> <b><u>5:00pm – 5:45pm</u></b>	<b><u>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March</u></b> <b><u>EMSSPP Sanctuary</u></b> <b><u>5:00pm – 5:45pm</u></b>
<b>Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469</b>		

**Bulletin Items:** If you would like a notice included in the next bulletin, please email [parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com](mailto: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

### **Third Sunday of Lent Year C – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

<b>Clergy</b>	<b><u>Parish Priest:</u></b> Fr Mark Millward <b><u>Assistant Priest:</u></b> Fr Oliver Keyes <b><u>Deacon:</u></b> Paul Hargreaves
<b>Parish Office</b>	<b><u>Hours:</u></b> Tuesday to Friday 10.00am till 2:00pm <b><u>Contact:</u></b> Gill Hall Tel. 01642 806469 <b><u>Email:</u></b> <a href="mailto:parishfamilystockton@outlook.com">parishfamilystockton@outlook.com</a>
<b>Internet</b>	<b><u>Parish YouTube:</u></b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/StocktonParishFamily">Stockton Parish Family</a> <b><u>Facebook page:</u></b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ParishFamilyStocktonRC">@ParishFamilyStocktonRC</a> <b><u>Parish website:</u></b> <a href="http://www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk">www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk</a> <b><u>Diocesan website:</u></b> <a href="http://www.rcdhn.org.uk">www.rcdhn.org.uk</a>

### **Ways Forward for our Parishes**

In today's Gospel Jesus uses the image of a gardener patiently tending a fig tree so that it may bear fruit, we are called to tend to our parish, God is infinitely patient with our efforts and if the things we try don't bear fruit we keep at it trusting in his patience.

In response to Pope Francis' invitation to listen to each other in the synodal process, representatives of each of our churches are meeting together on our Pastoral and Spiritual development group to discuss what we have heard from you and the implications it has for our three parishes. Here are our main themes:

- Being a parish that reaches out to others and walks alongside them:

We would like to explore a renewal in the healing ministry, for some people to engage with the new diocesan initiative 'Called to Accompany through Healing' beginning on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April. To explore the use of some of our buildings for outreach and service to the community.

- Honouring and enabling the vocation of all the baptized, laity and clergy working together collaboratively.

Have an opportunity for people to take a fresh look at their faith through the Sycamore Programme to run in May and June.

- Renewing our organizational structures so that we can administer our resources to serve our mission, thereby enabling our three communities to work more closely together.

Launch today a consultation to gauge opinion about bringing our three parishes together administratively whilst maintaining the individuality of each community. This consultation would report to the Bishop and council of priests in November.

*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 Blackwell** RIP 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.

**Ukraine Appeal:** Sincere thanks to all who have so generously donated to our Polish parishioners' appeal for goods.

**Legion of Mary 'Acies' Ceremony:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 3:00pm. In St Joseph's. All welcome.

**Couples for Christ:** Invite you for a nationwide Pre-consecration mini-retreat **on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 1-4pm via Zoom** to join The Consecration to Divine Mercy. You can join via Zoom with the ID 988 2296 9668 and with password Christ. For further details, please contact Ryan Buco on 07910 083909, Romy Alajar on 07447 598957 or Gerwin Premarion on 07944 149877. Please include this Consecration in your prayers.

**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: 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 **Session 1:** 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 **Session 2:** 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**John Paul II Award:** Congratulations to Angelo who received the John Paul II Award silver medal on Sunday, along with 70 other young people from across our Diocese. They did particularly well considering they completed the award during covid restrictions. Well done! Anyone currently in Yr 11 will be eligible to register for the award this July. All the young people who have completed the award have found it worthwhile, and as one young person said, 'It opened my eyes.' There are many ways to do the award and it is completely flexible. You will be guided and supported throughout the process. Please keep Danielle in your prayers, as she is currently working to complete the award. Thank you.

**Proud Catholics - Stations of the Cross:** 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 Street. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 15th March at 7.30pm**. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email **proud.catholics@yahoo.com**, or visit our website **http://www.proud Catholics.co.uk**

**Latest News from Fr Vincent:** In order to reach villages in the bush Fr. Vincent travels on rough roads. He says the truck bought with donations from our parishes is serving him well and he uses our donations to keep it on the road. Often it is used to take sick people to a treatment centre. Recently Father took a 6-year old boy for treatment for a very bad wound on his foot. The child was looking for firewood in the bush when his foot was pierced by a poisonous piece of wood, he had been in the village untreated for 2 weeks. Using our donations Fr. Vincent paid the medical bill because the parents had no money. ***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. 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.

**Pro-Life Holy Hour:** Please come and join praying for the unborn and sanctuary of life on Tuesday 22nd March at St Bede's following the 9:30 Mass. ***Holy hour, Adoration, quiet prayer then last 20 minutes Rosary for life.***

## 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.

**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:** As we begin the season of Lent, the Diocese Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the first part of the booklet of Lenten reflections. Last year's Lenten booklet was very well received. The past couple of years have probably felt like a very long Lent to many people, so now is a very appropriate liturgical season to express and engage fully with our tribulations. As Christians, we have a hope that shines at the end of every rough road, and we trust that this year's booklet will foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures' relevance to our daily Christian living as we look forward to Easter. 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 the booklet 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](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/whats-on/event/lent-sycamore-course).

**First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15**

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you."' This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

**Psalms: 102(103):1-4,6-8,11**

***RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love.***

1 My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.	3 The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.
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2 It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion,	4 The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.
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**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12**

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

**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:** The gift of Faith is not acquired through books, it is acquired through prayer. ***Sister Briege McKenna***