

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A – 4th December 2022

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 3 rd	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Pro Populo (People of all three Parishes)	9:30am Healing Mass Jean & Julie Peacock RIP	—	—
Sun 4 th	—	10:30am Suzanne Dixon RIP 3:00pm HOLY HOUR & Reconciliation	9:00am Irene, Stan & Peter Collins RIP (DO)	2nd Sunday of Advent
Mon 5 th	—	2:20pm Mass in Our Lady & St Bede School	—	—
Tue 6 th	—	—	9:30am Norah, Peter & Paul McPartland RIP (MT) 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12:00 Noon Funeral Ryszard Podgorski RIP	St Nicholas <i>Bishop</i>
Wed 7 th	9:30am Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH)	—	—	St Ambrose <i>Bishop</i>
Thur 8 th	—	9:30am Gwen Campbell RIP (PO) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese
Fri 9 th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Valerie Ellis RIP (BG)	—	—	St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin
Sat 10 th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Douglas Greenwood RIP (MG)	9:30am For Healing (SAG)	—	—
Sun 11 th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Matthew Evan Chipchase RIP	9:00am Pro Populo (People of all three Parishes)	3rd Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 8th December
St Joseph's Legion Room
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 9th December
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 10th December
EMSSPP Confessional
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

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A
4th December 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
Facebook page: @ParishFamilyStocktonRC
Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk
Diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Reflection 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A

As I was putting out my bin last Tuesday morning, I overheard part of a conversation between two youngsters who were on their way to school.

One said to the other, 'You know it's Christmas when you see the Coca Cola advert on the TV'. I had seen that advert myself the previous night, and I suspect that many of you will be familiar with it.

For those of you who might not have seen the advert, it features lots of Coca Cola lorries making their way along snow covered roads to deliver their goods to eager customers.

There's jingly jangly music to accompany the pictures, and singers telling us that 'Holidays are coming'. Now, I like Coca Cola as much as the next person, and we buy quite a lot of it in my house - but I really don't like this advert. Sorry Coca Cola.

I did by the way resist the temptation to tell the youngsters that it was Advent, not Christmas just yet...

Later on that morning, my daily extract from Saint Faustina's diary landed in my inbox. This is a free service that I have subscribed to for many years now - sometimes the extracts are quite hard to fathom, but mostly they lift the spirit such as this one which I have edited a little -

'29th November 1936. The Mother of God has taught me how to prepare for the Feast of Christmas. She said My daughter, strive after silence and humility, so that Jesus, who dwells in your heart continuously, may be able to rest. Adore Him in your heart... Try to act in this way until Christmas Day...'

Pretty good advice I reckon - for us as well as Saint Faustina since Jesus lives in our hearts too.

So by all means stock up with Coca Cola in readiness for Christmas. But please also try to act in the way Our Lady invites us to do, by adoring her Son and surrounding Him with love in our hearts.

Deacon Paul

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 Ryszard Podgorski and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Stockton Hope Community Larder Hardwick: Many many thanks for all your generous donations for the Community Food Larder. Much appreciated by both volunteers and users. We are getting more and more people coming in to the Larder each week and your supplies have been invaluable. As well as the Community Food Larder we are now starting to collect for our **Christmas Hampers** and need Seasonal food and toiletries. We are also collecting children's pyjamas, hats, gloves & scarves.

With thanks once again; from **Stockton Hope Trustees & Volunteers.**

St Joseph's Refurbishment Appeal: The new the roof has been completed and the lighting has been renewed – almost £54,000 has been spent. **£11,156 has now been received towards this – Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed.** Envelopes are in now church for one off donations ... if you are a UK taxpayer please use the yellow forms to Gift Aid your donation where possible. However you can help or whatever you can do to assist with the fundraising effort will be gratefully received. Thank you – Fr Mark.

November Baptisms: Please pray for Ruben Graham, Betsy Edith, Walter Russell Matthew, Arthur Philip Bradley, Paisley Jean Arabella and Joseph Theodore who received the Sacrament of Baptism in October. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

Our Lady and St. Bede School Mass: St. Joseph's form groups from Our Lady and St. Bede RC School would love to invite you all to a very special Mass. The Mass will take place here **in school at 2.20pm on Monday 5th December.**

All of the pupils in St. Joseph's form groups have prepared this Mass. It will include introduction, readings, reflection and bidding prayers. We would love to see as many of you as possible at this Mass and we thank you for always showing us your care and support. Thank you.

EMSSPP Church Cleaning: Could you spare an hour every 6 weeks to help with church cleaning? Our next clean is **Wednesday 8th December** after Mass & a coffee. Any help appreciated. Thank you.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2023: The 2023 Pilgrimage to Walsingham will depart on **Friday 16th June and return on Sunday 18th June.** A deposit of £30 will secure your place. En-suite rooms are £215, standard rooms are £175. This year we will be running a savings club for anyone who would like to save gradually towards the cost. For further details, please contact Mary on 07952 321396 or Pat on 01642 650904.

Red Boxes (St. Bede's or others): 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.

Christmas Wreath Making: Sue Antribus from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust will be running a seasonal wreath making session on **Wednesday 14th December** at 10.45am in EMSSPP Church Hall. The session is free for parishioners, but **numbers are limited to 15. Book your place via the parish office.**

Consultation on Admission Arrangements for [St. Gregory's, Stockton] 2024/2025: Where changes to admission arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. The policy for consultation for 2024-25 is available at St. Gregory's school website: www.stgregorys.bhcet.org.uk. The consultation will run from 5 December 2022 to 27 January 2023. Response forms should be returned to the school by 27 January 2023. The Local Governing Committee will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2024-25. Mrs Marie Best Headteacher.

Advent Alms 2022: This Advent, we once again hope to call upon your generosity to help us to raise funds to purchase a newer vehicle for our two nursing homes. Your support will allow us to offer more regular outings throughout the year, ensuring our residents' lives remain as varied as possible, with the fresh air and change of scenery offering no end of benefits for good mental health. We appreciate this winter will be difficult for many and urge you only support us if you are able to do so. Thank you. My very best wishes Moira Ashman CEO St Cuthbert's Care

St Vincent De Paul Society: For anything SVP related please speak to one of our members or contact Alan on 07939 912354 or Mary on 07714 327665 or email PresidentC211509@svp.org.uk

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023: Can you help the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year? We need nurses, healthcare assistants, doctors and volunteers to provide care to the assisted pilgrims who travel with us. Previous helpers have found it is a rewarding and spiritually uplifting week. We plan to travel on Friday 28th July. If you would like to find out more information, please email or look at our website <https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/> or email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk

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'.

Fairtrade Christmas Instead of a shop in Middlesbrough this year there will be several pop up stalls across Teesside. The next one is at Linthorpe Community Centre TS5 6JG 10am – 3pm on **Saturday 10th December.** Then Ropner Park from 11am -13:30pm on **Sunday 11th December.** Buying fair trade really helps the producers and their community, so please support these events and buy many fantastic Christmas presents.

Proud Catholics – Mass; 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, on Tuesday, 20th December at 7.30pm (BST), will be a celebration of Mass in the church at St Andrew's, followed by an opportunity for pre-Christmas refreshments in the Chaplaincy room. It is possible to connect to Mass through Zoom for those who are unable or don't feel safe to join us face to face. Please get in touch for the link. 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 December: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Reflections: As part of the Year of the Eucharist, Reflections on the Saints associated with the Eucharist have been prepared by the Seminarians of the Diocese, along with artwork from Fr John Bagnall, to help us grow in our love for the Eucharist, and to pray for vocations to the Priesthood, especially in our own Diocese. It is hoped that the reflections can offer opportunities for us to grow in our faith. They can be viewed at https://bit.ly/Saints_Reflections

Advent Reflections: The Vicariate for Faith & Mission have produced a series of reflections on the readings used throughout our Advent preparations. The reflections have been written by members of the Diocese and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect. The first and second week of Advent reflections can be downloaded from bit.ly/DHNAAdvent2022 or by searching for #DHNAAdvent2022 on Facebook. The second part of the Advent reflections will be available shortly.

A message from 10 St. Cuthbert's in Our Lady and St. Bede School.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as we light the first candle and prepare our hearts and minds with confidence and joy for the birth of Jesus. But as we celebrate it, we must keep in mind those less fortunate than us. Advent is a time of coming together, as a family, as a school, as a community. Therefore, today we also think about the vulnerable, the elderly, the homeless, and those who in these difficult times need to find the courage to face their struggles.

We pray that everyone in Our Lady and St Bede and in our local community have a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas.

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the retched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails

1. Oh God, give your judgement to the King,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people on justice
and your poor in right judgement.

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-2

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: *A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.*

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Thought for the Day

In order to be loved, you yourself must be loving. **St John Bosco**