

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
3rd Sunday of Advent Year A – 11th December 2022 Gaudete Sunday

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 10th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Douglas Greenwood RIP (MG)	9:30am For Healing (SAG)	—	—
Sun 11h	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
Mon 12th	—	—	—	Our Lady of Guadeloupe
Tue 13th	—	—	9:30am Holy Souls (SAG) 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St Lucy <i>Virgin, Martyr</i>
Wed 14th	9:30am Sheila Earl RIP (SP)	—	3:00pm 'Blue Christmas' with Exposition and Confessions	St John of the Cross <i>Priest, Doctor</i>
Thur 15th	—	9:30am Whole School Mass Joe & Mary Mannion & Family 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 16th	5:00pm – 6:00pm HOLY HOUR & Reconciliation 6:00pm Paul & Vinnie Debono RIP (AA) 6:30pm – 7:30pm HOLY HOUR & Reconciliation	—	—	—
Sat 17th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Joan Wilson RIP (MH)	9:30am Noel Bartholomew Rodrigues RIP (JA)	—	—
Sun 18th	—	10:30am Pro Populo (People of all three Parishes)	9:00am Maureen & Joseph Doran RIP (AF)	4th Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 15th December
St Joseph's Legion Room
 after 9.30am Mass

Friday 16th December
EMSSPP Confessional
 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 17th December
EMSSPP Confessional
 5:00pm – 5:45pm

Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469

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.

ST. HILDA PARTNERSHIP



English Martyrs and Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's



St. Joseph's

PARISH NEWSLETTER
3rd Sunday of Advent Year A – Gaudete Sunday
11th 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 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A

John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgment, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff.

When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah – the passage which we hear about in today's first reading.

Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance.

Then he turns to praising the Baptist. It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him.

This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple. Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do. John the Baptist did all he could to lead others to God.

How, through our actions and attitudes, can we point others to God? How do our lives show that we are preparing for Christ's second coming?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB, *from Wednesday Word*

Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family who are ill.

Recent Bereavements

Please pray for 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 into 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.

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 Antrobus 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.**

A Blue Christmas Service will be held at St Bede's on Wednesday 14th December at 3:00pm. Whilst this is aimed at those of us who do not look forward to Christmas, anyone can come along. The Service will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and there will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Following the Service, there will be an Afternoon Tea in the Sharratt Room.

Bella Cantata are giving a Christmas Recital in St Paul's Church, Stockton, on **Friday 16th December at 7:00pm.** Entry is free and all are welcome. There will be a collection in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance Service. Come along and support this worthy cause.

Exciting news! From Our Lady and St Bede's School

All parents, carers, parishioners, and wider members of our school community, are warmly welcomed to Our Lady and St Bede's Christmas Afternoon Tea on **Monday 19th of December 2.00pm - 3.00pm.** Come along for an hour of festivities, mince pies, a warm drink and a performance, or two, from our choir!

Attendance is FREE; to gain a free ticket, please click on the link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ourladyandstbede>

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.bhccet.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 final one is in 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** 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>

Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following permanent vacancies:

Parish Secretary, St Cuthbert, Chester le Street – 16 hours per week

Closing date for applications: 19 December

Cleaner, St Cuthbert, North Shields - 3 hours per week Closing date for applications: 20 December

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301

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 reflections for the third and fourth weeks of Advent can be downloaded from bit.ly/DHNAAdvent2022 or by searching for #DHNAAdvent2022 on Facebook.

Readings for 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A

FIRST READING *Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6. 10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 145*

Response – Come, Lord, and save us.

1 It is he who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, The Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R)	2 The Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises us those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R)	3 It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R)
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SECOND READING *The Letter of St James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL *St Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?" Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me".

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. "I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is."

The Gospel of the Lord

Thought for the Day

Do not forget that holiness consists not in extraordinary actions but in performing your duties towards God, yourself and others well.

St Maximilian Kolbe 1894 - 1941