

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

4th Sunday of Advent Year A – 18th December 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 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) 3:00pm HOLY HOUR & Reconciliation	4th Sunday of Advent
Mon 19th	—	—	—	—
Tue 20th	—	—	9:30am Tom Ayre RIP (TA) 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 21st	9:30am Catherine & Ronald Watson RIP (MH)	—	—	St Peter Canisius <i>Priest, Doctor</i>
Thur 22nd	—	9:30am Brian Houseman RIP (TH) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St John of Kanty <i>Priest</i>
Fri 23rd	6:00pm Mass of Reconciliation Michael & Sylvia Daly RIP followed by Exposition, Confession and Anointing of the Sick	—	—	—
Sat 24th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Pro Populo (People of all three Parishes)	9:30am Maureen Simpson & Mary McCune RIP (PM)	—	—
Sun 25th	9:30am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Catherine Hanson RIP (MH)	9:00am Deceased Members of Henry & Hamill Families RIP	The Nativity of the Lord

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 22nd December
St Joseph's Legion Room
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 23rd December
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 24th 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

4th Sunday of Advent Year A

18th 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

Refection 4th Sunday of Advent

Matthew begins his Gospel about the birth of Jesus with a long and elaborately formal genealogy of Joseph. But Jesus is the son of Mary, not of Joseph! The whole point of this story is that Joseph is not the genealogical father of Jesus, but adopts Jesus into his line, the line of King David.

At first Joseph is hesitant to do so, presumably thinking that he is unworthy to acknowledge the child as his own, and unworthy to bond with Mary who is with child by the Holy Spirit. But the angel insists that only Joseph can do this job ('Do not be afraid,' he says).

As soon as the child is born, he is given the name Jesus, and is given it by Joseph. It is the father's prerogative to name a son, and by so doing Joseph takes the child as his own.

We hear little more of Joseph, but what a joy it must have been to have Jesus as a son! What a relationship there must have been! What responsibility too! When Jesus calls God his 'Father', he is using something of the concept of 'father' which must have been formed in his mind by his adoptive father, Joseph, the perfect ideal of the loving parent.

Why is it important that Jesus should be adopted into David's line?

What sort of father would Joseph have been, and what can we learn from him?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB, *from Wednesday Word*

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 Mary Joan Redhead 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 sincere 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. **£11,272 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.



St Bede's Church Sunday 18th December: 3:00pm HOLY HOUR & Reconciliation.

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>

St Bede's: £93.00 has been raised for the Christmas flowers. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

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.

News from Uganda: Fr. Vincent reports that the Ebola virus is still around in the country but the number of infections seem to be decreasing. Please pray for the safety of Fr Vincent and his people.

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'.

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>

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.

4th Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23(24):1-6

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Thought for the Day



Jesus is the reason for the season.