

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

	<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>Feast Days this week</u>
Sat 28th	<b>6:00pm</b> <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b> Anne & Bill Foley RIP (MF)	<b>9:30am</b> Alice Elrod RIP (SB)	—	—
Sun 29th	—	<b>10:30am</b> Pope Benedict XVI RIP	<b>9:00am</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time</b>
Mon 30th	—	—	—	—
Tue 31st	—	—	<b>9:30am</b> Anthony Healy RIP (AE) <b>10:00am – 11:00am</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St John Bosco <i>Priest</i>
Wed 1st	<b>9:30am</b> Pat Chapman RIP (AC)	—	—	—
Thur 2nd	—	<b>9:30am</b> In Thanksgiving (AMW) <b>2:00pm – 4:00pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	<b>The Presentation of the Lord</b>
Fri 3rd	<b>10:30am</b> <b>Funeral Service</b> Michael Bryan RIP <b>5:00pm – 6:00pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>6:00pm</b> Jonathan Peter Wright RIP	—	—	St Blaise <i>Bishop, Martyr</i> St Ansgar <i>Bishop</i>
Sat 4th	<b>6:00pm</b> <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b> Harry Gallacher RIP (ML)	<b>9:30am</b> <b>Healing Mass</b> In Thanksgiving for Inner Healing	—	—
Sun 5th	—	<b>10:30am</b> Intention of Sheila Gillson (PDR)	<b>9:00am</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time</b>

<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>		
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <b>St Joseph's Legion Room</b> <b>after 9.30am Mass</b>	<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> <b>EMSSPP Confessional</b> <b>5:00pm – 5:45pm</b>	<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>St Joseph's Legion Room</b> <b>after 9.30am Healing Mass</b>  <b>EMSSPP Confessional</b> <b>5:00pm – 5:45pm</b>
Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469		

**PARISH OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM, STOCKTON**



St. Joseph's



English Martyrs and Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's

**P A R I S H N E W S L E T T E R**

**Sunday 29th January 2023**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time : Year A**

**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:** diocesahn.org.uk

**Reflection Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

There's a famous Ken Dodd song 'Happiness, happiness, the greatest gift that I possess'.

In our society and culture people are longing and therefore striving to find contentment and a sense of fulfillment. There is much evidence to show that so many are disappointed not to find it in power, wealth, celebrity, fame or any other transitory and unreliable foundation to build one's life upon. Such disappointment can leave people feeling hurt and wounded within themselves carrying a sense of failure that can lead to resentment and an anger with the world or other people.

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that true happiness or blessedness is to be found in a poverty of spirit that builds our lives on things that truly last and matter: gentleness, comfort, justice, mercy, peace and, when things get tough, when people speak all kinds of calumny against us, we don't seek revenge. This is the way to blessedness and to being a blessing for others.

As Christians and as disciples of Jesus we know that we don't always walk this path to happiness.

"Blessed is a church that mourns for her errors, because she will be on the road to conversion. One day she will be consoled by God". *Following in the Footsteps of Jesus – José A. Pagola*

**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.

## 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 Michael Damian Bryan, John Dennis Sparks, Mary Christine Talbot and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**St Joseph's Refurbishment Appeal:** The new the roof has been completed and the lighting has been renewed – almost £54,000 has been spent. **£12,054 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.



**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 food we are also collecting children's pyjamas, hats, gloves & scarves.

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

**Walsingham Pilgrimage 2023:** WE URGENTLY NEED TO FINALISE NUMBERS **by the end of January** for the 2023 Pilgrimage to Walsingham which will depart on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June and return on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June.** A deposit of £30 will secure your place. Ensuite 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. Please contact Mary on 07952 321396 or Pat on 01642 650904 as soon as possible to book your place.

**Holy Hikers - Social Evening:** St Joseph's Holy Hikers are holding a Social Evening on Saturday 18th February in the Thornton Hall at St Joseph's, starting at 7:00pm. Shared Table, BYOD. Quiz, Bingo and Raffle. All welcome.

**St Joseph's Friendship Group** will be having a Coffee Morning on Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am – 1pm. Everyone Welcome.

**St. Cuthbert'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 Thursday 2nd February 2023.** All of the pupils in St. Cuthbert'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.

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

Parish Secretary, St Peter, Low Fell - 10 hours per week. Closing date: 10 February

Diocesan Offices, Newcastle, Management Accountant – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 6 February

Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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'.

### The Universe Catholic Weekly

Is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order **your Digital** 4 weeks **FREE introductory offer** by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

### Proud Catholics - Pancake Party

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, 21st February at 7.30pm** (GMT). To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, we will join the University Chaplaincy for a convivial time sharing pancakes and getting to know each other. On this occasion it won't be possible to connect through Zoom. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email [proud.catholics@yahoo.com](mailto:proud.catholics@yahoo.com), or visit our website <http://www.proud Catholics.co.uk>

### Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Statement to The Sunday Times, 19 January 2023

"The Diocese had previously invited the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) to conduct a review following the resignation of Bishop Byrne in December 2022. Diocesan Trustees have met and have had contact with the chief executive and representatives of the CSSA this week. They have discussed how the review, originally scheduled to happen in May 2023, will be undertaken and how the findings will be published. The review is now underway. Prior to Bishop Byrne's resignation in mid-December, Trustees were working with the Charity Commission, following their self-referral to that organisation. The Diocese will continue to work productively and swiftly with both organisations, learning where it needs to, not from rumours and misinformation, but from the facts and evidence provided. The Diocese remains fully committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and the ministry of the Church, and to providing assurance that its safeguarding procedures are appropriate and as they need to be."

## Worldwide Church News

### Pope Francis Monthly Intentions for January: For Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

## Prayer and Liturgy News

**Vocations Weekend for Women:** Theme: **Discerning God's Call in your life.** Dates: **3-5 Feb 2023.** Location: **London**

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). **Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.**

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. **For more information, contact Sr Lynne fcj at [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)**

**Are you ready to accept?** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Priestly Vocations Team **invite men aged 18+** who might be **experiencing the call from God** to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more.

**Discernment Evenings for 2023** are planned for: Tuesday 14th February; Tuesday 4th April; Tuesday 27th June; Tuesday 3rd October; Tuesday 5th December

Cloister Café - St Mary's Cathedral Clayton Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5HH 6.00pm - 8.00pm

There will be a time of Prayer, talk/discussion, followed by a meal together.

If you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact the Vocations Promoter, Fr Shaun Purdy by email: [vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk) or by phone: 01670 812 200.

**Is God calling you to be a Priest?** The Diocesan Vocations Team have organised an **overnight retreat** for men aged 18+ to discern whether God is calling them to the Priesthood.

Date **Friday 3rd March 2023 5.00pm to Saturday 4th March 2023** (after lunch) Place Emmaus Youth Village Pemberton Rd, Allensford, Consett DH8 9BA Cost £50 (including all meals and ensuite accommodation) Spaces are limited.

Please contact Fr Shaun Purdy to book a place or for more information: Email [vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk) Telephone 01670 812 200 Bookings to be made by Thursday 16th February.

### Prayer for the Church

Heavenly Father, in every age, you have been our refuge. Yet again and still, we stand before you asking for your protection on your holy Church.

For justice for the victims of abuse and their families, pour out your healing and your peace.

For the Bishops of this country, continue to inspire their decisions, and guide them with your Spirit.

For good and faithful priests, who have followed your call to serve you and your people in holiness, sustain them by your grace.

For the faithful who are angry, confused, and searching for answers, embrace them with your love, restore their trust, console them with your clear Gospel message, and renew them with your sacraments.

We place our Church into your hands, for without you we can do nothing. May Jesus, our High Priest and true compass, continue to lead her in every thought and action to be an instrument of justice, a source of consolation, a sacrament of unity, and a manifestation of your faithful covenant.

Grant this through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(After Rita Thiron, 'Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commission')

### Readings

#### First reading

#### Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

Seek the Lord, all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

#### Responsorial Psalm

#### 145(146):6-10

**How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects a stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

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.

#### Second Reading

#### 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Take yourselves for instance, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: *if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.*

#### Gospel

#### Matthew 5:1-12a

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

### Thought for the Day

There is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end. *Scott Adams*