

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

Baptism of the Lord Year A – 8th January 2023

	<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 7 th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Deceased Members of the Foley Family RIP (MF)	9:30am Healing Mass Delia Carling, Fay & Burlinson Family RIP (CB)	—	—
Sun 8 th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH) 4:00pm Holy Hour	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	The Baptism of the Lord
Mon 9 th	—	—	—	—
Tue 10 th	—	12:30pm Funeral Service Mary Joan Redhead RIP	9:30am Whole School Mass John & Daisy Evans RIP (CJ) 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 11 th	9:30am Deceased Members of Swales & Lowe Families RIP (MS)	—	—	St Aelred of Rievaulx, <i>Abbot</i>
Thur 12 th	—	9:30am Maureen Simpson RIP (SVP) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St Benet Biscop, <i>Abbot</i>
Fri 13 th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm John & Maeve Dales RIP	—	—	St Hilary, <i>Bishop, Doctor</i>
Sat 14 th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Doug Greenwood RIP (MG)	9:30am For the Repose of a Soul (SAG)	—	—
Sun 15 th	—	10:30am Intentions of Susan Douglas (PMc)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation		
Thursday 12th January St Joseph's Legion Room after 9.30am Mass	Friday 13th January EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm	Saturday 14th January 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.

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 8th January 2023

The Baptism of the Lord: 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: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Reflection The Baptism of the Lord Year A

I think it's well known how we keep on top of the Seasons and the Special Days that the Catholic Church observes throughout the year- but at the risk of giving away a trade secret, I'll tell you anyway...

Each year the Diocese produces a booklet called an Ordo which lists exactly what is being celebrated on any given day.

For example, on my birthday this year we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. Debra's Birthday falls on a day when we commemorate Saint Damasus I, who was Pope between the years 366 to 384. If you have a look at the newsletter, the Special Days in the coming week are always mentioned.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, a particularly special day in His life, in the same way that the day of our own Baptism is special in our lives.

But just as any Baptism marks an exciting new beginning for the individual who is Baptised, the Ordo reminds us that this Sunday also marks something that is sad- the end of the Christmas Season.

As from Monday we return to what is called Ordinary Time, and we will remain in Ordinary Time until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023. I guarantee that day will be here sooner than you think.

This pattern of beginnings and endings is of course familiar to all of us as a feature of our day to day lives, and is perhaps in sharper focus at this particular time of year when many of us make New Year Resolutions- promising to do things that will make us healthier, happier, nicer and so on...

How about promising to do something that will make us more pleasing to God and that glorifies Him? And then checking how you've done this time next year?

It only has to be one single thing. But just think of the difference that one thing could make for you, and those around you...

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 Pope Benedict XVI, Mary Joan Redhead 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. **£11,598 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..**

White Flower Appeal 2023: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend (14th/15th January)

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 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. Please contact Mary on 07952 321396 or Pat on 01642 650904 as soon as possible to book your place.

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 news from Uganda: Fr. Vincent says Christmas was celebrated amidst a lot of hunger with many people coming to him for food support because the last harvest was poor. The next harvest will be towards the end of January and indications are that it will be better. On Boxing day Father had 80 baptisms. These were people from the villages he visits regularly. Some travelled 16 kilometres walking, on bicycles or motor cycle taxis. Please pray for Fr. Vincent and his people.

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.

Proud Catholics - May They All Be One

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, 17th January at 7.30pm** (GMT). We will share a meditation on the words of our Lord from the Gospel according to John (17:21): "May They All Be One". This will be followed by our usual social time. It will also be possible to connect through Zoom. 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>

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'.

Next Sunday, 15 January, is PEACE SUNDAY and this year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'. He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?' A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media. Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfgw67x>
Or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY Tel: 0208 203 4884

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

Cleaner, St Cuthbert, Chester le Street - 6 hours per week

Closing date for applications: 12th January Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

The Universe Catholic Weekly

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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

Holy Hour at St Joseph's on Sunday 8th January at 4:00pm. All welcome.

Prolife Holy Hour will follow 9:30 Mass at St Cuthbert's on **Thursday 12th January.** Adoration and Rosary, please come and pray for the sanctity of life and the unborn.

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

First reading

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

28(29):1-4,9-10

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'

The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;

the Lord sits as king for ever.

Second reading

Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Thought for the Day

Remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and look forward to the future with confidence.

St Pope John Paul