

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A – 12th February 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 11th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Doug Greenwood RIP (MG)	9:30am Delia Walsh RIP (MG)	—	—
Sun 12th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Mr Joseph & Thressiamma Joseph RIP (JI)	9:00am Birthday of Elijah Peter	6th Sunday Ordinary Time
Mon 13th	—	—	—	—
Tue 14th	—	—	9:30am John Kennedy RIP (AD) 10:00am – 11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ss Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop Patrons of Europe
Wed 15th	9:30am For Healing (VP)	—	—	—
Thur 16th	—	9:30am Intentions of Mrs K Holden (SVP) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 17th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Ann & Peter Lunardi RIP (WMC)	—	—	Seven founders of the Servite Order, <i>Religious</i>
Sat 18th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Pat Chapman RIP (AC)	9:30am James Lane RIP (AS)	—	—
Sun 19th	—	10:30am Rose Watson RIP (A&MJ)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	7th Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 16th February
St Joseph's Legion Room
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 17th February
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 18th February
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

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12th February 2023

6th 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 6th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A

Jesus is the completion of the Law of God, given to Israel through Moses. He has come not to sweep it away but to perfect it.

In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew has gathered together six instances (four this week, two in next Sunday's Gospel) of the ways in which Jesus brings the Law to perfection.

The first factor to notice, however, is that Jesus does not hesitate to adjust the divine Law on his own authority, for he too has divine authority.

Each amendment begins with a statement of the Old Law and boldly goes on, 'But I say this to you...'. Each of the alterations has its own character. The first is about enmity, the sixth about love. About enmity, it is not enough merely to forego violent injury; we must even expel enmity from our hearts, positively seeking reconciliation, whether the offence is our fault or not. About lust, it is similarly not enough to forego acts of lust; we must not even harbour such thoughts in our hearts. About truth, it is not enough to keep a legal oath; we must be people whose every word can be relied upon.

These are Jesus' demanding standards.

Have I allowed any enmity to fester? Can I solve it now?

Am I a person whose every word can be trusted as true?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB, *from Wednesday Word*

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 Lawler, Marcia Rose McPherson 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. **£12,220 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.

A huge thank you to the person(s) who made the recent very generous donation of £500 towards the upkeep of EMSSPP church. God bless you.



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.

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 14th at 11am** – 1pm. Everyone Welcome.

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'.

CAFOD – The Big Lent Walk: Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Go to CAFOD website for further information <https://walk.cafod.org.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, or visit our website <http://www.proud.catholics.co.uk>

SVP
St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) are seeking a Support Centre Manager in Newcastle upon Tyne.
View full job details and apply here: <http://ow.ly/TQc150MKoOi>
Closing date for applications is Friday 17 February 2023.

Holy Island SVP Vinnie Camp 2023

Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2023? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island, They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, Quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island> Applications open from 10th February 2023

Centre for Catholic Studies

The Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) are seeking to appoint a part-time Administrator, 21 hours per week, whose work will focus on CCS events and communications. Do you know anyone who might be interested in applying? Full details are attached, and can also be accessed at Job Description - CCS Administrator (22001983) (taleo.net) The closing date for applications is midnight on Monday 20 February 2023.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis Monthly Intentions for February: For Parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Pro-life Holy hour will take place at St Patricks Church on Thursday 16th February between 6-7pm. Please come and pray for the unborn and the sanitary of life.

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 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 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 6th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A

First reading

Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

They are happy who follow God's law!

1.They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts.

2.You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes.

3.Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law.

4.Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
rain me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.* These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery*. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal*. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord*. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Thought for the Day

Life is like old fashioned photography... we use the negatives to develop.