

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Third Sunday in Lent Year A – 12th March 2023

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 11th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Anne Brannen RIP	9:30am George Askew RIP (HH)	—	—
Sun 12th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community 3:00pm Holy Hour with Confessions	10:30am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	9:00am Anne & Steve Golden Wedding	3rd Sunday in Lent
Mon 13th	—	—	—	—
Tue 14th	11:00am Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon Lenten Lunch 6:00pm Prayer & Bible Study Group	—	9:30am Intention of Pauline Rodriguez (BL) 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00pm Stations of the Cross	—
Wed 15th	9:30am Mary & Lawrence Moore RIP (GEM)	—	—	—
Thur 16th	—	9:30am James Lane RIP (AS) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 17th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Sheila Earl RIP 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	11:30am Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Lunch	—	St Patrick Apostle of Ireland
Sat 18th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Robert (Bob) Lyle RIP (BE)	9:30am Julie & Jean Peacock RIP (family)	—	St Joseph Husband of The Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun 19th	—	10:30am Lucy and her Baby	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish) 3:00pm Holy Hour with Confessions	4th Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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

Saturday 18th March
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

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

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12th March 2023

3rd Sunday of Lent: 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.parityfamilystockton.org.uk
Diocesan website: diocesahn.org.uk

Reflection Third Sunday in Lent Year A

In this lively dialogue Jesus almost seems to be teasing the Samaritan woman, deliberately leading her into misunderstanding about what he means by living water or about the conditions of worship. Nothing daunted, she gives as good as she gets, replying with a cheeky series of sarcastic questions, gradually edging nearer to the truth: an open-minded Jew – greater than our father Jacob – a prophet – and finally acknowledging him as the Messiah.

With its serious message it is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people as they are, and of his openness with women.

On these last three Sundays of Lent before Palm Sunday in Cycle A, the Church lays before us the three great symbols of the baptisms which will be celebrated at Easter. This concerns not only those who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil, but all those who are invited to renew our baptismal promise and commitment at Easter. By so doing we enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink (the teaching given to the Samaritan woman), into the light which enlightens the blind (the Cure of the Man Born Blind) and true life (the Raising of Lazarus).

What does Jesus really mean by 'living water'?

What is the real life that God gives us?

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 Mary Robson, Faith Lillian Harper, Sheila Potter 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. **£12,597 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.**

Spring Bingo / Coffee Evening: on Friday 24th March at 7pm in St. Bede's Sharratt room. Refreshments available. Entrance tickets £1 - available at the back of church. Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

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.

Advance Notice of a Fairtrade Pop up Shop at St Joseph's Thornton Hall on **Sunday 26th March** with foods, gifts, chocolate etc.

St. Joseph's Thornton Hall: For any requests to book / hire the Hall please contact Philip and Cath Jackson direct on 01642 657436. Thank you.

BIBLE ALIVE SUBSCRIPTION: would those who have not yet done so please hand their £30.00 in to the parish office. Thank you.

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.

Our Lady and St. Bede School are looking for invigilators for the upcoming exams. Working as part of a team, invigilators contribute to ensuring a calm environment for the exams, giving candidate's confidence in the process. The public examination period is May and June; however, Invigilators will be required to attend during the year for training and to assist with internal exams. Readers/Scribes are required to support individual students by reading aloud and/or transcribing verbal answers to examination questions. If anyone would be interested in this role, could you, please email gilrainej@olsb.bhcet.org.uk or call school for further information.

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'.

John Paull II Awards: Congratulations to Danielle Buco, who will be receiving her medal and certificate for completing the John Paul II Award. The ceremony will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Gateshead on Sunday 12th March. Please pray for all the young people across the Diocese who will be receiving their award certificates. Anyone currently in Yr 11 (or above) will be eligible to register to begin the award this summer. For further details, please see Maria Wilson.

Proud Catholics: 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 March at 7.30pm** (GMT). To continue our journey through Lent, we will be praying with the Stations of the Cross. It will be possible to connect through Zoom if you are unable to join us in person. 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: Administrator, Vicariate for Faith and Mission (maternity cover) – full-time. Closing date: 15 March 2023. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis Monthly Intentions for March: For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Lent Reflection Booklet: . the Diocese Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the first part of a booklet of Lenten reflections. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy, religious and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community. We trust that this year's booklet will foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures' relevance to our daily Christian living as we look forward to Easter. To access the booklet visit www.diocesehn.org.uk, select 'Liturgy & Prayer', then scroll down to Lent Reflections 2023. They are working on distributing the link for the second book of Lenten reflections within the next few weeks.

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 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.

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.**

LENT Activities



11.30 am: Tuesdays at EMSSPP:
7.00pm: Tuesdays at St Bede's
11.30am: Fridays at St Joseph's:
6.30pm: Fridays at EMSSPP:

Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Lunch.
Stations of the Cross.
Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Lunch.
Stations of the Cross after Mass.

Sunday 12th March 3:00pm at EMSSPP
Sunday 19th March 3:00pm at St. Bede's
Sunday 26th March 3:00pm at St. Joseph's

HOLY HOUR: including Confessions, Sacrament of the Sick and Exposition.
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Third Sunday of Lent: Year A

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 94:1-2.6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

1.Come, ring out our joy to the lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

2.Come in; let us bow and bend low
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

3.O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day st Massah in the dessert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Second reading

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel

John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work.

Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Thought for the Day

The future starts today, not tomorrow

Saint John Paull II