

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A –19th March 2023

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
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
Mon 20th	—	—	—	St Cuthbert Patron of the Diocese
Tue 21st	11:30am Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon Lenten Lunch	11:45am Funeral Service Ann Henderson RIP 6:00pm Prayer & Bible Study Group	9:30am Fr John Cooper 50 th Anniversary of Ordination 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00pm Stations of the Cross	—
Wed 22nd	9:30am David Caldwell RIP (AC)	—	—	—
Thur 23rd	—	9:30am Maureen Storey RIP 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St Turibius of Mongrovejo <i>Bishop</i>
Fri 24th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Holy Souls (KW) 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	11:30am Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Lunch	—	—
Sat 25th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass In Thanksgiving (TJ)	9:30am Intention of Brian Eglington (SVP)	—	The Annunciation of the Lord
Sun 26th	1:00pm Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Deceased Members of the Watson Family RIP (MH) 3:00pm Holy Hour with Confessions	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	5th Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

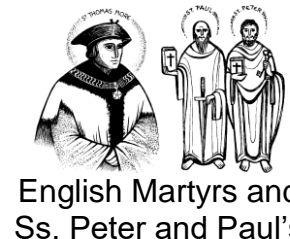
Thursday 23rd March
St Joseph's Legion Room
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 24th March
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 25th March
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM, STOCKTON



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

Sunday 19th March 2023
4th 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.parishfamilystockton.org.uk
Diocesan website: diocesehn.org.uk

'I am the light of the world'

Our readings this weekend encourage us to move out of the shadows and into the light: '...be like children of light, for the effects of light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth...anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.' Ephesians 5: 9, 13.

Work is continuing in our diocese with the investigation requested by the Dicastery for Bishops in Rome and is now moving to undertaking a survey of clergy, parishioners and staff. This is an anonymous survey, all answers are provided in complete confidence, and you are invited to give your own individual views.

The survey will run until Monday 27 March 2023 and can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/wevQ6zrj1t8SCxNq5> or through the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/parish-survey/>. Or you can access through the QR code below.



Please complete the survey only once, even if you hold more than one role in the Diocese.


This is an important invitation to have our say, we can express any concerns or positive things we would like to bring to the notice of the investigation so that we can help to bring things to be 'exposed to the light and be illuminated'.

Fr Mark

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 Ann Henderson 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. **£12,627 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.

Bank Account Update: If anyone is having problems amending their standing order to our new joint parish account please use the full account title **Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Stockton Our Lady of Walsingham** as we have been advised that some banks will not accept the DHN abbreviation. Thank you, and apologies for any inconvenience.

 **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.

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 Paul 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.

The Stockton Sing: Thursday 30th March 5.30pm to be hosted at Our Lady and St. Bede's School. This is a concert featuring choirs from five of our Stockton based Trust schools to raise money for The **Stockton Hope Project**. Tickets are £2 and they can be purchased from, www.ticketsource.co.uk/ourladyandstbede This promises to be a wonderful event and we would love to see as many of you as possible on this special evening. Thank you from pupils and staff at Our Lady and St. Bede Catholic Academy.

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>

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

A Prolife Rosary will be said at the end of the Holy Hour at **St Bede's Church on Tuesday 21st March** following the 9:30 Mass. Please come and join us in praying for the unborn and sanctuary of life.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration: 16th April 2.30pm at St John Vianney Church Newcastle. See poster on the notice board for full details.

The Acies of the Legion of Mary: will take place on Sunday 26th March at St. Joseph's Norton beginning at 3.p.m. All are welcome.

Day of Prayer for Life On Saturday 25 March 2023 (the Solemn Feast of the Annunciation) in particular for the unborn and for pregnant women - including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and opportunity to venerate the relics of St Gianna Molla at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle following the 10.00 am Mass until 4.00 pm organised by Catholic members of SPUC.

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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 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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Fourth Sunday of Lent: Year A

First reading

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23)

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Second reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel

John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world. 'Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him. 'So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'you can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see, "your guilt remains.'

Thought for the Day

Patience, prayer and silence – these are what give strength to the soul. *St Faustina*