

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Fifth Sunday in Lent Year A – 26th March 2023

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
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
Mon 27th	—	—	—	—
Tue 28th	11:00am Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon Lenten Lunch	6:00pm Prayer & Bible Study Group	9:30am Arthur & Mavis McQuillan RIP 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00pm Stations of the Cross	—
Wed 29th	9:30am Whole School Mass 'Bob' Brown RIP (AB)	—	—	—
Thur 30th	—	9:30am Whole School Mass Dorrie Tait & Marie Sayers RIP (AT) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 31st	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Special Intention (MS) 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	11:30am Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Lunch	—	—
Sat 1st	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Margaret Jones RIP (MS)	9:30am Healing Mass Damien Perry RIP (OH)	—	—
Sun 2nd	—	10:30am Thanksgiving for 48 years of Marriage (PJ&CJ)	9:00am Happy Birthday (AP)	Palm Sunday

Thursday 30th March St Joseph's Legion Room after 9.30am Mass	Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 31st March EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm	Saturday 1st April 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 26th March 2023

5th 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: diocesahn.org.uk

Reflection 5th Sunday in Lent

'Unbind him, let him go free!'

The climax of our Gospel today is when Jesus says of Lazarus 'Unbind him, let him go free.' John 11:44

Refugee crises arise because of war and persecution, the things that bind and diminish the dignity of human beings and cause immeasurable fear and suffering causing people to flee in order to find safety and freedom. We are compelled by the Gospel to witness to and protect the dignity of all human life and persons.

The text below is a summary of the Caritas Social Action Network statement:

Caritas Social Action Network are profoundly concerned about the Government's Illegal Migration Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 7 March 2023. This Bill, if passed, will not only deny those people fleeing war and persecution their right to seek safety in the UK and apply for asylum, but will punish them, based on how they came here, not whether they need protection. This would amount to an asylum ban.

The Bill would:


- Remove the right to seek refugee protection in the UK for those who arrive irregularly.
- Breach the UN Refugee Convention, of which the UK is a founding signatory.
- Fail to provide the safe routes we need now.
- Leave thousands of men, women, and children in limbo, detained, and denied a fair hearing.

For further details please follow this link [CSAN Statement on the Illegal Migration Bill - Caritas Social Action Network - CSAN](#). This links to the CBCEW statement and a pro forma letter which can be sent to our local MPs.

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 Ronnie Taylor, Michael Crossen and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Advance notice: There will be a second collection for Holy Places next weekend (1st & 2nd April)

Offertory Envelopes: THE NEW BOXES OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM CHURCH. Please let the Parish office know if you do not have any envelopes and would like some, if your address has changed, or if you no longer require a box. Many thanks.

St Joseph's Refurbishment Appeal: Around £55,000 has now been spent on the new the roof and lighting, and **£12,689 has been donated 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 into 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.**

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**.

SPUC: Please take cards at the back of Church and commit to pray for the end of culture of death and mark the 55 anniversary of the abortion act and 10 million lives lost. Thank you

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'.

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.

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.

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.
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Stations of the Cross after Mass.

Sunday 26th March 3:00pm at St. Joseph's

HOLY HOUR: including Confessions, Sacrament of the Sick and Exposition.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF HOLY WEEK MASSES



MONDAY 3rd April:
TUESDAY 4th April:
WEDNESDAY 5th April:
MAUNDY THURSDAY 6th April:
GOOD FRIDAY 7th April:
HOLY SATURDAY 8th April:
EASTER SUNDAY 9th April:

9:30am Mass at St Joseph's
9:30am Mass at St Bede's
9:30am Mass at EMSSPP
7:30pm **MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER** at St Bede's
3pm **CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION** in all 3 churches
8pm **EASTER VIGIL @ EMSSPP**
9am Mass at St Bede's
9am Polish Mass at EMSSPP
10:30am Mass at St Joseph's

TUESDAY 4TH APRIL – 5:30pm to 7:30pm - Priests will be available at EMSSPP for confessions in English and Polish.

Prayer and Liturgy News

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.

Lent Reflection Booklet: the Diocese Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the second 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. To access the booklet click on the following link: <https://bit.ly/DHNLent2023> or visit **www.diocesehn.org.uk**, select 'Liturgy & Prayer', then scroll down to Lent Reflections 2023. They will also be releasing further audio versions of the reflections in the next week weeks, beginning with the Annunciation of the Lord and these audio reflections will be available on the link above and on the Diocesan social media pages.

Fifth Sunday of Lent: Year A

First reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 129(130)

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1.Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

2.If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

3.My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

3.Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Second reading

Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel

John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Thought for the Day

Do not forget that holiness consists not in extraordinary actions but in performing your duties towards God, yourself and others well.
St Maximilian Kolbe 1894-1941