

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

|                  | <b>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</b>  | <b>St Joseph's</b>   | <b>St Bede's</b>  | <b>Feast Days this week</b>  |
|------------------|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Sat 15th</b>  | <b>6:00pm</b><br><b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b><br>Bob Lyth RIP (PL)                                    | <b>9:30am</b><br>Sue & Alan Judd RIP (PM)  | —   |  |
| <b>Sun 16th</b>  | —   | <b>10:30am</b><br>Pro Populo<br>(People of the Parish)<br><b>2:30pm</b><br>Divine Mercy Holy Hour  | <b>9:00am</b><br>Deceased Members of the McGuinness Family RIP (AF)   | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b><br><b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b> |
| <b>Mon 17th</b>  | —   | —  | —   | —  |
| <b>Tue 18th</b>  | —   | —  | <b>9:30am</b><br>Irene, Stanley & Peter Collins RIP (DO)<br><b>10:00am</b><br>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | St Martin I, Pope<br><i>Martyr</i>                                   |
| <b>Wed 19th</b>  | <b>9:30am</b><br>Pat Chapman RIP (AC)   | —  | —   | —  |
| <b>Thur 20th</b> | —   | <b>9:30am</b><br>Tommy & Olive Rayner RIP (PMc)<br><b>12 noon</b><br>Funeral Service<br>Joan Willis RIP<br><b>2:00pm – 4:00pm</b><br>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | —   | —  |
| <b>Fri 21st</b>  | <b>5:00pm – 6:00pm</b><br>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>6:00pm</b><br>Sheila Earl RIP | —  | —   | St Anselm,<br><i>Bishop, Doctor</i>                                  |
| <b>Sat 22nd</b>  | <b>6:00pm</b><br><b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b><br>Pro Populo<br>(People of the Parish)                 | <b>9:30am</b><br>Tom McMaster RIP (MM)   | —   | —  |
| <b>Sun 23rd</b>  | <b>9:00am</b><br>Mass for the Polish Community  | <b>10:30am</b><br>Intention of Brenda Henderson (SVP)  | <b>9:00am</b><br>John (Jack) Henry RIP  | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>                               |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b><br/> <b>St Joseph's Legion Room</b><br/> <b>after 9.30am Mass</b></p> | <p><b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b><br/> <b>EMSSPP Confessional</b><br/> <b>5:00pm – 5:45pm</b></p> | <p><b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b><br/> <b>EMSSPP Confessional</b><br/> <b>5:00pm – 5:45pm</b></p> |
| <p>Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469</p>   |  |  |

**Bulletin Items:** If you would like a notice included in the next bulletin, please email [parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 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](mailto:parishfamilystockton@outlook.com)

**Internet**

**Parish YouTube:** Stockton Parish Family  
**Facebook page:** @ParishFamilyStocktonRC  
**Parish website:** [www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk](http://www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk)  
**Diocesan website:** [diocesehn.org.uk](http://diocesehn.org.uk)

**Reflection**

**Second Sunday of Easter Year A**

This passage from John's Gospel has all the more significance because it brings the Gospel to a close. The story of the breakfast-party with the Risen Christ on the shore of the Lake of Galilee is a sort of appendix.

The story-line of the main Gospel ends with Thomas blurting out 'My Lord and my God'. The Gospel therefore ends as it began, with the only two unmistakable declarations in the New Testament of the divinity of Jesus. 'The Word was God' and 'My Lord and my God' bracket the Gospel, indicating the purpose and angle of the whole Gospel, which is to show that Jesus is God.

John's Gospel complements the other Gospels: they show a man who is also God, whereas this Gospel shows God who is also a man.

It is with the divine authority that Jesus confers on his Church the divine power to forgive. Real forgiveness is indeed Godlike. It is not simply 'forgive-and-forget', but forgiveness in the knowledge that a hurt has occurred.

Just as a bone, broken and merged together again, can be stronger than it was before it was broken, so forgiveness can create a real link of love on both sides, a treasured secret of divine graciousness between forgiver and forgiven.


How have you experienced real forgiveness in your life?

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 Joan Willis and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**Second Collection:** "Serving those who have served us well" The Sick and Retired Priests' Collection will be taking place this weekend of and the Fund will remain open until 5th May for anyone who might like to make further or individual donations. This collection goes to support our Sick and Retired Priests who have served our diocese over many years and we wish to make sure that this Fund is also there for future retired priests. Recent years have been very difficult and income has drastically dropped. If people were to give a suggested minimum of £5 or £10 per person in recognition of all the priests who have served their parishes over many years, it would be a great gesture as we "serve those who have served us well". For further information on Gift Aid, one-off larger donations, or a bequest in your Will, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0191 586 4319.

**Offertory Envelopes:** Please let the Parish office know if you have not received a box of 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. So far **£12,932 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.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** following the amalgamation of our parishes: If you wish to write a **cheque** out to St. Joseph's, EMSSPP or St Bede's please make it **payable to DHN Stockton Our Lady of Walsingham.**

If you would like to make a transfer direct into the bank account please contact the parish office for the new account details. Thank 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 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.**

**Northern Cross:** many thanks to everyone who has supported us since our re-launch. Copies of our monthly publication are available at the back of church, priced at £1.50 each.

**Thank you** to everyone who generously supported the Lent Lunches at St Joseph's. A total of £920.50 was raised and has been sent to Missio in London to be transferred direct to Fr Vincent. We hope it cheers him up after his recent bout of malaria.

**Sincere thanks** to all who supported the Lent Lunches at EMSSPP. A total of £569.30 was raised for Stockton Refugee & Asylum Seekers Project.

**Holy Hikers:** our first walk this year will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> April from Aislaby to Whitby. For details contact David Mackintosh for details on 07913 021814.

**St. Bede's form groups from Our Lady and St. Bede RC School** would love to invite you all to a very special Mass. The Mass will take place here in school at 2.20pm on Wednesday 19th April 2023.

All of the pupils in St. Bede's form groups have prepared this Mass. It will include introduction, readings, reflection and bidding prayers.

We would love to see as many of you as possible at this Mass and we thank you for always showing us your care and support.

**A CAFOD word of thanks:** Thank you for your continued support and generosity this Lent, with special praise to those of you who took part in the Big Lent Walk – I hope you all had a wonderful Easter within your parish and family life.

Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh who has been very worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, which is supported by CAFOD, Shukla has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "worry has completely disappeared now." People support us in so many ways – giving in church, giving to us by direct debit, or leaving us a gift in their will. This generosity and compassion reaches hard-working mothers like Shukla. Thank you. To read Shukla's story, go to [cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill](http://cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill)

**More News from Uganda:** During Lent Fr. Vincent and his helpers visited refugees from Congo and Sudan taking with them food and clothes. The authorities have given permission for refugees to settle on land about 40 miles from the Mission. We reported last week that conditions there are very bad - no running water and food shortages. Father and his team spent half a day with the children who walk 3 miles to school each day. Some children do not have school bags so books get torn very quickly. Fr. Vincent gave out pens and pencils. Please pray for Fr. Vincent as he tries to meet the needs of his people Thank you.

### Volunteer Parish Safeguarding Representative Vacancy at St Bede's:

Father Millward is seeking to recruit a Parish Safeguarding Representative for Saint Bede's in Stockton and would welcome applications.

The diocesan Safeguarding Team are more than happy to have a 'no commitment' discussion with anyone who would be interested in this important and interesting role, so you can learn more about the position and obtain more in-depth information. A brief description is below. Anyone who would like to be considered, please speak to Fr Millward and the Safeguarding Team on 0191 243 3305.

### The Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) – main responsibilities

The representative is the link between the parish and the Safeguarding Team and will be in regular contact with reporting of concerns and seeking advice/signposting. The PSR also has an important role to play in the Safer Recruitment process for volunteers as well as supporting the Parish Priest to fulfil his safeguarding Responsibilities. You will need a commitment to confidentiality, good organisational and listening skills and an ability to work as part of a team while building relationships with a wide variety of people.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage Helpers Needed:** Have you ever thought about travelling on Pilgrimage to Lourdes in response to the call of Our Blessed Lady? Every year, many people generously offer their service to those who stay in the Accueil (hospital) and need some additional care and support from volunteers like yourselves. This could include making a cup of tea, having a chat, helping in the dining room or assisting a Pilgrim in attending the various Masses and services which take place during Pilgrimage week. **We need you!** In order to provide care for all of the applicants for the Accueil, **We need more registered adult helpers.** We do not have enough at present and do not want to disappoint those Pilgrims who are so looking forward to travelling with us. The dates of travel are from **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023.** Financial help with the cost of travel and accommodation is available in the form of a subsidy for this year only. If you would like any further information, please email: [lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk) or telephone: 0191 528 1992

The link to register as an adult helper is: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZHWW4DD5ny>

**Vacancies:** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

**Administrator, Vicariate for Faith and Mission (maternity cover)** – full-time. Closing date: 18 April 2023.

**Senior Administrator, Dept for Education,** Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time. Closing date: 18 April

**Parish Secretary and Cleaner** (2 roles) – St Patrick's, Langley Moor, Durham – part-time. Closing dates: 12 April

Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

**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](mailto:PresidentC211509@svp.org.uk).

**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.

**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](mailto: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'.

## Worldwide Church News

### Pope Francis Monthly Intentions for April: For a culture of peace and non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

## Prayer and Liturgy News

**Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration:** 16<sup>th</sup> April at 2:30pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour at St Joseph's Norton.

**Coming Soon - A Day for Catechists:** Are you involved with Baptismal Preparation, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, Marriage Preparation, RCIA, Children's Liturgy or other faith sharing initiatives? We are excited to host the largest gathering of Catechists the diocese has seen in recent times. This will be a special opportunity to come together and renew our approach to sacramental preparation and faith-sharing post-pandemic. Whether you are a seasoned catechist or just considering becoming one, we want you to join us. We will be sharing key principles from the New Directory of Catechesis and affirming good practices, as well as providing new ideas and inspiration. Individuals and parish groups are welcome. To register your interest/book a place, please [visit bit.ly/DHNDOC23](http://bit.ly/DHNDOC23).

## Readings 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A

### First reading

Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.'

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,

but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;

he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory

in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;

we rejoice and are glad.

### Second reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

### Gospel

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

## Thought for the Day

**Thought for the Day:** Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.

*St. Francis of Assisi*