

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
3rd Sunday of Easter Year A – 23rd April 2023

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 22nd	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	9:30am Tom McMaster RIP (MM)	—	—
Sun 23rd	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Intention of Brenda Henderson (SVP)	9:00am John (Jack) Henry RIP	3rd Sunday of Easter
Mon 24th	—	—	—	St George Patron of England
Tue 25th	—	—	9:30am Whole School Mass Priests Intention 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St Mark, Evangelist
Wed 26th	9:30am Bill Allinson RIP (TJ)	—	—	—
Thur 27th	—	9:30am Grace Fletcher RIP (EF) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 28th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Sheila Earl RIP (D,A&family)	—	—	St Peter Chanel Priest, Martyr St Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
Sat 29th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Joseph Austin Stephens RIP (FS)	9:30am Priests Intention	—	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor Patron of Europe
Sun 30th	—	10:30am George & Delia Lancaster & Ian Ritchie RIP (VR)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	4th Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of Reconciliation		
Thursday 27th April St Joseph's Legion Room after 9.30am Mass	Friday 28th April EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm	Saturday 29th 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 23rd April 2023

3rd 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

Internet

Parish YouTube: Stockton Parish Family
Facebook page: @ParishFamilyStocktonRC
Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk
Diocesan website: diocesehn.org.uk

Reflection 3rd Sunday of Easter Year A

This attractive and delicate narrative is the story of the journey to faith in the Risen Christ: it occurs in any Christian instruction, and especially in the Eucharist, which begins with the teaching of the scriptures, and then is brought to its fulfilment in the Sacrament.

The two disciples (are they man and woman, as so often in Luke, perhaps Cleopas and his wife?) start off deep in depression and disappointment. But they are open-minded and willing to learn as the Stranger explains to them from scripture the meaning of events. Their hearts burn within them at the Stranger's words, but their eyes remain closed. It is only in the sacramental meal that they recognise the Risen Christ.

This is the story of any Christian instruction, culminating in the Eucharist, for the Eucharist is a sacrament of initiation, bringing us to the intimate, personal encounter with Christ. Once they have been enlightened and have learnt the profound meaning of the events, the truth of the scriptures and the resurrection, then the disciples return to the Holy City and carry on their own Christian apostolate by spreading the news of the resurrection.

This is the shape of the Christian vocation which we all receive, to assimilate and pass on the meaning of Christ's resurrection.


How can we learn the meaning of Christ's resurrection?
How can we spread the message of Jesus?

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 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 Fund collection will be taking place 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 now in 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.

Holy Hikers: are out walking again for the summer season of monthly walks. Contact David Mackintosh for details on 07913 021814.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 16th-18th June: Remaining **balances are due by 6th May** at the latest. Please contact Mary on 07952 321396 or Pat on 01642 650904 if you have any dietary requirements. Thank you.

St. Patrick's 60th Anniversary Mass. You are invited to join us at our schools 60th Celebration Mass on Friday 28th April at 9.15am in St. Patrick's Church, followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall.

More News from Uganda: When Fr. Vincent and his helpers visited refugees during Lent the refugees insisted on preparing a meal for them from the little they had. Father says, “We ate what they had prepared for us. There were 6 of us and only 3 plates, so we shared from the dish. It was even difficult for them to gather wood for cooking. However despite all this suffering they sang for us and as we left they offered a gift for us to share with our helpers -6 eggs and a bowl of dry egg plant fruits. They said our visit with food was for them their Easter day.” Please pray for Fr. Vincent and his people.

Divine Mercy: Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Divine Mercy Holy Hour last Sunday a great success. A special thanks must go to Fr. Ollie for making it possible for so many people to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pro-life Holy Hour will take place on Thursday 27: April at 6pm at St Patricks Stockton please come and join us to pray for the unborn and the sanctity of life. Thank you.

Pro-Life Chains... The SPUC annual Pro-Life Chain to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the implementation of the Abortion Act will take place on Saturday 29th April from 11am to 12pm on Marton Road Middlesbrough at 10.50am. For further information, please contact Eileen on 07890 721444.

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. 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 28th July to Friday 4th 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 or telephone: 0191 528 1992

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

SVP Update: On behalf of our conference I want to thank you for your continued generosity. So far this year we have been able to send £500 to the South Sudan appeal, we held the parishioners party in January, are sponsoring a parishioner to go on the Walsingham pilgrimage and have responded to some individual requests for help. The aim of the SVP is to provide help and support to those in need. If you are aware of anyone who may need our help, please speak to one of our members, phone Alan on 07939912354, Mary on 07714327665 or email President211509@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 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

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/DHND0C23**.

First reading

Acts 2:14,22-33

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15(16):1-2,5,7-11

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

1.Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.'

2.I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

3.And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

4.You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

Second reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Thought for the Day

Your greatest gift to others is a good example.

Dr. Geoffrey Still