

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**  
**5th Sunday of Easter Year A – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

	<b><u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u></b>	<b><u>St Joseph's</u></b>	<b><u>St Bede's</u></b>	<b><u>Feast Days this week</u></b>
<b>Sat 6th</b>	<b><u>6:00pm</u></b> <b><u>Sunday Vigil Mass</u></b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Service of the Word and Holy Communion	—	—
<b>Sun 7th</b>	—	<b><u>10:30am</u></b> Joan Wilson RIP (MH)	<b><u>9:00am</u></b> Pat Chapman RIP (AC)	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>Mon 8th</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Tue 9th</b>	—	—	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Service of the Word and Holy Communion	—
<b>Wed 10th</b>	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Service of the Word and Holy Communion	—	—	St John de Avila <i>Priest, Doctor</i>
<b>Thur 11th</b>	<b><u>10:00am</u></b> <b><u>Funeral Service</u></b> Margaret Dollard RIP	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Service of the Word and Holy Communion <b><u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u></b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	— —	—
<b>Fri 12th</b>	<b><u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u></b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b><u>6:00pm</u></b> Peter Shaw RIP (ES)	—	—	Ss Nereus & Achilles, <i>Martyrs</i> St Pancras, <i>Martyr</i>
<b>Sat 13th</b>	<b><u>6:00pm</u></b> <b><u>Sunday Vigil Mass</u></b> Ellis Family RIP (BG)	<b><u>9:30am</u></b> Julia Gallagher RIP (KLG)	—	—
<b>Sun 14th</b>	<b><u>9:00am</u></b> Mass for the Polish Community	<b><u>10:30am</u></b> Bill Orbin RIP (KP)	<b><u>9:00am</u></b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
**EMSSPP Confessional**  
**5:00pm – 5:45pm**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
**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](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.

**The executive summary of the canonical investigation into our diocese  
is available on the diocesan website:  
[diocesehn.org.uk](http://diocesehn.org.uk)**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**5<sup>th</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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A**

Last week's theme of Vocation has encouraged me this week to consider and reflect upon the journey of vocation.

I am sure that like me as all of us can attest to the reality that we have our difficulties in life, our successes and failures, our joys and sorrows. However, what has struck me very strongly this week is the sense of God's generosity in response to our limitations. Our readings today help us to reflect upon and celebrate the Lord's generosity towards us.

In the first reading when the early Christian community's leaders were struggling to provide for the needs of the weakest and most vulnerable, the Lord's generous response is to call the first seven deacons. Their ministry is to reveal God's generosity in lives of service and charity. In our parish, we are grateful to have the ministry of the permanent deacon; thank you Lord for blessing us with this generous ministry.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks us, in the darkest of times, to put our trust in God's generosity expressed in that wonderful line: **'There are many rooms in my Father's house'** John 14:2 - there is generous provision for us all in God.


So, let us gather this Sunday as 'Eucharistic People', we are 'People of Thanksgiving', joyful and rejoicing in God's wonderful generosity in making us **'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light'**. 1 Peter 2:9

God bless, 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 Margaret Dollard and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.


**Offertory Envelopes:** A few boxes of envelopes have not yet been collected from church – please collect ASAP. Please let the Parish Office know if you have not received a box and would like one, if your address has changed, or if you no longer require a box. Many thanks.

**St Joseph's Refurbishment Appeal:** So far, **£12,932 has been donated towards the cost of the new roof and other planned refurbishments – Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed.** Special 'Refurbishment Fund' envelopes are in church for one off donations; if you are a UK taxpayer please use the yellow forms to Gift Aid your donation where possible. Any help you can give 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.

**April Baptisms:** Please pray for Sonny, Thea Pearl, Mary-Rose, Zac Mark, Aisha Isabella, Lilly Ann, Bailey Jay, Nelly Rose, Evie May, Joey Nicholas and Sadie Rose who received the Sacrament of Baptism in April. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

 **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.**

**Mental Health Awareness Week:** The week 15 – 21 May is Mental Health Awareness Week nationally. Please see the posters on the notice board in church for details of a service being held at St. Joseph's in Jarrow on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 4pm. All are welcome.

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

**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**.

**More News from Uganda:** Fr. Vincent writes "The schools are in session and many children still lack pens and pencils. They always run to me for support. I do what is possible but the poverty level is really getting bad here. There is also an epidemic of a disease called Mumburg which affects the children most. They have swollen necks and difficulty swallowing. Treatment is available but it needs to be treated quickly in hospital. So far 3 children have died of it." ***Please pray for Fr. Vincent and his people.***

**Message from the Little Sisters of the Poor:** The Little Sisters of the Poor at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are finding these difficult economic times, which everyone is facing, increasingly more challenging. It is certainly a worrying and anxious time for us all. The current economic climate is having a significant impact on our fundraising activities and the charitable donations we rely on to meet the ever increasing daily running costs of the Home. We are working hard to raise vital funds to help with the cost of replacing the three lifts in the Home. They have served us well over the years and with us relying heavily on them, they are in constant need of expensive repairs. As you can appreciate, the lifts play an integral role in helping to maintain the safety of our residents at all times, helping to increase their level of mobility and allowing them to maintain their independence for longer. For this reason we are appealing for urgent donations to assist us in our efforts to make critical upgrades to our lifts, which in turn will help the Sisters and Staff deliver essential person centred care at all times. Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to: St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure, online donations can be made by visiting: **[www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/)** Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are extremely grateful to you for the kindness shown to us.

**St. Joseph's Thornton Hall:** For any requests to book / hire the Hall please contact Philip and Cath Jackson direct on 01642 284770 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'.

**Proud Catholics – AGM:** 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, 16th May at 7.30pm** (BST). We will hold our Annual General Meeting, where we will review the year, plan for the future, and hold elections for the coming year's Committee. It will be possible to connect through Zoom (get in touch for the link). The AGM will be followed by our usual bring-and-share refreshments. All are welcome. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email [proud.catholics@yahoo.com](mailto:proud.catholics@yahoo.com), or visit our website <http://www.proud Catholics.co.uk>

**The Story of Fr Robert Benson:** The renowned historian Professor Eamon Duffy, also a frequent broadcaster on radio and television, is visiting Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX, on Saturday 20 May at 11am to give an entertaining and informative lecture about a period and subject which will be new to most audiences. He will tell the fascinating story of Father Robert Benson, the most famous Catholic Priest in Edwardian England, and his extraordinary family. Fr Benson's father was Archbishop of Canterbury, while one brother wrote "Land of Hope and Glory" and the other wrote the Mapp and Lucia novels. Booking is not required, doors open at 10.30am and all are welcome.

## Worldwide Church News

### Pope Francis Monthly Intentions for May: For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

## 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](http://bit.ly/DHND0C23).

## Readings 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### First reading

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19

*May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.*

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.	2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.	3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.
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### Second reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: *See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed.* That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

### Gospel

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

**Fr Ollie & Fr Mark are at our Diocesan Priests' retreat this week, we will be praying for you all.**

## Thought for the Day

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart. *Helen Keller*