

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

7th Sunday of Easter Year A – 21st May 2023

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 20th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Don & Betty Wallace RIP (AF)	9:30am Patrick Joyce RIP	—	—
Sun 21st	—	10:30am Golden Wedding (KLG) 4:00pm Holy Hour	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	7th Sunday of Easter
Mon 22nd	—	—	—	St Rita of Cascia, <i>Religious</i>
Tue 23rd	—	—	9:30am Intentions of Alex Bull (TA) 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 24th	9:30am Whole School Mass Intentions of CJ (SVP)	—	—	—
Thur 25th	—	9:30am Vi Finn RIP 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	6:00pm Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered (GEM)	St Bede the Venerable Priest, Doctor
Fri 26th	10:00am Requiem Mass Albert Fisher RIP 5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Jim & Dorothy Lane RIP (AS)	—	—	St Philip Neri <i>Priest</i>
Sat 27th	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Dennis Jenkins RIP (CJ)	9:30am Priests Intention	—	St Augustine of Canterbury Bishop
Sun 28th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Suzanne Dixon RIP (OH)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	Pentecost Sunday

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 25th May
St Joseph's Legion Room
after 9.30am Mass

Friday 26th May
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 27th May
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469

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 21st May 2023

7th 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 7th Sunday of Easter

We live in a culture where people don't like to wait! Things can be ordered online to be delivered within hours, we often expect instant responses to texts and emails. Today's information technology puts pressure on us to satisfy demands immediately.

However, we are sometimes in need of space and time to wait, indeed there are times when waiting cannot be avoided. It can be worrying, for example, waiting for medical test results, at other times the space may be boring, and we seek anxiously to fill it; or it can be exciting, anticipating a big life event like a new baby's arrival. The most precious things cannot be rushed.

In our relationship with God, in our spiritual life, we must embrace waiting, we are people on a pilgrimage through life, finding meaning, joy, contentment, forgiveness or longing for healing are not things that happen immediately, they are to be waited upon and journeyed towards.

In today's first reading the disciples, after the tumultuous events of Holy Week, Easter Sunday and the Ascension of the Lord, together with Our Lady, return to the upper room (Acts 1:14), they fill the waiting room with prayer. In the Gospel Jesus teaches us that 'eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.' (John 17: 3). We are given eternity to develop and grow in our relationship with God. Alone and together as a community of faith, we learn to wait upon grace, coming to know him more clearly, love him more dearly, follow him more nearly.

Try and create some regular time in your life just to be still, some silence. There are also opportunities in our churches during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to be quiet and wait alongside each other in the company of Jesus. If you would like any advice or accompaniment in building silence into your life, just ask – that we may sit and wait in love.


Fr Mark

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 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 **Albert Fisher RIP** and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

MAY FESTIVAL in honour of Our Lady: Sunday 28th May at 2pm at English Martyrs & Ss Peter & Paul.

Save the *Date Friday 30th June:* 7.30pm Bella Canta Ladies Choir are performing at St Joseph’s. “Broadway meets the West End” Free entry, retiring collection to raise money for refurbishment. Tell your friends and neighbours.

PARISH FINANCES


New Bank Account Details: Would those who have not yet done so, **please amend your standing order ASAP.** (Use the full account title **Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Stockton Our Lady of Walsingham** to avoid problems when setting up).

If you have not already collected your box of offertory envelopes from church then please do so as soon as possible.
Please contact the parish office if you would like (or no longer need) a box of envelopes, if you have changed your address or would like to sign up for Gift Aid.

St Joseph’s Refurbishment Appeal: So far, **£12,962 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.

Cheques: Please make cheques **payable to DHN Stockton Our Lady of Walsingham.**

If you would like to make a direct Bank transfer or set up a standing order, 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.**

Parish Contacts

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.**

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 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’.

More News from Uganda: When the rains started Fr. Vincent planted more maize to help the poor. Father says he hopes the harvest will be good. ***Please pray for Fr. Vincent as he tries to meet the needs of his people.***

Advance notice: Next weekend (27th & 28th), there will be a second collection for the **Lay Training Fund.** The collection will stay open until 25th June.

Prolife Holy Hour Wednesday 24th May: at St Mary's Church Stockton from 11am -12 before Mass. Please come and join us to pray for the unborn and the sanctuary of life. Thank you

Invitation to Summer Tea Party: Saturday June 24th in the hall at English Martyrs, St. Peter & Paul at 2pm. Following the success of the January parishioners party the SVP is holding another tea party for our older parishioners across all three parishes. Numbers are limited to 50 so if you would like to attend please let us know by **June 11th** to allow us to book catering. We can arrange transport if it is needed. **Please leave completed forms either with an SVP member, at the back of church or contact one of the SVP members via the numbers on the parish newsletter.**

Diocesan Environmental Group: The Diocesan Environmental Group invite you to a series of events marking Laudato Si’ week Sunday 21 – Sunday 28 May 2023. The week will begin with a special Mass on **Saturday 20 May 2023** at The Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle at 10.00am. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate creation and to reflect on how to protect it. Throughout the week we will be presenting special screenings of the film, ‘The Letter’. For details please see the Diocesan website <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/a-series-of-special-events-mark-laudato-si-week-across-our-diocese/>

Wednesday 24 May: at Carmel College, The Headlands, Darlington DL3 8RW with doors opening at 6.30pm and film showing at 7.00pm.

The Letter is a powerful film produced by the team that made the Oscar-winning film My Octopus Teacher. It brings the message of Pope Francis’s Laudato Si’ to life through the stories of the people representing the voices of the poor, the youth, indigenous peoples and the natural world. This is a film that everyone should see and talk about in their families and communities, definitely not to be missed!

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

Holy Hour: at St Joseph’s Sunday 21st May at 4:00pm. All are welcome.

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? *To be a catechist is to echo the love God has for each one of us to those in our parishes, our communities, our society. It is to pass this love on in sharing our faith to others. This can be daunting. We are not alone. Through our baptism, we are united in our calling to support one another, to come together and nurture the calling of being able to better witness to the joy of the Gospel.*

- Has the global pandemic accelerated the need for a new approach in your parish?
- Are you passionate about your Catholic faith and committed to sharing it with others?
- Would you like to be involved in sharing the faith, but lack confidence or don’t think you have the skills?

If you answered ‘yes’ to any of the above, then come and join us for our upcoming Day for Catechists.

Date: Saturday 15 July 2023 10.00am – 3.00pm.

Venue: St Robert of Newminster Catholic school, Washington NE38 8AF. **Cost:** Free. Refreshments provided, but please bring your own packed lunch. Individuals and parish groups welcome. To book a place, please visit bit.ly/DHND0C23 or click here **REGISTER HERE**

Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on **Saturday 3 June** 2023, 10.30am-3.00pm - arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am. The venue for this event will be St Michael’s, Durham Road, Houghton-le-Spring, DH5 8NF and will cost £10.00 per person. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. For more information visit: [bit.ly/ LiturgyCoursesAndEvents](http://bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents). Contact the parish office to book your place - **Booking Deadline: Tuesday 23 May 2023.**

Readings 7th Sunday of Easter

First reading

Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the apostles went back from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26(27): 1,4,7-8

I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1.The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? | 2.There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. | 3.O Lord hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
‘Seek his face.’ |
|--|---|--|

Second reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

Gospel

John 17:1-11

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: ‘Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.’

Thought for the Day

If God sends us on stony paths, He will provide us with strong shoes. **Alexander Maclaren**