

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

Transfiguration of the Lord Year A – 6th August 2023

	<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>Feast Days this week</u>
Sat 5th	<u>6:00pm</u> Sunday Vigil Mass Marsden Ellis RIP (BG)	<u>9:30am</u> Healing Mass Jean Peacock RIP	—	—
Sun 6th	—	<u>10:30am</u> Betty & Jack Robson RIP (LG)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	Transfiguration of the Lord
Mon 7th	—	—	—	St Sixtus II Pope & Companions, <i>Martyrs</i> St Cajetan, <i>Priest</i>
Tue 8th	—	—	<u>9:30am</u> Don & Betty Wallace RIP (AF) <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St Dominic, <i>Priest</i>
Wed 9th	<u>9:30am</u> Lisa McIntosh RIP (ES)	—	—	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross <i>Virgin, Martyr</i> Patron of Europe
Thur 10th	—	<u>9:30am</u> Audrey & Reg Watson RIP (AT)	—	St Lawrence <i>Deacon, Martyr</i>
Fri 11th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> Colin Clamp RIP	—	—	St Clare of Assisi, <i>Virgin</i>
12th	<u>6:00pm</u> Sunday Vigil Mass Prayers for Healing B&G (PP)	<u>9:30am</u> Successful Treatment (AC)	—	—
Sun 13th	—	<u>10:30am</u> For Husband's Recovery (MR)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	19th Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 10th August
St Joseph's Legion Room
after Mass

Friday 11th August
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 12th August
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 6th August 2023

Transfiguration of the Lord 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 – Transfiguration of the Lord

Mark's was the first Gospel to be written; he gives the basic account which Matthew and Luke both use. This commentary looks first at Mark, then at the changes made by Matthew and Luke.

Mark's Gospel has been described as 'a Passion Narrative with extended introduction.' In this second half of the Gospel, everything is overshadowed by the Passion of Jesus. The disciples are going to be stunned and shaken by the Passion, when their loved and awesome leader is taken from them and tortured to a humiliating death.

So beforehand God allows them to see the other side, to see Jesus for what he really is. They see his features as a heavenly person, transformed with the divine light and clothed in dazzling garments. With him are the two heavenly figures who had experience of God on the Holy Mountain, Moses and Elijah, for this is an experience of Jesus as God. The overshadowing cloud is further evidence of the divine presence. The Voice that spoke to Jesus at his baptism now speaks to them all, authenticating Jesus as God's Son and chosen teacher. The disciples are literally 'gob stopped', and want to preserve the experience by building three shelters for the heavenly visions.

But such an experience, like any mystical experience of the divine, is not to last. They must return to the business of living their daily lives in the light of this overwhelming experience.

Matthew's account is almost the same as Mark's. He adds the detail of Jesus' face shining like the sun. This was the case with Moses when he encountered God on the Holy Mountain, and Matthew, writing for Jewish Christians, is always keen to stress that Jesus was a Second Moses. He also changes the reaction of the disciples: in Mark, they are so scared that they do not know what to say, but in Matthew, they fall to the ground and do reverence, and Jesus gently raises them up.

Luke stresses that Jesus went up the mountain to pray. He frequently stresses Jesus' constant need for prayer, and many of Luke's parables are about prayer (the Importunate Widow and the Unjust Judge, the Pharisee and the Tax Collector). Luke also details that Jesus, Moses and Elijah were conversing about his journey up to Jerusalem, a journey that is the theme of the latter half of Luke's gospel.

Jesus went up the Holy Mountain to pray.

Where do you like to pray?

What do you find the best form of prayer?

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 Norreen Sturgeon, Matthew Murphy and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Book Sale: there will be a book sale after Saturday evening Mass at EMSSPP on the 5th August.

July Baptisms: Please pray for Olivia Ann, Birdie Mae, Olivia Grace, Daisy Joanna, Ava Noreen, Victoria Oluwasetemi and Eunice Oluwatunmise who received the Sacrament of Baptism in July. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

The Northeast Lay Dominicans invite you to their monthly gathering on Saturday 5th of August at St Cuthbert's Church on Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HL. The event starts at 11am, finishing about 3pm and includes Mass, lunch, Afternoon Prayer and sessions on "Studying the Scriptures" and "Lectio Divina." For more information, email andydoyle1066@sky.com.

Thank You: The Little Sisters of the Poor would like to thank everyone for supporting the recent Diocesan Church Collection in aid of replacing the passenger lifts at St Joseph's Home (Newcastle). We are extremely grateful for the kindness shown to us. We ask God to bless and reward you and your families for all you have done to help us continue the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan in caring for our elderly residents. Assuring you of our grateful prayers.



Volunteer gardener(s) needed at St Bede's to look after the flowerbeds. (A contractor is cutting the grass) If you are willing to help, please speak to Fr Mark. Thank you.

St Bede's Summer Coffee / Bingo Evening: on **Friday 25th August 2023** at 7pm. Tickets £1 each available at the back of Church. Donations of any raffle prizes will be gratefully received,

PARISH FINANCES

New Bank Account Details: 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.

Offertory envelopes - 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: £13,495 has been donated towards the refurbishment works so far – as you will notice, work has begun on the interior decoration. **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.

Stockton Hope Community Larder Hardwick:

Stockton Hope would like to thank you once again for all your wonderful and generous donations of money and food you keep bringing every week. These really help us continue our work for the community and is much appreciated by both volunteers and users. With blessings to you all from Stockton Hope Trustees & Volunteers

The Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project, Stockton, continue to appeal for suitcases, clothing for women, men, and especially children, bedding and all household items for their clients. Please contact Karen Dick on 07759 984586 if you are able to make a donation and need assistance with collection. Sincere thanks for your kindness, from all the volunteers at RASPS.

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'.

Proud Catholics - Mass and Picnic: 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, 15th August**. To celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, we will join the Mass at St Andrew's at 5.30pm and then walk to nearby Leazes Park (St Andrew's Chaplaincy if bad weather) for a bring-and-share picnic. You can also join after Mass, meeting at 6.15pm outside St Andrew's, or directly in Leazes Park. Please get in touch for more information. No Zoom link on this occasion. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit our website <http://www.proud Catholics.co.uk>

SPUC: There is a petition available to sign at back of Churches or on line at www.spuc.org.uk/complicit-petition in response to coercive abortion in China.

Rainbows Bereavement Support Great Britain (GB) is a well-respected National Charity, which supports Children and Young People who have experienced a significant loss through death, relationship break down, or any other Adverse Childhood Experience. Volunteers are needed to join the North East Team. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Ruth Higginbottom, Rainbows North East Secretary, on 01670 518546 or rainbows.northeast@btconnect.com

Vacancies: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancy:

Darlington, St Anne – Parish Secretary. 8 hours per week. Initial six-month contract. Closing date: 13 Aug. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis Monthly Intentions for August: For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Prayer and Liturgy News

A Liturgical Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Saturday 23 September 2023: 10.30am-3.00pm: **Location:** St Joseph's, High West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1LX. Cost: £10.00 per person. Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. The day will include a Mass. This Day of Reflection may be self-funded or funded by your parish. You can indicate your payment preference on the online booking form. An invoice will be sent to the payee following the event. Payments can be made by bank transfer or cheque. Booking Deadline: Monday 18 September 2023. Booking: please book your place by accessing the online form at bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents or via the parish office.

Marian retreat at Minsteracres: Wednesday 20th Friday 22nd September 2023, 6:30pm-2pm) For information and bookings visit www.minsteracres.org, or call 01434 673248, or email info@minsteracres.org

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2023-2024: The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The CCRS course programme is now available for 2023-2024 on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs> If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk

Transfiguration of the Lord – 6th August 2023

First reading

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

As I watched: Thrones were set in place and one of great age took his seat. His robe was white as snow, the hair of his head as pure as wool. His throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence. A thousand thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. A court was held and the books were opened. I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96(97):1-2,5-6,9

R: The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right.

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory.

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth,
exalted far above all spirits.

Second reading

2 Peter 1:16-19

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Thought for the Day

What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is the difference that we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

Nelson Mandela