

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
First Sunday in Advent Year A – 3rd December 2023

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 2nd	6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Caroline Suttill RIP	9:30am Healing Mass Matthew Chipchase RIP (MC)	—	—
Sun 3rd	—	10:30am Catherine Thompson RIP	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	1st Sunday of Advent
Mon 4th	—	—	—	St Osmund, <i>Bishop</i> St John Damascene <i>Priest, Doctor</i>
Tue 5th	—	—	9:30am Whole School Mass Vera Riley RIP (JH) 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 6th	9:30am Andrew Borzumato RIP (JV)	—	—	St Nicholas, <i>Bishop</i>
Thur 7th	—	9:30am John Balay RIP (CB) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10:00am Funeral Service Eileen Carroll RIP	St Ambrose, <i>Bishop</i>
Fri 8th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Douglas Greenwood RIP (MG)	—	—	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patron of the Diocese
Sat 9th	10:15am Funeral Service Tracey Crossen RIP 6:00pm Sunday Vigil Mass Valerie Ellis RIP (BG)	9:30am Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH)	—	—
Sun 10th	9:00am Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am The Connor Family	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	2nd Sunday of Advent

<p>Thursday 7th December St Joseph's Legion Room after Mass</p>	<p>Sacrament of Reconciliation</p> <p>Friday 8th December EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm</p>	<p>Saturday 9th December St Joseph's Legion Room after 9.30am Healing Mass</p> <p>EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm</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 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

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 3rd Dec 2023

First Sunday of Advent

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

Parish Contacts

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



Reflection First Sunday of Advent

This brief parable of the master returning unexpectedly is typical of Jesus' vivid way of speaking. The message is typical, too, because Jesus was constantly stressing that there is no time to lose.

When he came in his earthly ministry he again and again challenged his hearers to make up their minds NOW, to change their ways NOW. He challenges us to do the same. We can hear the rattle of the returning Master's key in the lock. There is no time to hide the contraband, to pull our uniforms straight before greeting the Master at his entry.

Even if we do not think that the world's end is imminent, even if death is not threatening, every moment counts, every decision is for or against Jesus. Saints are rumoured to have said that, if they received the news that they were to die that night, they would carry on doing what they were doing anyway. Saints can do this, because they are ready for the coming of the Lord. But what about us? If we need to put things a bit more in order to prepare for the Lord's coming, is there any valid reason to delay?

The four weeks of Advent are a good time to clean things up for the Lord's coming. What would you like to change about your life in preparation for the coming of the Lord?

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 Tracey Crossen, Joyce Conway, Eileen Carroll and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.



November Baptisms: Please pray for Arthur, April and Patrick Vincent, who received the Sacrament of Baptism in November. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

Thank You: the funeral collection in memory of Colin Walters RIP raised £108.83 for the Haematology Department at North Tees Hospital. Thank you to all for their generosity.

Thank you from Significance The Trustees of Significance thank everyone who supported the Grand Draw and all those who donated prizes. 1,606 tickets were sold which realised £8,030. The funds raised will help Significance to continue to support the Emmaus Village and provide opportunities for young people to recognise their own worth and value. Congratulations to all our winners: Danielle Dowson (St John's Catholic School, Bishop Auckland), Jamie Adams (St Mary's Cathedral), Sr Hilda (Oaklea Convent), Sarah Boyd (Dunston, Gateshead).

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.

Red Boxes (St. Bede's and others): The Mission Boxes are now due for collection. Could you please leave the boxes at the back of Church, or ring John Evans on 01642 895739 who will arrange collection.

Bella Cantu Ladies Choir Concert Friday 8th December 7.30pm at St Joseph's: Be superbly entertained with a Christmas programme, including Fr Mark's by special request 'Ave Maria' (He's not singing it, but a very talented mezzosoprano is.). Free entry. Donations to the Norton based Headlight Project charity, which aims to reduce the number of deaths due to suicide in the Teesside area. You have a flier in this week's Newsletter – it's not for you – pass it on to a friend or neighbour.

Job Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Safeguarding Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 12 December

IT Manager, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date 12 December

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Music for the Mind: sessions are being held:

- Every Wednesday at Grays Institute, Grays Road, Stockton TS18 4LN 11:00am - 12:30pm £5 includes tea/biscuits/fruit
- On the 2nd Monday of the month at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham TS8 0TW 2pm for **Singing**, tea& cakes; 2:30pm - 3:30pm

“Monastic Musical Hours” weekend will take place at the **Minsteracres Retreat Centre from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 March 2024**. Please see the poster in church for further information and how to book your place.

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'.

Roseworth Community Garden is looking for people with DIY skills to help them build a polytunnel and shed on their site at Hope Community Church on Ragpath Lane. They meet every Tuesday from 1.00-3.00pm. Tools can be provided. Just turn up or for more information contact Holly Goodfellow at hollygoodfellow@teeswildlife.org More volunteers needed in the spring to help with planting vegetables.

Roseworth Big Local Advice Service – in partnership with Citizens Advice, Roseworth Big Local has set up a new advice service to give **free specialist and independent advice** on benefits, grants, debts, finances, housing, energy costs, employment problems and much more. This can be arranged locally rather than travelling into town – call 01642 626135 to arrange an appointment. See leaflets in church for more information.

Stockton Hope Community Larder Hardwick: Stockton Hope would like to pass on many thanks for all the donations we receive. As Christmas is approaching we would like to give hampers to our community as we have done other years. We would be grateful, therefore, for any donations of selection boxes, hats & gloves, and new pyjamas. We ideally need pyjamas for the over eight to sixteen age groups. With blessings to you all from the Stockton Hope Community Larder.

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.

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service: Caritas Social action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjoq-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

Little Sisters of the Poor - Job Vacancies

Exciting opportunities are now available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for care assistants and nurses.

Care Assistant: Shifts are 8am-3pm, 3pm-9pm

Nurse: Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm

Excellent rates of pay. For more information please contact Lee-Marie Thornley on 07856256095 or email lee.marie@splondon.co.uk

Little Sisters of the Poor are fundraising for St Joseph's Home in Newcastle by collecting used postage stamps (any country or period), or foreign currency (again from any time or country). If you save your stamps from Christmas cards you receive or have any unwanted foreign currency please put them in the separate collection envelope at the back of church (**not into the offertory baskets please**) or hand in to the parish office. Thank you.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis Monthly Intentions December: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Our Parish Journey in Faith Programme – the final meeting of this term will be held on 9th December 2023 with sessions recommencing on 13th January 2024 (Saturday afternoons, 2pm – 3:15pm in Thornton Hall, St. Joseph's). If you are not a Catholic and are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith please speak to Fr. Mark or the Parish Office and someone from the programme will contact you. If you are already a Catholic and would like to deepen your faith as you journey with others we would love to hear from you! Please pray for the success of the Journey in Faith.

Advent Reflections - The Vicariate for Faith and Mission has produced a booklet of Advent reflections. As we prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of belonging amongst the people of the Diocese. The reflections have been written by a variety of people to express the richness of our diocesan community. The booklet is available on our own website and Facebook page and also on the dedicated Advent reflection page on the diocesan website, which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/DHNAdvent> .

Advent Group : 'Exploring the Nativity' on Tuesdays 12th & 19th December at 2pm in St. Bede's. We will finish with afternoon tea. **Please sign up on the list at the back of church** so that we can cater accordingly. Thank you.

Proud Catholics - Mass and Christmas greetings 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. Newcastle NE1 6UW.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 19th December, at 7.30pm**. We will celebrate Mass in St Andrew's, followed by Christmas greetings with bring-and-share refreshments. Zoom link available, get in touch if interested. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit our website <https://www.proud Catholics.co.uk/>

CELEBRATION of MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MASS Bishop Stephen has kindly agreed to preside at a Celebration of Marriage and Family Life Mass in the Cathedral on **Saturday 17 February 2024 at 12:00pm**. This open invitation will focus on couples celebrating significant anniversaries but is open to engaged couples preparing for marriage, those who have been married since our last Mass in 2022 and all married couples. We include those widowed and bereaved who were unable to visit wives and husbands in hospital and homes prior to their deaths. In these unprecedented times, we remember couples in crisis and individual adults and children experiencing difficulties and abuse in their family relationships. We wish all to know that no-one is forgotten and that the Sacramental life, despite our Covid experiences over the past three years, is very much alive and prayed for. Anyone celebrating a special anniversary can request a certificate by completing a form with their details: <https://bit.ly/DHNMarriageMass> or contact marriage@diocesehn.org.uk or ring 0191 243 3316.

1st Sunday of Advent

First reading

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

R: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake

Thought for the Day

We should seize every opportunity to give encouragement. Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.

George M. Adams