

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

31st Sunday Ordinary Time Year A – 5th November 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 4th	<u>6:00pm</u> Sunday Vigil Mass Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<u>9:30am</u> Healing Mass Intentions of Dick & Marie (DJM)	—	—
Sun 5th	—	<u>10:30am</u> Neil Anthony Sutheran RIP (Sutheran family) <u>4:00pm</u> HOLY HOUR	<u>9:00am</u> Vincenza Morgan RIP (LL)	31st Sunday Ordinary Time
Mon 6th	—	—	—	—
Tue 7th	—	—	<u>9:30am</u> Maria Hurst & Albert Fisher RIP (EF) <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St Willibrord <i>Bishop</i>
Wed 8th	<u>9:30am</u> Thomas Finegan RIP (JV)	—	—	—
Thur 9th	—	<u>9:30am</u> Audrey Watson RIP (SVP) <u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Fri 10th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> Peter Saint RIP (M&A)	—	—	St Leo the Great <i>Pope, Doctor</i>
Sat 11th	<u>6:00pm</u> Sunday Vigil Mass Deceased Members of Chapman & Harrington Families RIP (AC)	<u>9:30am</u> Charles & Veronica Burlinson RIP (CB)	—	—
Sun 12th	<u>9:00am</u> Mass for the Polish Community	<u>10:30am</u> Eileen Reay RIP (PM)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation		
<u>Thursday 9th November</u> St Joseph's Legion Room <u>after Mass</u>	<u>Friday 10th November</u> EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm	<u>Saturday 11th November</u> 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 5th November 2023

31st Sunday Ordinary Time 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
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 31st Sunday Ordinary Time

This is the fiercest of all the hard things which the gospel of Matthew has to say about the scribes and Pharisees. It introduces a sevenfold curse upon them. The Pharisees were the party of the Jews most concerned about the exact observance of the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The 'scribes' were lawyers to whom they would turn in the case of a clash between two laws. Their attention to detail and their fussiness often made them lose sight of the real purpose of the Law.

However, Jesus was prepared to meet them on the Pharisees' own ground and debate with them on their own terms. In the gospels, and especially in Matthew (written towards the end of the first century), the hostility of the early Christians to the Pharisees has obviously become fiercer, no doubt because of their persecution of the followers of Jesus. As Matthew warns, 'They will flog you in their synagogues.' One of their concerns was obviously the status of the religious leaders. It looks as though they were almost turning themselves into little gods. So here the gospel stresses, by contrast, that all the disciples of Jesus are equal: in Christianity there is only one Father, only one Teacher for all. What are the charges here levelled against the Pharisees? What qualities earn Christian leaders the respect of others?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OS, *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 Lilian Greenwell-Bliss RIP and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.



October Baptisms: Please pray for George Geoffrey John, Hyacinth Ikedichi, Harry John, Raine, Harriett, Seth James, Estha-Lyn and Alfie Jon who have received the Sacrament of Baptism in October. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

Thank you: Margaret and Alan would like to thank parishioners for their prayers, thoughts, good wishes, gifts and flowers received on Margaret's sudden recent illness. They all, especially your prayers, helped enormously in her recovery, which is now well under way. With our grateful thanks.

Rescheduled SPDG Meeting - is now **7pm on Tuesday 7th November.**

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.

Parish Income & Expenditure for the 6 months ending 30 September 2023 – offertory income was £44,294 - 5.8% higher than last year. Donations received were up by 6.5% to £7,523 and £2,253 was received for the St Joseph's refurbishment fund. Total income for the period was £62,454 with expenses of £52,350 giving a net surplus of £10,104. (However, we have yet to pay the Diocesan Levy and the parish insurances, both of which have increased). A summary of the figures and a comparison to last year is on each church noticeboard. Sincere thanks to all who have generously supported the ongoing running of our newly amalgamated parish. God bless you all, Fr Mark.

Second Collection: there will be a second collection for the **Clergy Training Fund this weekend (4th / 5th).** The collection will remain open for donations until 26th November.

St. Joseph's Catholic Academy: have the following vacancy;

After School Club Leader Grade E SCP 5 £6135 - £6275. Permanent Term time only Hours 12.5 hours per week Closing Date 9am Monday 6th November 2023 Interviews w/c 6th November 2023.or www.stjosephsnorton.bchet.org.uk for further details.

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.

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.

News from Uganda: Fr. Vincent says many people come to him for help with paying school fees for their children as well as for books and study items. Fees have to be paid each term so that children can attend school. Father has bought books and pens to give to the poorest. He says 'Many are so very poor that they cannot even afford a book. All the resources they have are used to feed their families'. *Please pray for Fr. Vincent as he tries to meet the needs of his people.*

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

St Joseph's Fairtrade Popup Shop: Sunday 12th November 10.00 to 12.30. Thornton Hall selling household goods, food, chocolate, jewellery, gifts and a range of Christmas items. Spend your money on lovely things and support producers to receive a fair price for all their efforts.

Autumn Fair: Saturday 18th November 10am – 12noon at St John's church, Durham Road. Various stalls, cakes, teas, tombola. Entrance free – all welcome.

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

Bella Canta 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',. 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.

Significance Grand Draw Fr Dermott Donnelly, Director of Youth Services in our Diocese until his death in July 2022, founded the charity 'Significance' to enable young people to become all that God has created them to be. Significance has recently launched a fundraising appeal including a Grand Draw: First prize is 2 tickets for a live TV show in 2024 plus Meet and Greet with Ant and Dec, first class LNER travel and overnight stay in a London hotel (there are two first prizes); and there are other exciting prizes. Each ticket costs £5 and the aim is to raise £20,000 by selling 800 books x 5 tickets. The draw will take place on Youth Sunday **26th November 2023**. Please support by buying a ticket or taking a book to sell. Raffle tickets can be sent to you by contacting Mary Hughes at significance316@gmail.com

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.

A Night of Live Music and Entertainment at the Billingham Catholic club with the 'Pocket Jazz Orchestra' and guests. **Tuesday 21st November at 7:30pm.** We are raising funds for the SVP to help those in need in our local community. Tickets (£5) from Bill Scott Tel 07757 062798.

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 November: For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Holy Hour at St Joseph's on **Sunday 5th November at 4:00pm.** All are welcome

Our Parish Journey in Faith Programme is underway – meetings are held on Saturday afternoons, 2pm – 3:15pm in Thornton Hall, St. Joseph's (until 9th December). Participants will be Baptised / Received into Full Communion with the church at Easter 2024. **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.

Proud Catholics - Reading with Care: Perspectives on the Bible: 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, 21st November, at 7.30pm.** We will examine some of the Biblical texts which are used against LGBTQ+ people, considering whether alternative interpretations are possible. Zoom link available, get in touch if interested. This will be followed by our usual social time and bring-and-share refreshments. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit our website <https://www.proud Catholics.co.uk/>

Readings 30th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A

First reading

Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130(131)

R: Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and forever.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13 Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you. Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel

Matthew 23:1-12 Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi. 'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Thought for the Day

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.

Samuel Johnson