

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

Second Sunday in Advent Year A – 10th December 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 9th	<u>10:15am</u> <u>Funeral Service</u> Tracey Crossen RIP <u>6:00pm</u> <u>Sunday Vigil Mass</u> Valerie Ellis RIP (BG)	<u>9:30am</u> Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH)	—	—
Sun 10th	<u>9:00am</u> Mass for the Polish Community	<u>10:30am</u> The Connor Family	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	2nd Sunday of Advent
Mon 11th	—	—	—	St Damasus I <i>Pope</i>
Tue 12th	<u>12 noon</u> <u>Funeral Service</u> Joyce Conway RIP	—	<u>9:30am</u> Mary Moore RIP (GEM) <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>2:00pm</u> Advent Group	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wed 13th	<u>9:30am</u> Joan Walker RIP (VMD & family)	—	—	St Lucy <i>Virgin, Martyr</i>
Thur 14th	—	<u>9:30am</u> Veronica Nall RIP (AW) <u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<u>2:20pm</u> Form Mass in <u>Our Lady & St Bede School</u>	St John of the Cross <i>Priest, Doctor</i>
Fri 15th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> For Michael	—	—	—
Sat 16th	<u>6:00pm</u> <u>Sunday Vigil Mass</u> Noel Bartholomew Rodrigues RIP (JA)	<u>9:30am</u> Joyce Ellis RIP (MT)	—	—
Sun 17th	—	<u>10:30am</u> Joan Wilson RIP (MH)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	3rd Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Reconciliation		
<u>Thursday 14th December</u> <u>St Joseph's Legion Room</u> <u>after Mass</u>	<u>Friday 15th December</u> <u>EMSSPP Confessional</u> <u>5:00pm – 5:45pm</u>	<u>Saturday 16th December</u> <u>EMSSPP Confessional</u> <u>5:00pm – 5:45pm</u>
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

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 10th Dec 2023

Second 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

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition dating back to the 16th century.

It is made of evergreen branches and four candles: three purple, and one rose coloured for Gaudete Sunday.

The candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, leading up to Christmas.

Each candle represents a different meaning: hope, peace, joy, and love. A fifth, white, candle is added, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Day.



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 Joyce Conway and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

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.

Legion of Mary invite you to join them for their Annual General Reunion on Sunday 10th December at 3:00pm in St Joseph's Church: Holy Hour followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

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 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.

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.

Advent

Parish Advent Group : 'Exploring the Nativity' on Tuesdays 12th & 19th December at 2pm in St. Bede's Church. 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.

Afternoon Tea at Our Lady & St Bede Academy: Our Lady and St. Bede School would like to warmly invite you to a Christmas Afternoon Tea on Friday 15th December at 2.00pm in St. Mary's Hall. **Please book as many places as you would like to by using the following link.** <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ourladyandstbede> There is no charge for the Afternoon Tea, everyone is invited, and we would love to fill our hall for this special occasion.

Our Lady and St. Bede Catholic Academy: Our **Advent Liturgies for the Community** will be taking place on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December starting at 6:00pm on both evenings. All parents, carers, parishioners and members of our wider school community are warmly invited to join us for a special evening of music, drama and reflection. We would ask you to book your places using the link attached so we know how many people would like to attend. www.ticketsource.co.uk/ourladyandstbede We are asking for a small donation of £1 per ticket. All proceeds will be donated the **'Significance Fund'**, which has been set up in memory of Fr. Dermott Donnelly who worked so hard for the formation of young people in our diocese.

Prayer and Liturgy 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.

Our Lady & St Bede's Academy Form Mass: St. Joseph's form groups from Our Lady and St. Bede RC School would love to invite you all to a very special Mass. The Mass will take place here in school at 2.20pm on Thursday 14th December 2023. All of the pupils in St. Joseph's form groups have prepared this Mass. It will include introduction, readings, reflections and bidding prayers. Our school Praise and Worship group will be leading the music and Fr. Mark will be celebrating the mass. We would love to see as many of you as possible at this Mass and we thank you for always showing us your care and support.

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> .

Second Sunday of Advent

First reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84(85):9-14

R: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Second reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Thought for the Day

Be who you are and be that well.

St Francis de Sales