



## St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

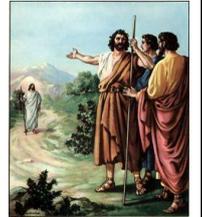
Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper

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Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

John the Baptist knew that his role was to bring people to Christ, so is ours. We try to live our lives right so that people will be able to know through us that faith in Christ makes all the difference. John the Baptist is the model for every one of us, we are called to be prophets in our world and we are called to bear witness to Christ. Our calling is to make Christ known, to allow him to shine forth in our world through our lives. In what we communicate and how we communicate it, we allow the Lord to speak through us.



**Our Lady and St. Bede Catholic Academy invite you to their Advent Liturgies on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6pm 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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ourladyandstbede). We are asking for a small donation of £1 per ticket. All proceeds will be donated to 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.

**Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2025/26** ~ St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Lingfield Road, Stockton on Tees, TS19 7PL: Where changes to admission arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. The proposed changes are as follows:

Remove the following over-subscription criteria 'Catholic Children with a Certificate of Catholic Practice who are resident in the parish of St Patrick's and replace with 'Catholic children who are resident in the parish of St Patrick's. The policy for consultation for 2025-26 is available on the school website. The consultation will run from 8 December 2023 to 19 January 2024. Response forms should be returned to the school by 19 January 2024.

The Directors of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2025-26. (Mr S Williams, Headteacher)

**Used Christmas Stamps . . .** Gwen Gallagher is collecting used stamps for the charity 'Assistance Dogs'. She would be grateful if you would leave any used stamps in the box at the back of the entrance lobby at church. Many thanks to all who have saved their used stamps throughout the years.

**Concert in St. Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough . . .** They've sung for three popes, two queens and a king, and now they're coming to sing at St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough. Award-winning classical singing group The Priests, Northern Ireland brothers Father Eugene and Father Martin O'Hagan and their lifelong friend Father David Delargy, have agreed to perform at an exclusive concert on Friday June 28<sup>th</sup> 2024. Tickets for the event, which will also feature the Cathedral Choir and Cantabile, are priced from £22.50 to £27.50. To book your tickets, call the cathedral on 01642 597750 or email [cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk).

| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>   |           |   |  |
|--|-----------|---|--|
| 17   | Sunday    | 9.00am  | People of our Parish   |
| 18   | Monday    | 9.15am<br>5.30pm  | Nicola Holmes<br>Medjugorje Rosary   |
| 19   | Tuesday   |   |  |
| 20   | Wednesday |   |  |
| 21   | Thursday  | 6.00pm  | SVP Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament   |
| 22   | Friday    | 9.15am<br>5-7pm   | Craig & Eileen Chapman<br>Sacrament of Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| 23   | Saturday  |   | No Mass  |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>   |           |   |  |
| 24   | Sunday    | 9.00am  | James Sowerby  |
| <b>Anniversaries:</b>  |           | Patrick Casey (PJ), Ronald Healey, Denis Casey, Winifred Heal, Audrey Gooding,  |  |
|  |           | Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Betty Griffiths, Rose Marie Bruno, Brian Lee, Kathleen Hanley, Samuel Kiberu Brian Wetherell |  |
| <b>Reader for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December ~ Rosanne Delplanque</b>             |           |   |  |
| For Parish Centre bookings please ring Rebecca on 07514 335003                     |           |   |  |



**Please Note: There will be a Vigil Mass** for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December in St. Mary's RC Church at 4pm.

### **Christmas Collection**

With the dreadful situation in the Middle East it has been decided that this year's Christmas Collection will be sent to CAFOD, with the request that it be used to provide aid in the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis. For those who prefer to go to the Vigil Mass, the collection will be open until 31st December. Please put any donation into an envelope marked CAFOD and place it in the main collection on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. Thank you.

## **Christmas Masses and Carol Services**



**St. Cuthbert's RC Church** (Christmas Eve) **Carols ~ 6.00pm** **Vigil Mass ~ 6.30pm**

**St. Mary's RC Church** (Christmas Eve) **Carols ~ 11.30pm** **Midnight Mass ~ 12.00**

**St. Patrick's RC Church** (Christmas Day) **Mass ~ 10.00am**

**Sacrament of Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ~ Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 5pm until 7pm.**

**Holy Island SVP Camp . . .** Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs a donation of £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, Applications are open from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.. Please visit our website for further details at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island>