

**Times of Mass, Intentions and Services**

**Epiphany Year B – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

	<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter &amp; Paul's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>Feast Days this week</u>
Sat 6th	<b>6:00pm</b> <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b>9:30am</b> <b>Healing Mass</b> Joan Walker RIP (Staff of St. Joseph's Catholic Academy)	—	—
Sun 7th	—	<b>10:30am</b> Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH) <b>4:00pm</b> Holy Hour	<b>9:00am</b> Paul Kennedy RIP (DK)	Epiphany
Mon 8th	<b>9:30am</b> Priests Intention	—	—	The Baptism of the Lord
Tue 9th	—	—	<b>9:30am</b> Jim Armstrong RIP & Holy Souls in Purgatory (PR) <b>10:00am</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 10th	<b>9:30am</b> Priests Intention	—	—	—
Thur 11th	—	<b>9:30am</b> Deceased Members of Dunne & Casement Families RIP (CW) <b>2:00pm – 4:00pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St Aelred of Rievaulx <i>Abbot</i>
Fri 12th	<b>5:00pm – 6:00pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>6:00pm</b> Priests Intention	—	—	St Benet Biscop <i>Abbot</i>
Sat 13th	<b>6:00pm</b> <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b> Douglas Greenwood RIP (MG)	<b>9:30am</b> P M Thomas RIP (AA)	—	—
Sun 14th	<b>9:00am</b> Mass for the Polish Community	<b>10:30am</b> Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary RIP	<b>9:00am</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time</b>

<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>		
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Joseph's Legion Room</b> <b>after Mass</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>EMSSPP Confessional</b> <b>5:00pm – 5:45pm</b>	<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>EMSSPP Confessional</b> <b>5:00pm – 5:45pm</b>
<b>Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469</b>		

**Bulletin Items:** If you would like a notice included in the next bulletin, please email [parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Epiphany Year B**

**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](mailto:parishfamilystockton@outlook.com)

**Internet**

**Parish YouTube:** Stockton Parish Family  
**Facebook page:** @ParishFamilyStocktonRC  
**Parish website:** [www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk](http://www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk)  
**Diocesan website:** [diocesehn.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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

**Epiphany**

Sunday, January 7, 2024, is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, one of the oldest of all Christian feasts. It is also known as Three Kings' Day. It commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child.

Marking our doorways or front porch steps with blessed chalk is a centuries-old Epiphany custom and a fun, visible way to dedicate our homes and the New Year to God.

The inscription this year is: **20 + C + M + B + 24**

"20" and "24" stand for the new year (2024), of course. The plus signs represent the Cross. CMB are the first initials of the traditional names given to the Magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin *Christus mansionem benedicat*, or "May Christ bless the house."

As you make the marks, offer the following prayer:

*Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of Your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of Your love. Grant that we may manifest Your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of You. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*

## 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 Ray Chesser, Joan Colley, Tony Skipper, Joe Collins, Mary Wilson, Catherine Heslop 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.

**Fr Mark, Fr Ollie, Deacon Paul and Gill** wish you all a very Happy New Year. Thank you for the cards, gifts and best wishes.

**White Flower Appeal 2024** - The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Journey in Faith:** The sessions begin again on Saturday 13 January in the Thornton Hall at St Joseph's at 2 pm. Please pray for all those who are enquiring about our Faith and those who are journeying with them.

**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'.

### Youth Ministry Conference – 3 February 2024

This Youth Ministry and Practical Theology Conference is YMT's first conference since the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to gather with youth ministers, catechists, clergy, teachers, staff and volunteer co-workers from across the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and beyond! The theme for the conference is "Investing in the Fearlessness of Youth", inspired by a quote from Pope Francis' letter, Christus Vivit (Chapter 7 no. 233). We hope you can join us for this Youth Ministry Conference. Booking is now open and you can either email [nsalkeld@ymt.org](mailto:nsalkeld@ymt.org) or book online here: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam). Online booking will apply booking fees. We are looking forward to welcoming keynote speaker, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson, Director of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, an international project based at St John's College, Durham, who will explore how we can engage young people in the Gospel when we live in a world of science. We are also pleased to welcome back David Wells, international speaker, best-selling author and friend of YMT, to guide us to reflect on our theme. For more information about the conference visit [www.ymt.org/ymt-conference](http://www.ymt.org/ymt-conference)

**Vacancy:** St. Joseph's Catholic Academy have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant, Level 3 Grade H £18,654 - £19,079, 30 hours per week, term time only, permanent. Closing Date for applications: 9:00 a.m. Monday 15th January 2024. Interview Date: W/C 15th January 2024. For full details on how to apply for the position, please see our website <https://stjosephsnorton.bhcet.org.uk/>

**Proud Catholics - Inclusive Churches: An Ecumenical Exchange:** 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, 16th January, at 7.30pm**. Just before the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we will welcome representatives from a number of LGBTQ+ inclusive churches in Newcastle, to share our experiences of this ministry as lay and ordained Christians. Zoom link available, get in touch if interested. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email [proud.catholics@yahoo.com](mailto:proud.catholics@yahoo.com), or visit our website <https://www.proud Catholics.co.uk/>

**Christmas in Uganda:** Just before Christmas Fr. Vincent had two evening Masses in villages. The second finished around 8 pm as the people had come late so it was dark. There were no lights except the candles on the altar and the choir sang without books. Father says half of them, including the choir master, can't read. As they were under a tree Fr. Vincent was afraid of a snake attack, normally when snakes hear music and singing he says they draw back, fortunately no accident happened on this occasion. Fr. Vincent sends greetings to all in our three parishes. Please pray for him and his Mission.

**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 thank all parishioners who have kindly donated towards our Christmas hampers, and also for the food and generous monetary donations. The larder is open every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm and is available for everyone. We also have a 'warm space' serving tea/coffee for free or just for a chat. Everyone at the Stockton Hope Community Larder thanks you all for your wonderful generosity.

**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.

**Job Vacancies:** The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies: HR Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date: 16 January  
HR Administrator, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date 16 January  
Cleaner, St Anne, Darlington – part-time. Closing date 11 January  
Cleaner, St Cuthbert, Durham – part-time. Closing date 18 January Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

## Prayer and Liturgy News

**Pope Francis Monthly Intentions January:** For the Gift of Diversity in the Church.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

**CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal:** Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://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.

### Readings

### Epiphany Year B

#### First reading

#### Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm

#### Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

*R: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.*

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

2. In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him.

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

#### Second reading

#### Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

#### Gospel

#### Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

### Thought for the Day

Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers.

*Kahlil Gibran*