



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

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Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**The Magi were blessed, they were given the guidance of a star.** In the darkness of this world we have all been given help on our journey to God; the beauty of nature, the Word of God in Sacred Scripture, Spirit-filled witnessing and preaching, the faith of others and our own faith. May our prayer be like theirs, adoration. When we look towards the light of Christ, it gradually becomes an inward light and the mystery of Christ becomes the mystery of our own lives as well.

*God of all heaven and earth, be our daily star, guiding our lives to search for your Kingdom of love. May we always follow your light of truth in all that we do, forever trusting, hoping and believing in Your word. Amen.*

**In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year** 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. Every Catholic is encouraged to reflect on their life of prayer; what they pray, how they pray and why they pray. There will be a particular focus on the Our Father.

"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity." (Pope Francis)



**Third World Group** ~ We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support we have received during 2023 via our Third World Box. **Our grand total for the year was £2205.** We sent donations amounting to £2075 as follows:



**March** - CAFOD Turkey and Syria Appeal £650      **May** – John Bradburne Society (Leprosy) £300

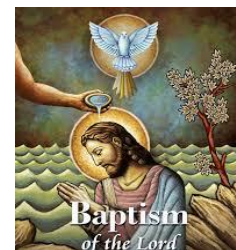
**August** - CAFOD Myanmar Appeal £500      **November** - CAFOD Libya and Morocco earthquake £325

**November** – Disabled Children's Home in Kenya (Canon Coopers charity) £300

**Thank you and God Bless**

**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<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:marriage@diocesehn.org.uk) or ring 0191 243 3316.

<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>			
7	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish 
8	Monday <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.15am	Betty Kimmons (SVP)
9	Tuesday		
10	Wednesday		
11	Thursday	6.00pm	SVP Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12	Friday <i>St Benet Biscop</i>	9.15am	Nicola Holmes
13	Saturday	9.15am	Harbron, Burke, Norris & Povey Families
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>			
14	Sunday	9.00am	Mary Talbot
<b>Anniversaries:</b>		Veronica Kitson, John Sparks, Kathleen Jones, Michael Morton	
		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, Sheila Kerr	
<b>Reader for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January ~ Margaret Wilson</b>			
For Parish Centre bookings please ring Rebecca on 07514 335003			



This feast is an invitation to reflect on our own baptism. We were baptised with the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that empowered Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom and to endure the sufferings that lay before him. In our baptism the Spirit proclaims to each of us that we are God's beloved and challenges us to be true to ourselves and to our God as we try to live according to the values of the Kingdom that Jesus preached.

*As we recall the Baptism of Christ we remember and pray for all those Baptised in our Church and their families, that the seeds of faith may continue to grow. Amen*

**Next Sunday is Peace Sunday** and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for January: For the Gift of Diversity in the Church** ~ Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise 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.

**St Patrick's Men's Club invite you to a dance on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 8pm-11pm.** Dance to the music of '60's or Thereabouts.' Please bring your own food and drink, contact Ken Marr to book (01642 602336). Tickets £6.

**Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:** HR Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date: 16<sup>th</sup> January: HR Administrator, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date 16<sup>th</sup> January Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

**The Shrine of St Winefride in Holywell, north Wales,** has been elevated to the status of a National Shrine for England and Wales. It's one of the oldest places of pilgrimage in Britain and has an unbroken 1,400-year tradition of pilgrimage.