

## Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year B – 10<sup>th</sup> March 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 9th	<u>6:00pm</u> <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b> Anne Brannen RIP	<u>9:30am</u> Pat Brennan RIP (MM)	—	—
Sun 10th	<u>9:00am</u> Mass for the Polish Community	<u>10:30am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<u>9:00am</u> Ray Chesser RIP (PB)	4th Sunday of Lent
Mon 11th	—	—	—	—
Tue 12th	<u>11:30am</u> Stations of the Cross  <u>12:00 noon</u> Lenten Lunch	—	<u>9:30am</u> Denis Harrington RIP (GEM)  <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  <u>7:00pm</u> Stations of the Cross	—
Wed 13th	<u>9:30am</u> Bernard Brannen RIP (KH)	—	—	—
Thur 14th	—	<u>9:30am</u> Jan Jordan & Joan Colley RIP (JJ) <u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 15th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> Mary Moore RIP (GEM) <u>6:30pm</u> Stations of the Cross	<u>11:30am</u> Stations of the Cross  <u>12:00 noon</u> Lenten Lunch	—	—
Sat 16th	<u>6:00pm</u> <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	<u>9:30am</u> Vi Finn RIP	—	—
Sun 17th	<u>9:00am</u> Mass for the Polish Community	<u>10:30am</u> Damien Perry RIP (OH)	<u>9:00am</u> Chackappan Devassy RIP (DC)	5th Sunday of Lent

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
St Joseph's Legion Room  
after Mass

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
EMSSPP Confessional  
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
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](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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**4th Sunday of Lent - 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

### Reflection 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

#### (Laetare Sunday)

After Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus comes this reflection on Nicodemus' visit. Is it Jesus' reflection or the evangelist's? The text does not make it clear. Throughout the gospel of John people are coming to Jesus and judging themselves by their reactions to Jesus. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son. In his turn the Son does not judge, but we judge ourselves by our reaction to him.

So at the wedding at Cana the disciples believe in him and see his glory. In the Temple the Jews refuse belief and are condemned. Then comes Nicodemus in secret and in fear. At this point he is sitting on the fence, afraid of the Pharisees - but by the time of the burial he has decided for Jesus. After Nicodemus the Samaritan woman approaches Jesus. Cheeky and unbelieving at first, she is won over by Jesus' playful persistence. And so on - the Jews on one side, the man healed at the Pool of Bethzatha on the other: the Jews on one side, the man blind from birth on the other.

The decision is ours too. When confronted by Jesus, do we come to the light so that our deeds may be known, or do we shun the light?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB, *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 Sheila Wigham and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH FINANCES

**Parish 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.

**Mass Intentions:** We have received a lot of requests, particularly at St. Joseph's, so if you would like a Mass to be said on a specific date, please give as much notice as possible to avoid disappointment.

**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.

**Bible Alive Subscription:** the annual subscription of £30.00 is now due. Could those who have not already done so please hand in to the parish office as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Advance Notice:** there will be a second collection for Holy Places on the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Roseworth Naturally Creative Arts and Craft Group:** Friday mornings 10am-12:30pm at Kiora Hall, Roseworth. Please see the copy of the 2024 Programme on the noticeboard at the back of church.

**Journey in Faith:** On the First Sunday of Lent 9 ladies who had been attending the Journey in Faith Sessions became members of the Elect. They will be Baptised or Received into Full Communion with the Church at Easter. Please pray for them, their sponsors and those who have been journeying with them. Thank you.

**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 to012 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'.

**First Holy Communion:** In the spirit of 'Reuse and Recycle', we are looking to set up a First Holy Communion Dress Bank at St. Bede's church, where dresses could be hired in return for a small donation. If you have any dresses which you are willing to donate then please contact the parish office. Thank you.

**The Bread and Butter Thing:** Every Thursday from 7<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm at Redhill Family Hub, Roseworth. Get your weekly groceries at a fraction of the cost! See the fliers in church or visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/TBBT](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/TBBT) for more information.

**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:** 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 have any, 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.

**Response to Listening Exercises:** Bishop Stephen has shared his initial personal reflection on everything he has listened to, the summaries from the various Listening Exercises that have been running since the summer of 2023, and the results of the Questionnaire for the Dicastery of Bishops' Report from March 2023. Bishop Stephen reflects on the past, present and our future together; it is his response to what has been presented to him. The document, is published on the Diocesan website [Bishop Stephen's Response to the Listening Exercises - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](https://www.diocese.org.uk/Bishop-Stephen-s-Response-to-the-Listening-Exercises)

LENT Activities 2024

**Tuesdays: 11.30am at EMSSPP:** Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Lunch  
**Tuesdays: 7.00pm at St Bede's:** Stations of the Cross.  
**Fridays: 11.30am at St Joseph's:** Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten Lunch  
**Fridays: 6.30pm at EMSSPP:** Stations of the Cross after Mass

**Sycamore - Online Sessions for Lent 2024:** Take some time out with God during this Lenten season and join us online (via Zoom) for a series of Sycamore sessions as we explore how we can live out our 'Ministry of Love'  
**The sessions will take place on Thursdays throughout Lent from 7.00pm to 8.15pm.**  
\*14 March: "Finding True Freedom" \*21 March: "The Meaning of Love"  
All are welcome! Each session can stand-alone so there is no obligation to attend all if you can't commit to every week. Some of you may have had experience of Sycamore previously, so we'll be using an alternative set of questions which will give you more opportunities to reflect on your own experiences of faith. Please register your interest to receive the Zoom link. You can do this by completing the [online form](#) or by calling the Diocese admin team on 0191 243 3316

**Fr Mark has signed up for CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2024!** He well on the way to his 200km target and has raised an amazing £1,055 so far. If you can, please donate to his fundraising page using the link below. All money raised will be used by CAFOD to fight poverty around the world. Sincere thanks to all for your support. <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fr-marks-big-lent-walk-24>

**Newman Tyneside Circle** invites you to come and hear Sue Oxley speak about The Five Mothers of Bernadette Soubirous and her Neglected Life. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle [nb new venue], on Wednesday 13 March at 7.30pm.

**Diocesan Lenten Reflection Booklets:** the Vicariate for Faith and Mission have produced booklets of Daily Lenten Reflections which are available for viewing, downloading and printing from the Diocesan website, using this web link: <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>. Last year's Lent booklets were very well received. As we prepare to commemorate Jesus' salvific death and resurrection at Easter, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of purpose and hope amongst the people of the Diocese. The reflections have been written by a variety of people to express the richness of our diocesan community. If you do not have internet access and would like a copy please contact the parish office.

Prayer and Liturgy News

**Pope Francis Monthly Intentions March:** For the new martyrs  
We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

**The National Novena to St Joseph** will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at St Joseph Church in Maidenhead. Every Year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. If you are able, and it is possible to attend, Masses are at 10:00am every day of the Novena except Sunday, when it is at 11:00am. These Masses will be available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena). Also available on Zoom will be the Evening Prayer together with the Novena Prayer at 6:00pm every day during the Novena. This year a special Novena Prayer Booklet has been prepared, and is available on request for a suggested donation. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena prayer booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com)

**Our Lady and St. Bede RC School** St. Patrick's form groups would love to invite you all to a very special Mass. The Mass will take place here in school at 2.20pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. All of the pupils in St. Patrick'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.

Readings 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

**First reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23**  
All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'"

<b>Responsorial Psalm Psalm 136(137):1-6</b> R: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not! By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there. we hung up our harps  O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!	For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'      O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!5
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Second reading Ephesians 2:4-10**  
God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it

**Gospel John 3:14-21**  
Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Jerusalem Bible © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd

Thought for the Day

One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness – it is usually returned. C Flint