

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Second Sunday of Advent Year C – 8th December 2024

	English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Joseph's	St Bede's	Feast Days this week
Sat 7th	<u>6:00pm</u> <u>Vigil Mass</u> The Ellis Family (BG)	<u>9:30am</u> <u>Healing Mass</u> Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered (MT)	—	—
Sun 8th	<u>12:30pm</u> Mass for the Polish Community	<u>10:30am</u> Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH) <u>3:00</u> Legion of Mary	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	2 nd Sunday of Advent
Mon 9th	<u>9:30am</u> Priests Intention	—	—	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Patron of the Diocese</i>
Tue 10th	—	—	<u>9:30am</u> Priests Intention <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady of Loreto
Wed 11th	<u>9:30am</u> <u>Whole School Mass</u> Anthony Tebbit RIP (TW)	—	—	St Damasus I <i>Pope</i>
Thur 12th	—	<u>9:30am</u> Eddie McDermott RIP (GW) <u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Fri 13th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> Holy Souls	—	—	St Lucy <i>Virgin, Martyr</i>
Sat 14th	<u>6:00pm</u> <u>Vigil Mass</u> Deceased Foley Family RIP (MF)	<u>9:30am</u> Thomas Dwyer RIP (PD)	—	—
Sun 15th	—	<u>10:30am</u> Michael & Sylvia Daly RIP (VMD)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	3 rd Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Reconciliation		
<u>Thursday 12th December</u> <u>St Joseph's Legion Room</u> <u>after Mass</u>	<u>Friday 13th December</u> <u>EMSSPP Confessional</u> <u>5:00pm – 5:45pm</u>	<u>Saturday 14th 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 8th December 2024
Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

Clergy

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Millward
Assistant Priest: Fr Oliver Keyes
Deacon: Paul Hargreaves

Parish
Office

Contact: Gill Hall
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am till 3:00pm
Friday 9:30am till 2:30pm
Tel. 01642 806469
Email ourladyofwalsinghamstockton@diocesehn.org.uk

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 Legion of Mary: meets at St Joseph's Norton; Contact 01642 531263 for information.
Safeguarding: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are David Mackintosh & Joan Rogers or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk



Reflection 2nd Sunday of Advent

Each year the two middle Sundays of Advent centre on John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus. John came to prepare a community of repentance, of those who would be ready for the Messiah. This was to be a community not of those who went around moping about their sinfulness, but a community of those who had changed their ways, that is, their whole system of values and priorities.

The Hebrew concept of repentance which John proclaimed was a matter of turning round and going in the opposite direction. To be ready for the Messiah meant – and still means – just such a radical change of attitude. John himself had prepared by going out into the desert, for the Messiah was to come striding across the desert, as did Israel at the Exodus from Egypt. John's clothing and his whole way of life showed his rejection of current materialism and his single-minded dedication.

His is not primarily a negative point of view, for his quotation of Isaiah (reflected also in today's first reading from Baruch), shows that the flattening of the hills and the filling of the valleys is a preparation for the Kingdom of peace and justice. A good deal of positive planning and of spade-work is needed if we are to be ready to welcome that Kingdom.


What sort of change did John the Baptist ask from his listeners?

Think of one change you need to make in your life to welcome Jesus.

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 Eileen Good 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 Bank transfer or set up a standing order, please contact the parish office for the account details. Thank you.

Offertory Envelopes: Please **do not use old Gift Aid envelopes from previous years.** Contact the Parish office if you do not have any current envelopes and would like some, if your address has changed, or if you no longer require a box. Many thanks.

PARKING: When coming to Mass on a Sunday, **please do not park on the pavements outside church** as this prevents those with mobility issues, push chairs, etc. from passing and puts them at risk. Thank you for your understanding and consideration of others. Fr Mark.

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.

Our Lady & St Bede Academy Christmas Afternoon Tea

On Thursday 12th December we would love to invite you to join us for our Community Advent Afternoon Tea. This will take place in Our Lady and St. Bede School from 2.20pm - 3.20pm in Hall A. There will be lovely food, quiz and games. We would love you to join us for this special afterlunch. Please ring school on 0642704970 to book your places with the office staff or email our school Chaplain at welshe@olsb.bhcet.org.uk we look forward to seeing you soon.



November Baptisms: Please pray for Aphelia, Kairi and Amelia who received the Sacrament of Baptism in November. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

Walsingham Pilgrimage: for anyone who has only paid £10 towards the deposit, please note that the balance of the £50 deposit is now due. Thank you. Also, if anyone is paying their deposit direct to **the parish bank account**, **please add the reference 'Walsingham' to your payment.** ***(please note that the old Walsingham Account has now been closed)*** Thank you.

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

Job Vacancies: St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Norton has the following vacancies:

EYFS Classroom Teacher Main Pay Scale A1-A3 £31,650 - £35,674 Full Time Temporary Contract from 1st January 2025 to 31st August 2025 Closing Date 9am Wednesday 11th December 2024

EYFS Level 3 Teaching Assistant Band H, SCP 14 32.5 hours per week Term Time Only - temporary until 31st August 2025 £21,164 - £21,644 pro rata (FTE £28,624) Closing Date: 9am Wednesday 11th December 2024

Please see their website www.stjosephsnorton.bhcet.org.uk for more information.

Volunteers Wanted Please: to help at St Gregory's Primary school with the pupils' reading skills. Can you give an hour at your convenience to listen and assist with the pupils reading skills? The pupils really develop with this reading scheme.

Please contact the school for further information 01642 672262. You will be required to complete a DBS application which the school will organise. Please help.

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.

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'.

The Refugee and Asylum Seekers Project: are urgently requiring clothing for young men. Any donations please contact Karen Dick on 07759 984586. Sincere thanks.

Stockton Hope Larder: We are very grateful for all donations to the larder, however, as Christmas is approaching we would like to request Christmas donations and new pyjamas for all age groups, especially the older children. Every year we try to make hampers up for all our families and with your kind help I'm sure we'll do the same this year. Many thanks and God Bless you all.

Pope John Paul II Award: we are delighted that Ann Maria and Amelia are going to undertake the award. If any other school-leavers (aged 16+) are interested, please let Fr Mark know. You will be guided through it and be among around 100 young people from the diocese doing the award. Let your light shine- Give it a try!

Carmel College Centenary Celebration: Mass of Thanksgiving, Drinks Reception, and Concert

We are thrilled to invite you to a truly special evening celebrating 100 years of providing outstanding Catholic education.

Date: Tuesday, 17th December 2024 - Time: 6:00 PM - Location: Carmel College

Highlights of the Evening:

Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Stephen Wright as Principal Celebrant; Blessing and Reveal of our Centenary Timeline; Drinks Reception and Canapés; Explore the St. Mary's/ Carmel Archives showcasing our rich history

Centenary Concert celebrating our journey over the past century

Ticket Information: • Mass: Free to attend, but please reserve your seat to help us plan.

• Reception, Blessing & Concert: £8 per ticket. All proceeds go towards our Carmel Centenary Fund, helping our students 'live life to the full' for the next 100 years and beyond!

Reserve your tickets now: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/carmel/t-rpoxqdm>

Please share this invitation far and wide with family, friends, and alumni. Spaces are limited—don't miss this memorable celebration!

Proud Catholics - Mass with Advent carols and festive refreshments: Do you identify as LGBTQ+ or are you questioning your sexual or gender identity? We are a support group run by and for LGBTQ+ 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 17th December, at 7.30pm. We will celebrate Mass in St Andrew's RC Church, during which we will sing a selection of Advent carols. This will be followed by festive refreshments in the Chaplaincy Room. Zoom link available. For more information, phone us on 07858 934457, email info@proud Catholics.co.uk or visit our Facebook and Instagram pages @proud Catholicsuk.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Pope Francis Monthly Intentions – December: For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Pre-Christmas Confessions: on Friday 20th December at EMSSPP will be as usual before Mass and until 7:30pm after Mass.

The Legion of Mary December function will take place on **Sunday December the 8th.** at St. Joseph's, Norton beginning at 3pm. Refreshments after the service, all welcome.

Our Lady & St Bede Academy:

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 Monday 9th December 2024.

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. Ollie 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 Liturgy and Christmas Concert

You would be most welcome to join with pupils, staff and the wider community for Our Lady & St Bede's "Advent Liturgy & Christmas Concert" which takes place on Mon 16th and Tues 17th December (6pm start, tickets £1). Pupils will be reflecting on the theme of "We Are One" and all money from ticket sales will be donated to the Significance Charity, set up in 2017 by the late Fr. Dermott Donnelly.

All tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/ourladyandstbede

Readings 2nd Sunday of Advent

First reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God: 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. ±3

R: What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

1. When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion,
we thought we were dreaming.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter;

on our tongues, songs of joy.

2. Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!'

What great deeds the Lord worked for us!

Indeed, we were glad.

3. Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
as streams in the Negeb.

Those who are sowing in tears

will sing when they reap.

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;

they come back, they come back with a song,

bearing their sheaves.

Second reading

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

Readings: (ESV - CE) ... The Psalms: a New Translation 1963 The Grail published by Harper Collins

Thought for the Day

There is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end. *Scot Adams*