

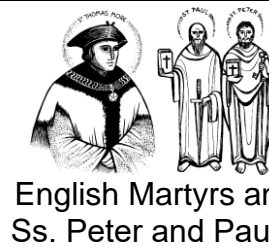
Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Third Sunday of Advent Year C – 15th December 2024

	<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>	<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>Feast Days this week</u>
Sat 14th	6:00pm Vigil Mass Deceased Foley Family RIP (MF)	9:30am Thomas Dwyer RIP (PD)	—	—
Sun 15th	—	10:30am Michael & Sylvia Daly RIP (VMD)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	3rd Sunday of Advent
Mon 16th	—	—	—	—
Tue 17th	—	—	9:30am Don & Betty Wallace RIP (AF) 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 18th	9:30am Special Intention (PDR) 2:15pm Requiem Mass Veronica Paxton RIP	12:15pm Requiem Mass Bryan McGuinness RIP	—	—
Thur 19th	—	9:30am Whole School Mass Joan Wilson RIP (MH) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 20th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm David, Sheila & Julie Earl (Angela & family)	—	—	—
Sat 21st	6:00pm Vigil Mass Deceased Henry & Hamill Families RIP	9:30am Elaine Conelly RIP (SVP)	—	—
Sun 22nd	12:30pm Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	9:00am Tom Ayre RIP (TA)	4th Sunday of Advent

<p style="text-align: center;">Sacrament of Reconciliation</p> <div> <div> Thursday 19th December St Joseph's Legion Room after Mass </div> <div> Friday 20th December EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm 6:30pm – 7:30pm </div> <div> Saturday 21st December EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Or by Appointment – call 01642 806469</p>		
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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



P A R I S H N E W S L E T T E R
Sunday 15th December 2024
Third 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 3rd Sunday of Advent

In this second of the two Advent Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation. Tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power by bullying those they were meant to protect.

The second half of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Baptist the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.

What is the "rubbish" in my life which needs to be burnt away to prepare for the coming of 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 Veronica Paxton, Bryan McGuinness 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.

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.

Bella Canta Big Thank You to everyone who supported our recent Christmas Charity Concert at St Joseph's. A total of £777 was raised. We hope you all enjoyed the evening as much as we did. If you did here is a date for your diary - Sat 24 May 2025 at Greens Lane Methodist Church at 7.30pm our Spring Charity Concert in aid of Alzheimers Society.

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.

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.

Our Lady & St Bede Academy: 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

“Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream and the Angel’s Dream: A Pilgrimage of Hope and Fulfilment” Let us walk together as pilgrims of hope this Advent season. Join us for a scriptural reflection on two powerful prophecies: Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the Angel's message to Mary. Guided by the Jubilee 2025 theme from Pope Francis, "Pilgrims of Hope," this reflection offers an opportunity to deepen our faith and discover how God’s promises bring hope to our lives and the world. It will be on Thursday 19th Dec., 6:30 pm at St Peter and Paul Parish Hall. All are welcome! Any questions, please email tedpatulan@gmail.com.

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES			
Fourth Sunday of Advent	21st	6:00pm	EMSSPP
	22nd	9:00am	St. Bede's
		10:30am	St. Joseph's
Christmas Eve Vigil	24th	12:30pm	Polish Mass at EMSSPP
		6:00pm	EMSSPP
Christmas Day	25th	9:00am	St. Bede's
		9:30am	Polish Mass at EMSSPP
		10:30am	St. Joseph's

Jubilee 2025: Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”. It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we'll be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025.

Readings 2nd Sunday of Advent

First reading Zephaniah 3:14-18a Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. ±3 R: Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Behold, God is my salvation!

I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord is my strength and my praise, and he has been my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name; make known among the peoples his deeds; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the Lord for he has wrought wonders; let this be known through all the earth. Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second reading Philippians 4:4-7 Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Luke 3:10-18 At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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

Thought for the Day

Advice is like snow – the more softly it falls the better it takes hold. Samuel Taylor Coleridge