

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services

21st Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C – 24th August 2025

	<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 23rd	<u>6:00pm</u> <u>Vigil Mass</u> Nertney & Stewart Family RIP (AP)	<u>9:30am</u> Susan Travers RIP (SVP)	—	—
Sun 24th	<u>12:30pm</u> Mass for the Polish Community	<u>10:30am</u> Flora Love RIP (Friendship Group)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	21st Sunday Ordinary Time
Mon 25th	—	—	—	St Louis St Joseph Calasanz <i>Priest</i>
Tue 26th	—	—	<u>9:30am</u> Intentions of Fr Mark <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St Ninian <i>Bishop</i> Blessed Dominic Barberi <i>Priest</i>
Wed 27th	<u>10:00am</u> <u>Requiem Mass</u> Eileen Fisher RIP	—	—	St Monica
Thur2 8th	—	<u>9:30am</u> Richard H Hunter RIP (MH) <u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St Augustine of Hippo <i>Bishop, Doctor</i>
Fri 29th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> Special Intention (BJ)	—	—	The Passion of St John the Baptist
Sat 30th	<u>6:00pm</u> <u>Vigil Mass</u> Alan Atkinson RIP (MM)	<u>9:30am</u> Priest's Intention	—	—
Sun 31st	—	<u>10:30am</u> Intentions of Alan G.	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Thursday 28th August
St Joseph's Legion Room
after Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 29th August
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 30th August
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 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

P A R I S H N E W S L E T T E R

Sunday 24th August 2025

21st Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

Clergy

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

Parish Office

Contact: Gill Hall
Parish office hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30am – 3:00pm.
Friday 9:30am – 2:30pm
Tel. 01642 806469
Email ourladyofwalsingham@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 21st Sunday Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, Jesus is on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. As he travels on foot, we can picture Jesus and his disciples passing through towns, maybe stopping for a cuppa or a chat, singing psalms, or swapping stories with locals. In one town, someone asks, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" It sounds simple, but it's a loaded question, it's not about numbers, but about the way the questioner sees themselves -- God's chosen people, and salvation is only for them!

Jesus answers with a parable, gently but directly aimed at them. He preached in their streets and shared a meal with them, but some haven't changed their sinful ways. That is why he then says that people "from east and west, north and south" will sit at God's table in the Kingdom. That would've hurt to the core -- outsiders welcome at God's feast! If they'd listened closely to their own Scriptures, like today's First Reading from Isaiah or the Psalm, they would have seen it coming – God has always planned for everyone to worship together as one big family; 'in Christ, there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female' Gal 3:28.

At the heart of today's Gospel and Second Reading is repentance -- *metanoia* in Greek, a "change of heart." This Sunday, we're called to rethink who belongs in God's Kingdom. It's not just those who fill the pews at Mass. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, asking "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, *on earth* as in heaven," we're inviting God's Kingdom to unfold here and now. These readings and the Mass itself urge us to reconsider our attitudes towards refugees seeking safety in our land, unborn lives lost to abortion, prisoners genuinely turning their lives around, the human and environmental victims of war and extreme poverty, people with broken relationships or different sexual orientation who feel out of place in church, people of other faiths, and those with none. God's banquet is also for them. However narrow the path may be, the invitation is wide, let's bring all with us on this earthly pilgrimage to God's Kingdom.


Ted Patulan

Pope Leo XIV's Monthly Intentions – August: For mutual coexistence:

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

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 Fisher and all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Friendship Group: The Friendship Group at St. Joseph's will not be meeting through the month of August but will be starting again on Tuesday 2nd September. 12 noon – 2pm.

Book Sales: There will be books for sale in each Church for the next two weekends. All money collected will go to support Fr Vincent and his mission.

Notice for Bible Alive Subscribers: with effect from the September–October issue *Bible Alive* will be published as a **double issue**, covering **two months in each edition**. This change is being made to help them continue delivering high-quality content in a more sustainable format. As a result, the price of your order will also be adjusted: **Current Price:** £2 per issue **New Price:** £4 per double issue. Please note, this is not a price increase, as the price remains the same over the same two-month period - just consolidated into one combined issue. We appreciate your continued support and understanding.

Stockton Hope Larder: St Andrew Church Hardwick: We are open **every Wednesday from 10:30am until 12:30pm** offering 10 items of food for a £2 donation. This service is open to anyone. We also have a warm space serving free tea or coffee and a friendly chat. A Big THANK YOU for your cash donations all your continuing food donations every week which keeps our Larder stocked up. We are overwhelmed by your generosity, and the money donations will be very welcome to buy in more food for the larder and keep things running. In these times of rising costs we hope that in a small way we have helped families to get by, and your donations have certainly contributed to that. Blessings to you all. Thank you from Stockton Hope Trustees and Volunteers.

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 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 and young women. Any donations please contact Karen Dick on 07759 984586. 'RASPS' would like to send their gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all those in the parish of Our Lady of Walsingham for their financial donations over the last 2 years. You have helped us stay open for another year, allowing us to welcome and serve our Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the area.

Getting Married? Plan ahead.....Take time together to shape the kind of marriage you want. Marriage Care offers facilitator led marriage preparation courses that can help you to develop a faithful, fruitful, quality relationship that can last a lifetime. The courses are very enjoyable one day group sessions where you can participate and share ideas and experiences with other couples, or not, as you wish. To find out more or to book a session in your local area contact; info@marriagecare.org or ring 0800389380

March for Life UK: Join March for Life UK on 6th September in London. The right to life underpins every other right we have and without it every other right is rendered meaningless. Abortion denies the most vulnerable in our society of their most basic right which is why this year's theme is "Human Rights for All Humans." Unite with thousands of others at this family friendly event where we recognise the value of life from conception and stand up for all those who have been impacted by abortion. Find out more at <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/> or email info@marchforlife.co.uk

PARISH FINANCES

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the work of our parish and for all of your fundraising efforts. I know that these are difficult times, but if you can afford to increase your contributions, it will be most appreciated. If you are a taxpayer, please consider signing up to the Gift Aid scheme - this is a vital additional source of income for the parish as we can claim an extra 25% of your donation direct from the Government. **Grateful thanks to those who have already done so.** Fr Mark

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.

Contact Gill in the parish office for Gift Aid details and forms. Thank you.

Diocesan Vacancies:

Head of Safeguarding - Salary Scale from £46,000 to £52,000

The closing date for applications is 31 August 2025.

Interested applicants should contact Annie Leaver, Head of HR, on annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk for an Applicant Pack.

Surveyor - The Property Team are looking for a Surveyor to join their busy team at St Cuthberts House.

You will assist in the care and maintenance of all Diocesan land and property, so as to ensure a high-level of professional support is offered to our parish communities and Diocesan schools. This is a 6 month fixed term contract reporting to the Head of Property.

For a copy of the Job Description please contact annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

Education Operations Manager - Salary £35,000 to £37,323

Closing date 9.00am on 3 September 2025, applications received after this time cannot be accepted. If you would like to discuss the role or for an applicant pack, please contact catherine.craig@diocesehn.org.uk or annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2025-2026The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The 2025-2026 CCRS course programme is now available on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs> If anyone would like further information, they can contact the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk

Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION. Bishop Stephen invites you to a **Jubilee Day on Saturday 27th September**, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Everyone is welcome! There'll be guest speakers from the Prisons' Chaplaincy and the Justice & Peace Refugee Project, and a choice of seminars/forums to reawaken and empower us for mission. This is an opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and to celebrate our diocesan family as we explore what a Church in Mission invites us to be and do! There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a prayer space in the chapel, and praise and worship led by Durham musicians 'Set A Fire'. Take a look around the marketplace where there'll be stands and gifts from some of our Catholic partners and groups. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25> where you'll also find more information about the seminars you'll be able to join during the day. For enquiries and parish/group bookings, email Amy at formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or telephone 0191 2433316. Search on Facebook, X and Bluesky using the hashtag #DHNAlive25 for the latest information and updates, or see the church noticeboards.

CAFOD: Response in Gaza: Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East. As Cardinal Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem) says, "Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering."

Prayer and Liturgy News

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of the kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Readings 21st Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading

Isaiah 66:18-21

Thus says the Lord: 'For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem,' says the Lord, 'just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites,' says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117(116):1. 2. ± Mark 16:15

R: Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations;
acclaim him, all you peoples!

2. For his mercy has prevailed over us;
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Brothers and Sisters: Have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? 'My sons, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.' It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Gospel

Luke 13:22-30

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And someone said to him, 'Lord, will those who are saved be few?' And he said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then he will answer you, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets." But he will say, "I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!" In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

Readings: ESV - CE © 2024 by Crossway ... Abbey Psalms: © 2018 USCCB

Thought for the Day

Keep your light shining, God will put it where it can be seen.