

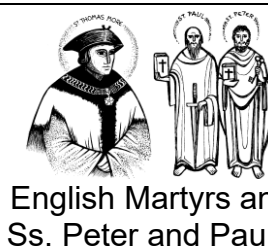
Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
23rd Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C – 7th September 2025

	<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 6th	<u>6:00pm</u> <u>Vigil Mass</u> Maurice Milburn RIP (MM)	<u>9:30am</u> <u>Healing Mass</u> Pauline Eastwood (80 th Birthday) (VS)	—	—
Sun 7th	—	<u>10:30am</u> Sheila Lannon RIP (Friendship Group) <u>4:00pm</u> Holy Hour	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	23rd Sunday Ordinary Time
Mon 8th	—	—	—	The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue 9th	—	—	<u>9:30am</u> <u>Whole School Mass</u> Special Intention (MS) <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St Peter Claver <i>Priest</i>
Wed 10th	<u>9:30am</u> Special Intention for Anne (TW)	—	—	—
Thur 11th	—	<u>9:30am</u> <u>Whole School Mass</u> Margaret Troupe RIP (AW) <u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 12th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> Pat Kennedy & the Deceased of the Saint Family RIP (JR)	—	—	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Sat 13th	<u>6:00pm</u> <u>Vigil Mass</u> Pat Chapman RIP (AC)	<u>9:30am</u> Intentions of Trevor	—	—
Sun 14th	<u>12:30pm</u> Mass for the Polish Community	<u>10:30am</u> Intentions of Mr & Mrs Roddam (J&KM)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Thursday 11th September <u>St Joseph's Legion Room</u> <u>after Mass</u>	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Friday 12th September <u>EMSSPP Confessional</u> 5:00pm – 5:45pm	Saturday 13th September <u>EMSSPP Confessional</u> 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



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

Sunday 7th September 2025
23rd Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

Clergy	<u>Parish Priest:</u> Fr Mark Millward <u>Assistant Priest:</u> Fr Oliver Keyes <u>Deacon:</u> Paul Hargreaves
Parish Office	<u>Contact:</u> 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	<u>Parish YouTube:</u> Stockton Parish Family <u>Facebook page:</u> @ParishFamilyStocktonRC <u>Parish website:</u> www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk <u>Diocesan website:</u> diocesehn.org.uk
Parish Contacts	<u>St Vincent De Paul Society:</u> 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 <u>St. Joseph's Thornton Hall:</u> For any requests to book / hire the Hall please contact Philip and Cath Jackson direct on 01642 284770 Thank you. <u>The Legion of Mary:</u> meets at St Joseph's Norton; Contact 01642 531263 for information. <u>Safeguarding:</u> 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 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Jesus does not pull his punches, and here delivers a series of devastating body-blows to anyone who is looking for easy discipleship. All through this journey which culminates in Jesus' own death at Jerusalem the cost of discipleship has been a recurrent theme:

'Let the dead bury their dead' (13th Sunday), the Parable of the Rich Fool (18th Sunday), 'From one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded' (19th Sunday), 'Father against son, son against father' (20th Sunday), and now 'Hate father and mother' and 'Give up all your possessions'.

A certain amount of the vigour of these demands may be attributed to a Semitic (Hebrew/Aramaic) mode of expression (they would often use superlatives and rarely use comparatives), but there is no doubt about the absolute demands made on the disciple.

When Jesus made these demands he knew what lay ahead of him, and was only asking his disciples to follow his own course. We must count the cost before beginning to build the tower. Most of us have, of course, already started to build the tower by responding to Jesus' call. There is no turning back from the plough (13th Sunday); only pray for a courage and loyalty which exceed our own powers.


Why does Jesus use such fierce language?

What is the hardest thing about trying to be a disciple of Christ?

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

Thank you: The funeral collection in memory of **Eileen Fisher RIP** raised **£232.50** for the EMSSPP Pilgrimage fund. Sincere thanks to all who donated.

Education Sunday

Next weekend is Education Sunday and the Diocesan Department for Education are asking parishes to pray for our Diocesan Catholic schools, their pupils and staff. In addition, they are using the opportunity to make an appeal for governors at the end of Mass. They are inviting headteachers, school or Catholic Education Trust staff and governors to make the short appeal. The narrative has been provided. Please contact Rebecca Daglish rebecca.daglish@diocesehn.org.uk if you are able to support. Thank you.

Mission Appeal: Sr Asmeret Aregay, from Comboni Missionary Sisters will be visiting our parishes on the weekend of **13th & 14th September** to appeal for support with their work. Please be as generous as you can.

Advance Notice: there will be a second collection for Evangelii Gaudium on the weekend of **20th / 21st September**.

Holy Hikers: Next walk on **Sunday 21st September** is from Witton Park to Shildon Railway Museum. Please contact David Mackintosh for more details 07913 021814.

Friendship Group: The Friendship Group took a summer break through August but will meet again on a regular basis starting on Tuesday 2nd Sept in the Thornton Hall at St. Joseph's 12:00pm – 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

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

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.

Parish Office Email – IMPORTANT: we will be closing our old email address (parishofficestockton@outlook.com) shortly, so could you please make sure that you send any emails to the new parish office address of ourladyofwalsingham@diocesehn.org.uk in future, as they will no longer be automatically forwarded on.

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.



August Baptisms: Please pray for **Milania Jane, Khalani-Leigh, Zvaya-Grace Kelly, Jace Edward Michael, Ayda-Rae Muckle, Harrison Peter, Joseph Michael, Ronnie Stephen, Kaison-Cherubim, Penny Louise, Kingsley Kevin, Parker Colin, Ugochi Eliana & Anya Giovanna** who received the Sacrament of Baptism in July. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

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

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.

Little Sisters of the Poor – Pie & Pea Supper: St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are having a Pie & Pea Supper on Wednesday 24th September at 7pm. Bingo, Raffle and Entertainment. Tickets at £8 each, are available by ringing the Little Sisters on 0191 2731279

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. **Fr Mark is hoping to take a delegation from our parish, with coach transport – please sign up via the parish office.**

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

Holy Hour: at St. Joseph's 4pm Sunday 7th September . All are welcome.

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

Pope Leo XIV's Monthly Intentions– September: For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Readings 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading

Wisdom 9:13-18b

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. ±1

R: O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

1.You turn man back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

3.Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How long?
Show pity to your servants.

2.You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.

4.At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.

Second Reading

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

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

Thought for the Day

Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on when others have let go.

William Feather