

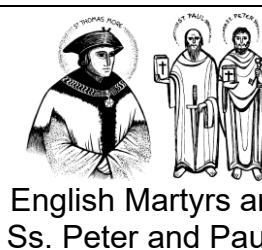
Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Year C – 14th September 2025

	<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 13th	6:00pm Vigil Mass Pat Chapman RIP (AC)	9:30am Intentions of Trevor	—	—
Sun 14th	12:30pm Mass for the Polish Community	10:30am Intentions of Mr & Mrs Roddam (J&KM)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Mon 15th	—	—	—	Our Lady of Sorrows
Tue 16th	—	—	9:30am Special Intention (MS) 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, <i>Bishop Martyrs</i>
Wed 17th	9:30am Special Intention for JW (TW)	—	—	St Robert Bellarmine <i>Bishop, Doctor</i> St Hildegard of Bingen <i>Virgin, Doctor</i>
Thur 18th	—	9:30am Peter White RIP (AW) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	—
Fri 19th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Colin Clamp RIP (JC)	—	—	St Theodore of Canterbury <i>Bishop, Doctor</i> St Januarius <i>Bishop, Martyr</i>
Sat 20th	6:00pm Vigil Mass Mavis Walton RIP (AC)	9:30am Success in Examination Results & Employment (Bradley) (PMc)	—	—
Sun 21st	—	10:30am Sheila Lannon RIP (SV)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation		
Thursday 18th September St Joseph's Legion Room after Mass	Friday 19th September EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm	Saturday 20th September 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



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

Sunday 14th September 2025
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today is **Education Sunday** – a day when our minds are drawn to our fabulous Catholic primary and secondary schools throughout the Diocese.

On Education Sunday we also thank God for the incredible teaching and support staff who work in our schools. Their hard work and commitment ensure that our schools are the special places where each child can grow, spiritually, morally, and academically enabling them to achieve their full potential.

In addition to the school staff, we are also extremely grateful to our school governors, appointed by Bishop Stephen Wright and endorsed by our Diocesan clergy who generously volunteer to share in the mission of making Christ known to all. Furthermore, they are a valued, critical friend to the school.

Bishop Stephen and the Diocesan Department for Education are very grateful to those who already serve as governors; however, we do need more volunteers to be Foundation Governors in our schools.

So, what does it take to be a Foundation Governor?

Being a practising and committed Catholic who would be able to receive a supporting reference from your Parish priest is an important starting point.

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.

Education Sunday: Today is Education Sunday where we pray for all those involved in Catholic Education. In addition, today there will be a short appeal for school governors. If you feel that you have the skills and interest to be involved, please complete one of the forms at the back of church or complete a form online using the QR code 9on the poster. Then the Diocesan Department for Education will contact you to invite you to an information evening.

Mission Appeal: This weekend we welcome Sr Asmeret Aregay, from **Comboni Missionary Sisters** to our parishes 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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day - 3 October 2025
This Family Fast Day (Friday, 3 October) CAFOD is highlighting its work with communities in Ethiopia facing climate challenges, where our donations fund vital water infrastructure projects. This is alongside CAFOD’s continued response to urgent needs in the Holy Land, Ukraine and Sudan through trusted local Church partners. Your support enables us to provide practical assistance for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters worldwide. Further information about the Family Fast Day appeal can be found at cafod.org.uk/parish.

Friendship Group: The Friendship Group is meeting again on a regular basis on Tuesdays in the Thornton Hall at St. Joseph’s 12:00pm – 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

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.

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

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.

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.

Diocese Vacancies:

Parish Secretary, Parishes of Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert, Crook, St Thomas of Canterbury, Wolsingham; and St Joseph, Tow Law - 14 hours per week. 12 Month Fixed Term Contract. The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date: 12:00 noon Tuesday 16th September 2025.

Parish Secretary, Parish of St Bede & Ss Peter and Paul South Shields - 12 hours per week; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9.00am to 13:00. The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing Date: 12:00 noon Wednesday 17th September 2025

Parish Secretary, St Mary’s Cathedral, St Dominic’s and St Michael’s, Newcastle - 17 hours per week to be agreed. The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date:12.00 noon on Wednesday 17th September 2025

Cleaner, St Matthew’s Presbytery, Jarrow - 6 hours per week with a degree of flexibility which can be discussed during the interview process. The Applicant Pack can be obtained by contacting nell.dewhirst@diocesehn.org.uk or human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk Closing date: 12 noon Tuesday 16th September 2025



Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION. JUBILEE DAY is fast approaching and we hope you have seen the line-up of guest speakers invited along to share their stories about being Alive in Hope: A Church for Mission. Ordinary people doing extraordinary work in our parish communities, diocese and beyond, they share the joys and struggles of *doing* mission for the Church. Perhaps something will resonate with you? Bishop Stephen invites all of us to come to this day as a diocesan family in this Holy Year of Jubilee. Full details of the day’s programme are available online and in the Northern Cross, or please ring Amy to find out more. Haven’t booked yet? There’s still time to register. Saturday 27th September, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register by Sunday 21st September.

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

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear **Nicholas Sagovsky** speak about **'Heart speaks to heart'; what has Newman to do with synodality?** in the hall of Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle, NE2 3JX, on **Tuesday 30 September, at 7.30pm.**

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

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.

SPUC PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR The next SPUC Pro-Life Holy Hour including Exposition and Healing will take place at St Patrick’s, Stockton on Thursday, 18 September, from 6-7 pm. Stockton Branch members look forward to seeing you. All welcome.

Readings Exaltation of the Holy Cross

First reading

Numbers 21:4b-9

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.’ Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.’ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 78(77):1-2. 34-35. 36-37. 38. ± cf. 7b

R: Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

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|---|---|
| 1.Give ear, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and utter hidden lessons of the past. | 2.When he slew them, then they sought him,
repented and earnestly sought God.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer. |
| 3.Yet they deceived him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
For their hearts were not steadfast towards him;
they were not faithful to his covenant. | 4.Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave them their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger,
and did not stir up all his rage. |

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel

John 3:13-17

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, ‘No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

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

Thought for the Day

Life is like old fashioned photography.... we use the negatives to develop.