

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
1st Sunday of Advent, Year A – 30th November 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 29th	6:00pm Vigil Mass Peter Shaw RIP (ES)	9:30am Norah, Paul & Peter McPartland RIP (MT)	—	—
Sun 30th	—	10:30am Matthew Chipchase RIP (MC) 4:00pm Holy Hour	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	1st Sunday of Advent
Mon 1st	—	—	—	
Tue 2nd	—	12:00 noon Requiem Mass John William Farnell RIP	9:30am Healing for Maisie & Support for Sarah (PR) 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed 3rd	9:30am Whole School Mass Leo McCormack RIP (TW)	—	—	St Francis Xavier <i>Priest</i>
Thur 4th	—	9:30am In Thanksgiving for Prayers & Help Received (MH) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St Osmund <i>Bishop</i> St John Damascene <i>Priest, Doctor</i>
Fri 5th	5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Special Intention	—	—	—
Sat 6th	6:00pm Vigil Mass The Ellis Family (BG)	9:30am Healing Mass Bryan McGuinness RIP (SM)	—	St Nicholas <i>Bishop</i>
Sun 7th	—	10:30am Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH)	9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	2nd Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 4th December
St Joseph's Legion Room
after Mass

Friday 5th December
EMSSPP Confessional
5:00pm – 5:45pm

Saturday 6th December
St Joseph's Legion Room
after 9.30am Healing Mass

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
1st Sunday of Advent, Year A
30th November 2025

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
First Sunday of Advent

In each year of the three-year cycle the Advent Sunday gospel-readings have the same pattern: the first is about the final Coming of Christ. In the second John the Baptist is preparing a community of repentance to welcome Jesus' mission. In the third John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah. On the fourth Sunday we look to Mary preparing for the birth of her Son. In this Sunday's reading about the Second Coming the accent is the same as in the Paul's letter to the Romans (today's second reading): we have a pressing and urgent need to take action without delay. The Second Coming will be sudden

and unexpected as when a thief breaks in at night and no protective preparations have been made; it will also seem random and apparently without discernible cause, as when one person is taken, another left behind. We do not even know whether that final confrontation (when each of us is brought face to face with the awesome presence of God) will be a unique event for each of us at death, or whether it will be a group event, as is suggested by Matthew's parable of the sheep and goats sent to right and left. There is no time in eternity, no waiting-room! It will not be as any human mind can envisage it.

Should we look forward to or dread the final meeting with the Lord?

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

Mass Intentions: Mass Intentions are now fully booked at all 3 churches until February. 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. Thank you.

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

Books: We have been inundated and do not need any more book donations at the moment. Thank you to all who have donated and supported the recent book sales.

PARISH FINANCES

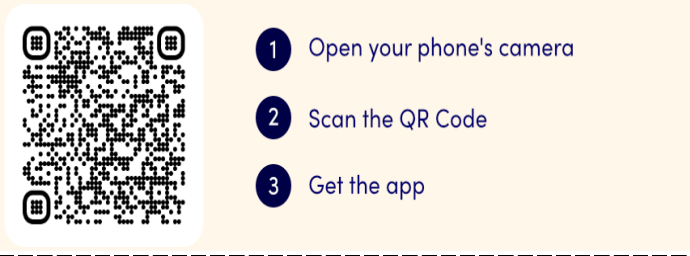
Parish Bank Account Details: Please make cheques payable to DHN Stockton Our Lady of Walsingham. If you would like to make a Bank transfer or set up a standing order, or to register for Gift Aid, please contact Gill in the parish office for the details. Thank you.

Sincere thanks to all who have signed up and used easyfundraising. Almost £40 has been raised so far.

Use easyfundraising to make your online purchases and you'll raise free funds for the parish whenever you use it to shop! — at no extra cost to you. https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeld=320605&utm_term=CE994

REMEMBER TO DOWNLOAD THE EASYFUNDRAISING APP DURING NOVEMBER (AND CHOOSE 'OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM, STOCKTON-ON-TEES' AS YOUR CAUSE) THE PARISH WILL GET A £2 DONATION, EVEN IF YOU DON'T USE IT TO SHOP

See notices in church, or use this QR code –



What is your Jubilee Story? As the Year of Jubilee draws to a close in January 2026, we are preparing to celebrate the journey we have all walked together united as Pilgrims of Hope. Across the Diocese, communities have embraced the Jubilee in beautiful and creative ways and we are now collecting photographs, short stories and messages to form a Jubilee Legacy Collection. “Let’s close this Holy Year not with a full stop, but with a radiant exclamation of hope.” Please visit https://bit.ly/DHN-jubilee-collection for further details and the closing date for us to use your submission(s) is 15th December.

Children’s Christmas Party: inviting all children to a Christmas Party in St Bede’s after Mass on Sunday 21st December.

SVP Fundraising night: at Billingham Catholic club. Please come and join Jeremy McMurray and friends for a fundraising night of live entertainment on Tuesday 2nd December from 7:00pm. The funds raised will help with Christmas hampers for those in need. We are planning a tombola and would be very grateful for any bottles & gifts. Please leave these at the back of church. Tickets are available after Masses this weekend at £5:00each. Any queries please contact Jane Kelly on 07584 575541. Does anyone have a need for a ¾ bed (in excellent condition), or know someone in need of a bed? If you do, please speak to a member of the SVP.

Bella Canta Ladies Choir Christmas Concert on Fri 12 Dec 7.30pm at St Joseph’s A varied seasonal programme to put a festive song in your heart. Free Entry. Retiring Collection divided between the choir, the parish & The Corner House Youth Project.

Opera Nova presents: Melodies for Christmas. We are delighted to present Melodies for Christmas - our first Christmas concert for many years and the first Opera Nova performance in our new rehearsal venue – St Patrick’s RC Church Hall, Stockton. The Concert is on Tuesday, 16th December, 7.30pm in St. Patrick’s Church Hall. Tickets £12, U18s/Students - Free Earlybird £10 if booked by 30th November [Interval refreshments included] Ticketline Phone/text: 07795 323985 Email: operanova25@gmail.com www.operanova.org.uk.

Emmaus Bereavement Listening Service: If you are struggling after the death of a loved one, or suffering any significant loss, and would like to share your story with someone outside your family, then a member of the Emmaus Team may be able to help. We would be privileged to support you in your loss as Jesus did for the travellers on the road to Emmaus. The members of the Emmaus team are trained in bereavement listening skills and are experienced in supporting those who are suffering loss. If you think we could help, please ring the Emmaus Bereavement Support Team on 07732 980740. Please leave your name and number and a member of the team will get in touch with you.

Holy Island Term Time Volunteer Opportunity Are you retired, semi-retired or just enjoying life and would like to give something back to the children of the North East? If so, this could be for you. Holy Island SVP Vinnie's Camp are looking for volunteers to help in their Kitchen or with caretaking at our centre on Holy Island. Commitment time would vary from a weekend to half a week , a full week or maybe more if you would like to, and you get to stay in our very comfortable Lindisfarne House accommodation. Without more term time volunteers our Summer SVP Vinnies Camps would not be possible and many schools in the North East would not have access to reasonably priced residential holidays for their children. Applications open in December on our website: https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp If you are interested or want more information please email barbart@svp.org.uk

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camps Summer 2026 Volunteering Opportunities We would love to have more volunteers help out at our weekly SVP Summer Camps on Lindisfarne, Helping is a really great thing to do and you will need to be prepared to give a week of your time over the Summer holidays, have high levels of energy, patience, a sense of humour, be a team player, flexible and good at communicating with adults and children. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would be great please look at our website - applications for volunteering in 2026, open in December. https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp

There will not be a Fairtrade stall at St. Joseph’s this year, for various reasons, however there still plenty of chances to buy Fair-Trade presents. At Saltholm this coming weekend, 6th & 7th Jenny is having a Fair-Trade stall. Then from the 8th to the 13th she is sharing a shop in Darlington at the friends community hub, next door to their Church, 6 Skinnergate, DL3 7NB. 10am - 5 pm. It will be great if you can go along to support and buy these wonderful gifts. If you could help in the shop, please have a word with Lorraine after Mass. Thanks, even if it's just for one morning or afternoon.

Prayer and Liturgy News

Pope Leo XIV’s Monthly Intentions – November: For the Prevention of Suicide Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Pope Leo XIV’s Monthly Intentions – December: For Christians in areas of conflict Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Holy Hour at St. Joseph’s - 4pm on Sunday 30th November. All are welcome,

A Weekly Reflection and Daily Readings for Advent 2025 Advent is a time of preparation and to reflect, and hold onto, the messages of hope, peace, joy and love which God promised to us in the birth of Christ Jesus. Members of our Diocesan Writing Team offer this Advent resource to help guide a daily space for reading of the Scripture, reflection and prayer. In it you will find a reflection based on the theme of each week of Advent and an easy-to-follow reference to the readings for each day. The reflections will be available to view and download on the homepage of the Diocesan website from Friday 28 November www.diocesehn.org.uk.

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

Scriptures of Hope: In response to this Jubilee Year theme of hope, our Diocesan Writing Team were invited to share a short reflection on a scripture passage which speaks to them of hope throughout the challenges and the joys of life. What followed was a beautiful collection of reflections demonstrating how of the Word of God has been a powerful source of strength, peace and hope to each writer in many ways. We share four reflections each week. We hope you enjoy. Please visit https://bit.ly/DHN-scriptures-of-hope to read the collection.

Readings 1st Sunday of Advent

First reading Isaiah 2:1-5 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 122(121):1-2. 3-4a. 8-9. ± cf. 1 R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1.I rejoiced when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. 2.Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. 3.For the sake of my family and friends, let me say, ‘Peace upon you.’ For the sake of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek good things for you.

Second reading Romans 13:11-14a

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’ Readings: ESV - CE © 2024 by Crossway ... Abbey Psalms: © 2018 USCCB

Thought for the Day “I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together, we can do great things.” Mother Teresa