

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A – 7th December 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 Vigil Mass</u> The Ellis Family (BG)	<u>9:30am Healing Mass</u> Bryan McGuinness RIP (SM)	—	St Nicholas <i>Bishop</i>
Sun 7th	—	<u>10:30am</u> Elizabeth Ann Hunter RIP (MH)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	2 nd Sunday of Advent
Mon 8th	<u>9:30am</u> Priest's Intention	—	—	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese
Tue 9th	—	—	<u>9:30am</u> <u>Whole School Mass</u> Special Intention (MS) <u>10:00am</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin
Wed 10th	<u>9:30am</u> Alan Atkinson RIP (J&J)	—	—	Our Lady of Loreto
Thur 11th	—	<u>9:30am</u> Sheila Ross RIP (P&M) <u>2:00pm – 4:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—	St Damascus <i>Pope</i>
Fri 12th	<u>5:00pm – 6:00pm</u> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <u>6:00pm</u> Mary & Laurie Moore RIP (MA)	—	—	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sat 13th	<u>6:00pm Vigil Mass</u> Denis Jenkins RIP (CJ)	<u>9:30am</u> Deceased Members of Mackintosh, Stones & Whenray Families RIP (DM)	—	St Lucy <i>Virgin, Martyr</i>
Sun 14th	—	<u>10:30am</u> The Black Family RIP (SV)	<u>9:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	3 rd Sunday of Advent

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

PARISH NEWSLETTER
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A
7th December 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
Second Sunday of Advent

'Repentance' seems an unattractive word. It conjures up images of morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek the concept of 'repentance' is about a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on his listeners to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet whom Jewish tradition taught was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord. John proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So John makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not at this point proclaiming this Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our own scale of values.

Is my scale of values compatible with those of the Kingship of God? How far do they coincide?

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



November Baptisms: Please pray for Ada Anne, Ezra, Kitty May, Theodore Arthur and Erin Margaret Danni who received the Sacrament of Baptism in November. May they and their godparents grow in their Faith in the years ahead.

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.

Children's Christmas Party: inviting all children of the parish to a Christmas Party in St Bede's **after Mass on Sunday 21st December.**

Community Advent Tea at Our Lady and St. Bede School

You are warmly invited to join us for a special Community Advent Tea on **Friday, 12th December**, from 2:20 pm to 3:20 pm in Hall A. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a parish family during this blessed season of Advent. There will be delicious food, tea, coffee, juice, and the joy of Christmas carols to lift our hearts in preparation for Christmas. We would love to see our hall filled with friends old and new, so please spread the word and invite anyone who would enjoy this festive gathering. There is no charge for the event, but for catering purposes, we kindly ask that you book your place using the link below.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ourladyandstbede>

Let us celebrate the season of hope and joy together! *We look forward to welcoming you with warmth and cheer.*

RASPS Update – please note that we are **no longer collecting donations for RASPS**. Sincere thanks to all of you who have supported the refugees and asylum seekers over the years.

There will be a Grand Tombola in St Joseph's porch/ entrance on Sunday 14th Dec after Mass in aid of the Parish and Father Vincent's Mission. Thank you for your support.

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 FINANCES

Parish Bank Account Details: Please make cheques **payable to DHN Stockton Our Lady of Walsingham**

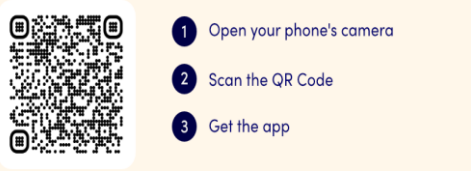
If you would like to make a Bank transfer or set up a standing order, or to register for Gift Aid, please contact Gill in the parish office for the details. Thank you.

Sincere thanks to all who have signed up and used easyfundraising. Almost £60 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!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeld=320605&utm_term=CE994

See notices in church, or use this QR code –



The coffee morning at St. Joseph's last Thursday **raised a fantastic £118.28** for church funds. Sincere thanks to all organisers, helpers and supporters. God bless you all.

Thank you: Sylvia, Lorraine and family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support following the death of Colin Clark. The money donated at the end of the Funeral as been sent to Dementia UK.

THANK YOU FROM SIGNIFICANCE The Trustees of Significance thank everyone in our parishes and schools who supported the Grand Draw and all those who donated prizes. 1,005 tickets were sold which realised £5,025. The funds raised will help Significance to continue to support YMT and the Emmaus Village; and to provide opportunities to help young people to recognise their own worth and unique gifts. Congratulations to all our winners: Sr Immaculata (Oaklea Convent), Betty Carey-Reynolds, (Ashington), Fiona Standfield, (Diocesan Offices), Andrea Kawanzaruwa (Stanley), Ben Cantwell (Penshaw), Rebecca Leighton (Wallsend).

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.

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.

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

Prayer and Liturgy News

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.

Parish Advent Retreat: An afternoon of prayer, reflection, and community as we enter more deeply into the spirit of Advent in this Jubilee Year. All are warmly welcome! Saturday, 13th December, 2-4 pm, Thornton Hall, St Joseph. Hope doubles when we bring a friend.

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.

Proud Catholics is hosting a Christmas Mass on the 16th December at 7:30pm at St Andrew's RC Church, 9 Worswick Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6UW. We invite you to join us!"

Readings 2nd Sunday of Avent

First reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. ± cf. 7

R: In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

1.O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement.

3.For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy.

2. In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth.

4. May his name endure for ever
his name continue like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blest in him,
all nations shall call him blessed.

Second reading

Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."' Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

Thought for the Day

Let us pray for peace, and let us bring it about, starting in our own homes. *Pope Francis*