



Sunday 14th December, 2025

St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PJ

Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
Tel. 01642 674321

e-mail: stpatricks.stockton@diocesehn.org.uk

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday, it is a time of joy, a time of being thankful for all that has been given, the promise of the Saviour who has come, who is present and who promises a return. Advent is a time of waiting. John the Baptist has been patiently waiting for the Messiah and sends messengers to ask Jesus if He is the One he has been waiting for. Jesus replies that the people should look at the signs of healing, raising from the dead and the bringing of the Good News. Jesus is the fulfilment of the prophets. The message of Advent is that we should wait patiently for the Lord to come into our lives. This can be a time of enrichment, He is present to us in Word and Sacrament, but He is also present to us in the words and gestures of other people.

You are warmly invited to attend our 'Carols Around the Tree'

service on Wednesday 17th December 2025 in church at 17:00. The children will tell the Nativity story through scripture readings, liturgical dance and with the singing of Christmas carols. Seasonal refreshments will be available in the school hall afterwards. With love and prayers from St. Patrick's School.



Holy Father's Prayer Intention for 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.

A Weekly Reflection and Daily Readings for Advent. . . 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. Please visit the Diocesan website to read these reflections.

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 are open on our website <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>. If you are interested or want more information please email barbart@svp.org.uk

Opera Nova presents: Melodies for Christmas. The Concert is on **Tuesday, 16th December, 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church Hall.** Tickets £12, U18s/Students [Interval refreshments included] Ticketline Phone/text: 07795 323985 Email: operanova25@gmail.com www.operanova.org.uk. or pay at the door. The programme will feature a festive selection of opera favourites; lovely arrangements of Christmas songs and some traditional carols that everyone can join in and have a good sing!

The next SPUC Club Draw will take place this Sunday, 14th December. Could any outstanding monies be given to Christine, Eileen or Maurice as soon as possible. Many thanks.

2 nd Sunday of Advent			
14	Sunday	9.00am	People of our Parish
15	Monday	9.15am 5.30pm	Paul Joynes Medjugorje Rosary
16	Tuesday		
17	Wednesday		
18	Thursday	6.00pm	SVP Rosary & Healing Exposition
19	Friday	9.15am	Cath Callaghan
20	Saturday	9.15am	Lawrence & Eva Jordison
3 rd Sunday of Advent			
21	Sunday	9.00am	Ann Harbron
Recently Deceased:		John Lynchehaun ~ May he rest in peace. Amen	
Anniversaries:		Patrick Casey, Ronald Healey, Dennis Casey, Winifred Heal	
		Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Betty Griffiths, Rose Marie Bruno, Brian Lee, Kathleen Hanley, Samuel Kiberu, Brian Wetherell, Joyce Thomas, Chris Bostock	
Reader for Sunday 21 st December – David Wright			
For Parish Centre bookings please ring Rebecca on 07514 335003			



Gracious God as we light the third candle of Advent our hearts are filled with joy at the nearness of your Son. Help us to cast aside any anxieties and to embrace the joy that comes in knowing that our Saviour is coming. Amen.

We might ask that Christmas will be happy for others because of us. Happy in body, with enough food for every family, happy in mind that we know the truth of God's coming into the world, and happy in forgiveness, as that is one of God's biggest gifts. (Pope Francis)

Christmas Masses, Confession and Carol Services



St. Cuthbert's RC Church (Christmas Eve) Carols ~ 6.00pm Vigil Mass ~ 6.30pm
St. Mary's RC Church (Christmas Eve) Carols ~ 11.30pm Midnight Mass ~ 12.00
St. Patrick's RC Church (Christmas Day) Mass ~ 10.00am

Sacrament of Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ~ Tuesday 23rd December from 6pm until 7.30pm. (St. Patrick's RC Church)

Masses on Friday 26th December & Saturday 27th December will be at 10.00am.

The collection on 30th November came to £408.36 and last weekend to £440.55. Many thanks.

Gwen Gallagher is collecting used stamps for Assistance Dogs and would be grateful if any stamps were left at the back of the porch. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all.

A pilgrimage for the people of the sea . . . Stella Maris is delighted to invite sick, retired and active seafarers, fishers and their families from the UK and EU to join the charity on its inaugural Stella Maris Lourdes Pilgrimage, from **25th – 30th May 2026**. This pilgrimage brings together those who have lived and worked at sea or in fishing communities, offering time to pray, reflect and find renewed strength in faith and fellowship. **All major costs are covered:** travel, accommodation, and meals will be provided for participants and carers. For more details and to apply please go to www.stellamaris.org.uk/lourdes/