

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A – 14th 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 13th | 6:00pm Vigil Mass Denis Jenkins RIP (CJ) | 9:30am Deceased Members of Mackintosh, Stones & Whenray Families RIP (DM) | — | St Lucy <i>Virgin, Martyr</i> |
| Sun 14th | — | 10:30am The Black Family RIP (SV) | 9:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish) | 3rd Sunday of Advent |
| Mon 15th | — | — | — | |
| Tue 16th | — | — | 9:30am Heather Hopfl RIP (HH) 10:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | — |
| Wed 17th | 9:30am Rajan James RIP (GF) | — | — | — |
| Thurs 18th | — | 9:30am Whole School Mass Joan Wilson RIP (MH) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | — | — |
| Fri 19th | 5:00pm – 6:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm Holy Souls | — | — | — |
| Sat 20th | 6:00pm Vigil Mass Pro Populo (People of the Parish) | 9:30am Thanksgiving (A&AS) | — | — |
| Sun 21st | — | 10:30am Michael & Sylvia Daly RIP (VD) | 9:00am Tom Ayre RIP (TA) 10:00am Children's Christmas Party | 4th Sunday of Advent |

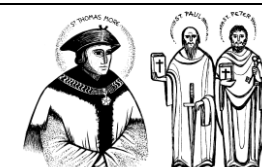
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|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Thursday 18th December St Joseph's Legion Room after Mass | Sacrament of Reconciliation | Friday 19th December EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 5:45pm | Saturday 20th December EMSSPP Confessional 5:00pm – 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
3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A
14th 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
Third Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgment, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah – the passage which we hear about in today's first reading. Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance. Then he turns to praising the Baptist.

It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus

until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him. This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple.

Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do. John the Baptist did all he could to lead others to God.

How, through our actions and attitudes, can we point others to God? How do our lives show that we are preparing for Christ's second coming?

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.

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.

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.

Thank you to everyone for their generosity in helping us to raise £251 for SVP – Lindisfarne in memory of John Farnell. From Margaret & family.

SVP South Sudan Appeal

The SVP in South Sudan works tirelessly to provide balanced meals to over 700 infants, a home for 30 young boys who were living on the street, vocational training to hundreds of young adults and free healthcare to rural families. Against a background of continuous conflict, widespread food insecurity, and a growing humanitarian crisis, the SVP in South Sudan are a beacon of hope; the light of Christ in the darkness. Over Christmas we will have collection baskets alongside the Crib in our three churches and if you are able, please support the work of the SVP in South Sudan. Thank You.

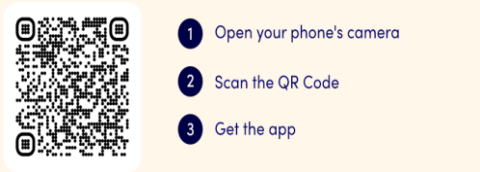
PARISH FINANCES

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. Over £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 –



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: Thank you to everyone who supported our concert at St Joseph's. If you missed it we are singing again on Friday 19th Dec 7.00pm at Greens Lane Methodist Church Hartburn TS18 5HP. Free Entry, no ticket required. Retiring collection raising money for the Corner House Youth Project Stockton.

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.

Teesside Catholic Young Adults - Christmas Carol Evening 21st December We warmly invite you to join us for an afternoon of Christmas Carols and fellowship. Join us at St. Thomas More's, Kirkham Road, Middlesbrough, TS4 3EE at 3:00pm for some spirited festive singing, followed by some Christmas refreshments from 5pm onwards. Contact us at teessidecya@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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.

| CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES | | | |
|-------------------------|------|---------|-----------------------|
| Fourth Sunday of Advent | 20th | 6:00pm | EMSSPP |
| | 21st | 9:00am | St. Bede's |
| | | 10:30am | St. Joseph's |
| Tuesday | 23rd | 9:30am | St. Bede's |
| Christmas Eve Vigil | 24th | 6:00pm | EMSSPP |
| Christmas Day | 25th | 9:00am | St. Bede's |
| | | 9:30am | Polish Mass at EMSSPP |
| | | 10:30am | St. Joseph's |

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 3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. ± Matthew 5:3

R: Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1.It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed.

2.The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.

3.The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." 'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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