

Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

St Edward, Coquet Avenue,
Whitley Bay, NE26 1EE
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Church Close,
Monkseaton, NE25 9PG
Our Lady and St Edmund, Station Road,
Backworth, NE27 0RU

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, a day of special prayer for expectant mothers, Year C

19th & 20th December 2015

PARISH NOTICES

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

A banner for the Jubilee Year of Mercy now decorates each of our parish churches. The motto: *Merciful Like the Father* comes from St Luke's Gospel and invites us to follow God the Father's merciful example who asks us not to judge or condemn, but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (Luke 6:37-38). The symbol shows an image from the early Church of Jesus carrying on his shoulders the one who was lost. The Good Shepherd touches us with a love that changes our lives. Jesus the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, and his eyes are merged with those of his brothers and sisters. Jesus sees with our eyes, and we see with his eyes the love of his Father. The figures are held within a 'mandorla' – an oval shape which points to the divine and human natures of Jesus. The three colours show Jesus carrying humanity out of the darkness of sin and death into the light of redemption and new life.



A Pilgrimage Companion prayer book for the Year of Mercy is available for everyone at the back of our churches. Please take a copy, and also copies for those at home.

PARISH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Many thanks to everyone and especially those of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church who helped organise the very enjoyable Parish birthday party last Saturday evening.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

The last Sunday 5.00pm Mass will be next Sunday, 27th December at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

PARISH MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club will not be meeting during the holiday period, we wish everyone all the very best for Christmas and the New Year and look forward to our return on 11th January.

PRAYER GROUP

There will be no Prayer Group at St Edward's for the next two weeks. Meetings will recommence on Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 8.00pm in the Parish House.

PIETY STALLS—ALL CHURCHES

Advent calendars, candles, children's books, Christmas cards, Catholic diaries and calendars plus many other items for sale at the churches at very reasonable prices. Thank you for your support.

TOMBOLA

We will be having a Christmas tombola at Our Lady and St Edmund Church this Sunday 20th December.

PARISH WALKING GROUP

- On Monday 21st December the walk will be from Tynemouth, along the river to the ferry crossing, then around South Shields and back to the ferry—about 6 miles. Meet at West Monkseaton metro station for the 9.36am train to Tynemouth. Further information from Pat Kerr, 0191 2807764.
- The first walk in the New Year will be on Tuesday 5th January 2016. Please bring your bus pass if you have one as we will be driving to Chester Moor and then taking the bus to Barley Mow. From there walking on the Sunderland to Consett railway walk as far as Pelton Fell, then south across Waldrige Fell back to Chester Moor. Please meet at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at 9.30am. If you require more information please call Peter on 0191 2512917.

ADVENT 'SLEEPOUT'

As a result of all your very generous donations to help homeless young people looked after by Depaul's Nightstop North East, I have been able to hand in £463.86 so far. It was a very special time hearing people speak about the struggle to overcome their difficulties and the value of specialist organisations who work with the young people for months, or years, if necessary. A big thank you from Sheila Clapperton.

TIMES OF OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Church	Christmas Eve Mass	Christmas Day Mass
Our Lady and St Edmund, Backworth	No Mass	9.30am
St Edward, Whitley Bay	7.00pm (Carols from 6.30pm)	11.00am
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monkseaton	9.00pm (Carols from 8.30pm)	No Mass

JUSTICE & PEACE

ADVENT REFLECTIONS—Please find, at the back of each church, Advent Reflection sheets. This resource will help us grow a deeper understanding of what Advent means, as we prepare for Christmas.

USED STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

As Christmas approaches can we remind parishioners that there is a box in the Narthex at all churches in which to place your used stamps. Please leave a border around the stamps to protect them.

NEW YEAR 'WINE & BITES'

Saturday 16th January 2016 at 7.30pm for HCPT 2016 Pilgrims in the Parish House at St Edward's. There will be music, poems/readings, loads o' craic and maybe a quiz. Tickets cost £5 and are available from Tess Dowson, Liz Hickey & Gerry Rafferty. Raffle prizes would be welcomed.

PARISH BURNS SUPPER

To be held on Friday 19th February 2016 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Three traditional courses, followed by toasts, music and song for only £12.50 a head. Tickets will be available in the New Year from Peter Weighill, Joe James and Bill Lynch. There will only be 80 tickets available, so make a note in your diary the noo.

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA

The rota for St Edward's is ready for collection in the serving kitchen in the duckett on the wall. Thank you to all our volunteers who help.

OTHER NOTICES

ADVENT ALMS APPEAL FROM ST CUTHBERT'S CARE

This Advent, our 5p Bus distributes warm clothes, bedding, toys and food parcels to hundreds of needy families throughout our Diocese. Envelopes available at back of church if you wish to donate. Thank you.

MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL – CHRISTMAS TEA

On Christmas Day St Mary the Virgin Anglican Church on Claremont Road, Whitley Bay is hosting a drop-in Christmas tea from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome - couples, families, people on their own, young and old, anyone who would like to get together on Christmas afternoon for some festive food, some good conversation, a few games, some entertainment, and some carol singing. So if you are out having a walk, or you want somewhere to come with the children for a while, or if you are sick of watching TV, or just curious, you would be very welcome. In the end it is being together that makes Christmas special. For more information please ring St Mary's Anglican Parish Office 0191 2514216 weekdays 10.00am - 12.00pm or Rev Pat Moran on 0191 2518200.

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, NORTH SHIELDS

There will be a concelebrated Mass at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd December 2015 to mark the 40th Anniversary of the church's opening.

MASS INTENTIONS			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S
Saturday 19th December	9.30am Deceased Members of the CWL (CWL) 10.00am Confessions	6.00pm Our mother Nancy Lynch (VL)	NO SERVICE
Sunday 20th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	11.00am Geoff, Stephen & Alex Craw (AC)	5.00pm People of the Parish	9.30am Deceased Members of The Watson Family (AW)
Monday 21st December ST PETER CANISIUS	9.30am Kathleen Keeler (MQ)	10.00am Word & Communion	NO SERVICE
Tuesday 22nd December	9.30am Cyril Wilson (AW)	10.00am Madge Bowstead (K&RY)	NO SERVICE
Wednesday 23rd December ST JOHN OF KANTY	9.30am Word & Communion	10.00am Patsy Bradley (EG)	9.30am Jim Donnelly (AD)
Thursday 24th December	6.30pm Carols 7.00pm Pat Perry & Eileen Coyle (VA)	8.30pm Carols 9.00pm Erlinda Arcillas (TA)	NO SERVICE
Friday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	11.00am People of the Parish	NO SERVICE	9.30am People of the Parish
Saturday 26th December ST STEPHEN	NO SERVICE	6.00pm People of the Parish (especially those feeling isolated or rejected) (PCT)	NO SERVICE
Sunday 27th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS	11.00am Joseph Scanlan (GR)	5.00pm Jane Nixey (Last 5.00pm Mass)	9.30am Josie & Moira Lombardi

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill and unable to attend Mass, particularly Mary Holmes, Kay Robson, Maureen Bell, Norma Smith, John Jameson, Steve Heywood, Bob Howe, Charlie McCuigan, Peggy Blewitt, Kevin York, David Tanner, Mary Enright and Bernie Moat. Please also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently especially Agnes Hall, Anne Calow, Edna May Greatbatch, Mary Elizabeth Younger and Father Michael Corbett.

Hospital Chaplaincies

North Tyneside General Hospital, Rake Lane: Father David Nixon MSC 03448 118111 ext. 4268 or 0191 2934268

Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, Northumbria Way, Cramlington:

Father David Nixon MSC 03448 118111 or 0191 6072270

RVI, Freeman & Walkergate: Please phone St Mary's Cathedral on 0191 2326953

Newcastle General Hospital: Sister Teresa, 0191 2336161 ext. 28465

Contact email addresses, numbers and website:

Monsignor Andrew (St. Edward)	stedwardsne26@btconnect.com	(0191) 252 8021
Star of the Sea Primary School	starofthesea.primary@northtyneside.gov.uk	(0191) 643 2080
Cluster Website	www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk	

Priests' telephone numbers

Monsignor Andrew Faley 0191 2528021, Father Martin Stempczyk 0191 2513770, Father Chris Hughes 0191 2575801
Deacon Frank Forde, contact via Parish Office 0191 2527066.

Parish Office opening hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am—12.00noon. For bulletin entries please contact the Parish Secretary - telephone 0191 2527066 or email to parishofficeolss@btconnect.com
Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 12 noon on Thursdays.

READINGS AT MASS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 20TH DECEMBER 2015

First reading

Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

Response:

Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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| <p>1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.</p> <p>2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.</p> | <p>3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.</p> |
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Second reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: *You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'* Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Lk1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,

for by your Cross and Resurrection

you have set us free.