

**The Holy Family of Jesus Sunday, Year C** 26th & 27th December 2015

**PARISH NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS THANKS & NEW YEAR BLESSINGS**

Thank you very much for your many Christmas cards, kind wishes and gifts given to myself and Father Tom Cunningham. It is humbling to receive such generosity and words of appreciation.

On behalf of Father Cunningham and myself I wish you, your families, friends and all who are dear to you a blessed New Year. Mgr Andrew

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH**

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

**PARISH WALKING GROUP**

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.

**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.

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC)**

White Flower collection to be taken after Mass on Sunday 10th January 2016 at all churches.

**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.

**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 Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust 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.

**JUSTICE & PEACE**

If you can help we need men's shoes from sizes 9 –11 and these can be left in the Narthex in St Edward's near the Justice and Peace cupboard. These will be put to good use by The Drop-In Centre, The Apostleship of the Sea and Night Stop. Thank you to all those parishioners who gave anonymous donations to members of the Justice and Peace Group to be gifted to the destitute.

**RED MISSION BOXES**

Thank you to all who have donated. At Our Lady and St Edmund we have raised a total of £1,412.29 during 2015. If anyone would like to get a Red Box please see Judy Hunter at church or contact her on 0191 2512992.



## **DEATH**

We are sad to announce that a former parishioner, Jennifer Nicholson, passed away on 17th December at the age of 79 years. Jennifer lived most of her life in Whitley Bay and was an active member of St Edward's parish. She left several years ago to live with her youngest son and his family in Yorkshire. Her Requiem Mass will take place in Mytholmroyd on 7th January 2016. In case anyone wants to contact the family, Jennifer's son Mark can be contacted on 01872 540266.

## **TEA AND COFFEE ROTA**

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

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION, 2016**

These sessions take place at St Edward's Church, and they will be meeting again on the following Saturdays over the next months: 16th January, 6th February, 12th March, 16th April and 11th June. There will be no morning Mass or Confessions on these dates. The children will celebrate First Holy Communion on the weekend of 7th and 8th May 2016. Please continue to keep the children, their parents and families, and our catechists in your prayers.

## **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.

### **BISHOP SEAMUS'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2015**

Frank O'Connor, a famous Irish writer tells us that one Christmas when he was a little boy, Santa brought him a toy engine. On Christmas Day his mother brought him to the convent where he saw the baby Jesus in the crib. He was very upset when he saw Him because, little as he had himself, the baby Jesus had nothing at all; He had no toys. Frank felt that Santa had really let the baby Jesus down; Santa was incompetent. Then he said to one of the nuns, "Does the baby Jesus not like toys?" and the nun said, "Oh, he does - but his mother is too poor to buy them". "Well," said O'Connor "that settled it". I climbed into the crib and I put the toy engine into the baby Jesus' outstretched arms. I probably showed Him how to wind it too because a little baby like that wouldn't know how. I remember the feeling of "reckless generosity" I had when I left Him there in the darkness of the Chapel clutching the toy engine to His chest. O'Connor had given Him all and he was happy.

We can learn an important lesson from this. Frank O'Connor thought he was giving a gift to the baby Jesus and so he was. What he didn't fully realise was that the baby Jesus was God's gift to him and to each one of us. He was being gifted himself without fully realising it. Christmas is about the love of God made visible in the body of a little child. "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life." (John 3:16) Christmas speaks to us of God's reckless generosity. "For there is a child born to us, a Son given to us". (Isaiah 9:5-6). That is what we are celebrating at Christmas and no amount of commercialism can take that from us. Karl Rahner, a great German theologian, put it very well when he said, "When we say it's Christmas we mean that God has spoken into the world His last, His deepest, His most beautiful word; and this word means, I love you, I love you The world and people." It is the most wonderful thing in the world to know that we are loved. We come to life when we realise that we are loved by another. Just to know that a person is there for us, really brings us to life.

Christmas tells us that not only is God there for us, but he is there for us all the time; He is never away, never too busy. He is constantly gazing at us lovingly and humbly. We are never out of His mind not even for an instant – He really loves us and cares for us. This unwavering love of God for us is the best Christmas present we could ever be given. It is because he is constantly saying to us "I have loved you with an everlasting love and I am constant in my affection for you". We have so much to celebrate at this time of year. Christmas tells us that as we journey through life we are never alone. He is with us every step of the way – wherever we go, God goes with us and is constantly pouring out His love in abundance on us. Happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>ST EDWARD'S</b>	<b>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY</b>	<b>OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S</b>
Saturday 26th December <b>ST STEPHEN</b>	NO SERVICE	6.00pm People of the Parish (especially the isolated and rejected) (PCT)	NO SERVICE
Sunday 27th December <b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS</b>	11.00am Joseph Scanlan (GR)	5.00pm Jane Nixey (Last 5.00pm Mass)	9.30am Josie & Moira Lombardi
Monday 28th December <b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	9.30am Pat O'Shea (BO'S)	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE
Tuesday 29th December <b>ST THOMAS BECKET</b>	7.00pm David Martin (AC)	10.00am Thanksgiving (PH)	NO SERVICE
Wednesday 30th December	9.30am Word & Communion	10.00am Len Eaton (JE)	9.30am Private Intention (AW)
Thursday 31st December	9.30am Katie Mooney (PS)	10.00am Maura Hendriks	NO SERVICE
Friday 1st January 2016 <b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>	10.00am People of the Parish	10.00am Thanksgiving Our Lady, Sacred Heart & St Anthony	NO SERVICE
Saturday 2nd January <b>SS BASIL THE GREAT &amp; GREGORY NAZIANZEN</b>	9.30am Fr David Russell (MN)	6.00pm Kathleen Keane	NO SERVICE
Sunday 3rd January <b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	11.00am Private Intention (MC)	NO SERVICE	9.30am People of the Parish

**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, Father Michael Corbett and Jennifer Nicholson.

**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](http://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](mailto:parishofficeolss@btconnect.com)**

**Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 12 noon on Thursdays.**

**READINGS AT MASS**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS , 27TH DECEMBER 2015**

**First reading**

**Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7,14-17**

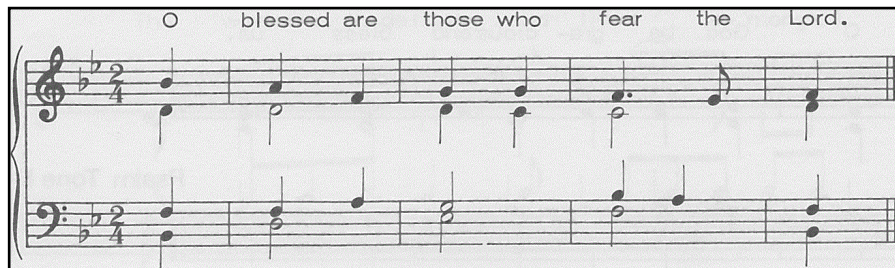
The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

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

**Psalm**

**Psalm 127:1-5**

*Response:*



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord<br/>and walk in his ways!<br/>By the labour of your hands you shall eat.<br/>You will be happy and prosper.</p> <p>2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine<br/>in the heart of your house;<br/>your children like shoots of the olive,<br/>around your table.</p> | <p>3. Indeed thus shall be blessed<br/>the man who fears the Lord.<br/>May the Lord bless you from Zion<br/>all the days of your life!</p> |
|---|--|

**Second reading**

**Colossians 3:12-21**

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**cf.Ac16:14**

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 2:41-52**

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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.