

FIRST READING

The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's Kingdom

Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem." He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (to be read by the whole congregation together)

Psalms 121

Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray
"Peace be to your homes!"
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!"

4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: "Peace upon you!"
For love the of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

SECOND READING

Our salvation is near.

Romans 13:11-14

You know "the time" has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation


Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields		
Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church <i>Albion Road West North Shields</i>		Saint Joseph Catholic Church <i>Wallsend Road North Shields</i>
Father Christopher Hughes, St Joseph's Church, Wallsend Road, Chirton, North Shields, NE29 7AA ☎ (Tel) 0191 257 5801 / ☎ (Fax) 0191 259 2589 ✉ (Email) northshields.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk / northshields.stcuthbert@rcdhn.org.uk		
Cluster Telephone Numbers Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021 Father Martin Stempczyk ☎ 0191 251 3770 St Cuthbert's Church ☎ 0191 257 3408		Other Deanery Numbers Father Anthony Donaghue ☎ 0191 262 3882 Father John McElhone ☎ 0191 2623820 Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr Stephen Watson ☎ 07768 3873931

Sunday, 27 th November 2016 – 1 st Sunday of Advent – Year A		
	Masses, Devotions and Services	
	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
Saturday 26 th November	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Repose of the soul of Anneliese Daniell	
Sunday 27 th November 1 st Sunday of Advent	11:00am Mass: Frank Lewis	9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Ada & Harry Snowdon
Monday 28 th November	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 29 th November		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion
Wednesday 30 th November St Andrew patron of Scotland	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion	
Thursday 1 st December		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion
Friday 2 nd December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass:	
Saturday 3 rd December St Francis Xavier Priest	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Bernard & Anna Teresa Hearn	9:30am Mass:
Sunday 4 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	11:00am Mass: People of the Parish	9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Gloria Gascon

Forward Together In Hope

Glory be to the Father – in whom we live and move and have our being.
Glory be to the Son – whose name we bear and who calls each of us to be his disciples; to build his Kingdom and to go out into the world and bear its fruit.
Glory be to the Holy Spirit – pouring out grace and guidance, forming us and renewing us. Inspire us all in the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle to live the Gospel, to be open to change and to move forward together in hope.

Parish Mission Statement

"You send forth your spirit they are created, and you renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 104)
We are a community who meet Jesus in His words and in His Sacraments.
Filled then, with the Holy Spirit, we seek to build a community of faith, hope, love and hospitality.
As the Gospel is proclaimed, celebrated and lived out in our daily lives, we are sent out to renew the face of the earth."

Please pray for ... A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews: Those who Suffer Persecution; Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe, Human Life and Seafarers. Those who are sick: please pray for all who are sick, for all who are in hospital, hospice or nursing homes, including Jackie Kelly, Joseph Ackerley, Patricia Conlon, Betty Hill, Vonne and Mel Mitchell, Audrey Lewis, Father Michael Marr, Father Bill Bellamy, Father Leo Coughlin, Ros McGann, Father Richard Harriott, Gary James, Catherine West, Dorothy Rutherford, Nancy Healy, Gerry Thirsk, Tom Wright, Florence Redpath, Mary Wood, Patricia Taws, Shane Aberintos, Stephen Hyde, Evelyn Oshegbu, Pauline Chandra, Debbie Megan and Kay Butler. We pray for all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Baptism

This weekend on Sunday 27th November we have the baptism of Jakob Estrada at St Cuthbert's at 12.30pm. We pray for Jakob and his parents as he is welcomed into our family and united in Christ in this sacrament.

Advent: A New Liturgical Year

This Sunday marks the First Sunday of Advent, new liturgical year. Advent is a time to reflect on God approaching us, in the future, in the past and now in the present. It is a time of reflection to be open to God approaching us. In reality our lives may seem very different, in the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas, but may we all have time and space to acknowledge a God moving towards us.

Advent Deanery Penitential Service

The Deanery Penitential Service will be at St Cuthbert's on Tuesday, December 20th at 7.00pm.

Youth Sunday

On behalf of the parish Fr Chris would like to thank all our young people who contributed in such a powerful and moving way for Youth Sunday. It was a great and inspiring witness to our parish. Sincere thanks to those who helped in any way to Youth Sunday. Special thanks to the Mini Vinnies from St Cuthbert's and St Joseph's for their presence and witness at our Masses.

Advent Reflections

This an opportunity in the hustle and bustle of Christmas to have some peace and quiet while reflecting on key themes and readings on Advent:

- Sunday 27th November at 4.00pm St. Cuthbert's - Scripture Reflections with Lectio Divina led by Barbara Davies
- Sunday 4th December at 4.00pm St Joseph's – Taize refelctions lead by St Joseph's music group.
- Sunday 11th December at 4.00pm at St Cuthbert's - Using our imaginations with Advent reading lead by Fr Chris.
- Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm at St Joseph's - Christmas Carol Service.

Fishermen's Mission-Carol Singing

With the Salvation Army band in The Gut, North Shields Fish Quay today Sunday 27th November at 2.30pm. Followed by short service inside the mission at 3.00pm and mulled wine & mince pies, tea & coffee in the old low light. All Welcome!

First Holy Communion Liturgy

This week we have the second of First Holy Communion Liturgies. This week our children will be reminded of their baptism and renew their commitment to follow Jesus which was made on their behalf when they were baptised. The formation session will be at 6.00pm, Wednesday 30th November at St Cuthbert's and on Sunday 4th December after the 9.30 Mass at St Joseph's. We continue to pray for our children as they prepare for this sacrament.

Parish Administration

Parishioners take on a number of roles to ensure that the parish is able to function as well as possible. For the past fifteen years the parish has been fortunate that Sheila works voluntarily in the office for up to 20 hours a week. Sheila has informed Fr Chris that she will be not be able to sustain this level of commitment due to other important responsibilities. The finance committee in conjunction with the diocese have started to explore the possibility of whether a paid employee could take over the duties that were carried out by Sheila. At a meeting with the parish council last week, the council could see the value of having employed administrator. Since some of the parishes in the cluster have volunteers who take up this role, Fr Chris is interested to know whether there are two to three people who could share the roles that are outlined below. Sheila is very happy to help train and advice people on the role. If you think you may be able to help please see Fr Chris or Sheila. A job description would outline the following roles:

- Production of documents and reports and the maintenance of the filing and record system;
- Record, respond to and take enquiries by telephone, e-mail or written correspondence;
- Deal with callers to the parish office;*
- Diary management;
- Deal with general administration and preparation of Mass intentions and schedule;
- Take and record details pertaining to baptisms, marriages and funerals and maintain parish registers;
- Maintain a list of key holders and distribute keys as necessary;
- Liaise with Diocesan departments and outside bodies as necessary;
- Support the Parish Priest and Finance Committee to maintain effective financial systems:
 - Pay invoices and other expenditure and file all related documents.
 - Monitor financial transactions against the bank statements.
 - Maintain Cash Book if necessary.
 - Assist with completing the Diocesan Financial Return.
 - Maintain accurate and up to date accounts.
 - Negotiate maintenance and utility contracts and provide meter readings as required.
 - Regularly prepare reports for Parish Committee meetings.
- Co-ordinate the hire and use of Parish facilities by parish groups, parishioners and external users;
- Support the Parish Welfare Officer by maintaining a schedule of Health and Safety inspections;
- Order and distribute resources as requested.

CAFOD & Christmas

Leaflets are available at the back of church informing you of CAFOD's World Gifts offers which will give you ideas if you want to express your love to a loved one by giving a present that will be truly useful for a family in need.

A note of thanks and goodbye from Jean Fléron

"Dear Friends, As I am preparing to leave England shortly before Christmas, I gladly join you all one last time for Mass and I am writing to you to express my heartfelt gratitude for our awesome journey together, which started in July 2010. I fondly remember the last 6 years or so since my return to the Church (St Cuthbert's church was my first home parish after many years away!) and I pray that God will bless, guide and protect you and yours abundantly. Please keep in your prayers my daughter Olivia, who thankfully was baptised by Fr Jude at St Joseph's (Gateshead) on the 24th June 2012 (St John the Baptist), as well as her Godfather Austin and his family. Kind Regards, Jean (John) Fléron".

New Times for Confessions

Please note that from next week-end confessions at St Cuthbert's will be on a Saturday from 4.45pm to 5.15pm, so if Mass starts late then it is only Fr Chris' fault!

Crib Festival

Please note the Crib festival will this year will take place at St Joseph's from Friday 16th December till after the Carol Service at St Joseph's on December 18th. Would you like to create a crib? Donations of money, toiletries and canned food will be kindly accepted on behalf of the local YMCA. The organisers of the Crib festival would appreciate all cribs for the festival by Friday December 9th. Please let others know about the festival

Preparing for Christmas

Volunteers are kindly requested to help decorate the Church and put up the Christmas tree at St Joseph's in readiness for Christmas and the Crib Festival. This will take place on Saturday 10th December at 11.00am. Coffee and mince pies will be available to refresh the workers

Finance Committee

At their last meeting, David Leane was elected as Chair of the Finance Committee. David is the financial Director of the Carmel Multi Academy Trust in Darlington, so he has much experience in overviewing finances and making important decisions in how resources should be used. On behalf of the parish Fr Chris would like to offer his thanks to David in being willing to take on this important role in the life of the parish.

St Thomas More's Academy's Community Party

This event at St Thomas More's on Monday December 12 from 2-4pm pm is for all senior members of our community. If you would like to take part please sign list in the porch

Parish Carol Service

This year the Parish Carol Service will be on Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm at St Joseph's. The St Joseph's music group are enquiring to see if our Schools can contribute to the service. Conscious that not all our young people go to our local Catholic schools, if any of these people would like to take part in the Carol Service please let Fr Chris know.

Advent Events at the Cathedral

Advent Retreat Day - Thursday 8 December 2016

- 10.45 am Talk by Fr Paul Jenkins O Carm
- 11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 12.05 pm Solemn Sung Mass for the Immaculate Conception
- 1.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions from 1.00 – 2.00pm)

Reconciliation Day - Saturday 17 December 2016

- 12 noon Service of Reconciliation with Bishop Séamus
- 12.30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (With individual confession until 4.00pm)
- 4.00 pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Tyneside Circle Newman Association

Next talk: The Challenges for Catholic Education Today in The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle by Mr Joe Hughes, Diocesan Director for Education, at St Mary's RC Church Hall, Farrington Road, Cullercoats NE30 3EY at 7.30 on Wednesday 30th November.

Parish Christmas Parcel Appeal

Once again we will be providing hampers to some of those in need in our Parish. As usual we ask for cash donations not food. There will be a box for donations after masses over the last 3 weekends of November or you can make a donation to Fr.Chris or any SVP member.

If you are aware of anyone (family or single) you believe is in need please advise Father Chris or an SVP member. Thanks again for your generosity at this expensive time of year.

Torchlight Procession

St. Mary's Hexham are hosting a Torchlight Procession to mark the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and in Thanksgiving for the Year of Mercy, on Friday 9th December at 7:00pm, led by Bishop Seamus Cunningham. All welcome ... meet at the bandstand in the park adjacent to Hexham Abbey which will be decorated with festive lights to pray the Rosary and sing hymns in honour of Our Lady, then process to St. Mary's for a homily and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A Collection will be taken in aid of the Diocesan Hospitalité Lady of Lourdes.

A Request for Rosaries and Prayer Books

The Apostleship of the Sea ministers on behalf of the Church at ports and docksides across the Country, they offer pastoral care and support to men and women from across the world working on transporter and cruise ships. They often have requests for rosary beads and prayer books. If you have any these items spare please leave them with the 'welcomers' as you come into church.

Mercy Associates

Christmas Parcels – The Mercy Associates would be grateful for any items. These can be left at the back of St. Joseph's Church. **Christmas Coffee Morning** - The Mercy Associates Christmas Coffee Morning will be held at St Joseph's Church on Tuesday, 6th December at 10:15am. Prize Bingo, Mince Pies, Raffle, Lucky Dip. Tickets: £1.00.

Pantomime – Dick Wittington & Cat

On 7th January at 1:00pm, tickets £6.00. Please sign list at the back of church with how many tickets you would like.

Bonus Ball

Please note that the Bonus Ball due to be paid of the 4th December will now be taken on the 11th December.