

FIRST READING*He judges the wretched with integrity.***Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm (to be read by the whole congregation together)**Psalm 71****Response: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

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| 1. O God, give you judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. | 2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. |
| 3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. | 4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. |

SECOND READING*Christ is the saviour of all men.***Romans 15:4-9**

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all men shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.***Matthew 3:1-12**

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church
Albion Road West
North Shields



Saint Joseph Catholic Church
Wallsend Road
North Shields

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Father Anthony Donaghue ☎ 0191 262 3882
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Sunday, 4th December 2016 – 2nd Sunday of Advent – Year A

Masses, Devotions and Services		
	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
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
Monday 5 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 6 th December St Nicholas Bishop		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Raj Johnpulle
Wednesday 7 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: No intention	
Thursday 8 th December Immaculate Conception		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Maurice Black
Friday 9 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion	
Saturday 10 th December	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5:30pm Mass: Goodwin Family	9:30am Mass:
Sunday 11 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	11:00am Mass: Thanksgiving for Jakob's Christening	9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Joan (Redpath) Taylor

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.

Christmas Mass Times		
Saturday, 24th December:	7:30pm	Carols
St Cuthbert's	8:00pm	1st Mass of Christmas
Sunday, 25th December		
St Joseph's:	9:30 am	Mass
St Cuthbert's:	11:00am	Mass

Collections

27th November - £764.92
Christmas Hampers - £284.41

Second Sunday of Advent

For the second and third Sunday of Advent, the focus of attention is given to St John the Baptist. With John the Baptist, we do not simply look past but as we look forward to Christ approaching us, John's major sound bite 'Prepare the way for the Lord', invites us how we are preparing to welcome Christ into our lives, through contemplation and action

First Holy Communion Programme

There will be a First Holy Communion preparation session 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.

Young People

Have you checked out Flame 2017 yet? Booked your place? Check the following: <http://cymfed.org.uk/flame2017/>
<http://www.ymt.org/the-source.html>

Tyne and Wear Citizens

Tyne and Wear Citizens will be having its first annual meeting at St John's Church Grainger Street, Newcastle on Wednesday December 7th from 6.30pm -8.30pm. If anyone would like to take part please let Fr Chris know. During the evening, the Diocese is going to receive an award for being the first Faith based organisation in the North East to be accredited as a Living Wage Employer and the only Founding Partner of Tyne and Wear Citizens at present to be accredited. I have asked the Bishop to send a representative from the Diocese to receive the award that evening. There will be a video presentation featuring the children of St Cuthbert's Primary, North Shields, with the head teacher, Mr Shaun Dillon giving a few words as to why his school has become a member of Tyne and Wear Citizens.

Christmas Coffee Morning

At the time of writing over £1,700 has been raised with more money to be counted. As well as the funds raised there was a great community spirit in the hall which was great to see. Well done and a big thank-you to all who contributed and helped in any way.

Advent Deanery Penitential Service

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

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.

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 4th December at 4.00pm St Joseph's – Taize reflections 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.

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".

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

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

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.

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 the list at the back of church with how many tickets you would like or contact Nora Pearson on 0191 2585726.

Christmas Coffee Morning Raffle Prizes

There is a list at the back of church of unclaimed prizes. Please check to see if you are a lucky winner.

Bonus Ball

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