

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY (YEAR A)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

God himself is coming to save you.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: *Come, Lord, and save us.*

Psalm 145

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God from age to age.

SECOND READING

Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (to be read by the whole congregation together)

**Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. 'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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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Other Deanery Numbers

Father Anthony Donaghue ☎ 0191 262 3882
Father John McElhone ☎ 0191 2623820
Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr Stephen Watson ☎ 07768 3873931

Sunday, 11th December 2016 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Year A

Masses, Devotions and Services		
	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
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
Monday 12 th December Our Lady of Guadalupe	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 13 th December St Lucy Virgin & Martyr		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Deceased members of the Breen Family
Wednesday 14 th December St John of the Cross	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Norah Ord Requiem	
Thursday 15 th December		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Audrey Hall
Friday 16 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: St Cuthbert's School Mass	
Saturday 17 th December	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Bill & Neil Henderson	9:30am Mass:
Sunday 18 th December 4 th Sunday of Advent	11:00am Mass: Frank Houghton	9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: George Storey

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, 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 Vonne Mitchell and Norah Ord 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

4th December - £868.17
Advent Alms - £136.40

Third Sunday of Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete' - Rejoice Sunday. It is a reminder that Advent is a time of Joyful Hope, hence the solemn purple is not the colour of this week-end's candle but it is the pink candle we light this week-end. John the Baptist is very much in the vintage of the Old Testament prophets but also as one who announces that to prepare for Christ's coming. Christ calls John disciples to look for the Signs of God's presence. What signs of God's Kingdom do we see in our communities at this present time?

Crib Festival

Please note the Crib festival will take place at St Joseph's next weekend. It will begin on Friday 16th December at 2:00pm with a Service of readings until after the Carol Service at St Joseph's on December 18th. Donations of money, toiletries and canned food will be gratefully received on behalf of the local YMCA. If you wish to offer a crib for the festival please bring them to St Joseph's as soon as possible.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service will be next Sunday, December 18th at St Joseph's at 6.00pm. Thanks to all who are preparing for this celebration.

St Cuthbert's Primary School Carol Service

The School's Carol Service will begin at the school on Thursday 15th December at 6.00pm processing to the Church. All are welcome.

Young people

Have you checked out the FLAME video? CYMFed Flame 2017 Have you booked your place? March 2017 10,000 Reasons. Poster at the back of Church Pass your name to Fr Chris, Kath (St. Cuthbert's) or Ruth (St. Joseph's) £10 deposit, nothing else to pay for return trip to London and entry into the event. Be one of the 1000 young people from the diocese.

Message for Red Mission Boxholders

Calendars are available for collection at the back of church (St. Cuthbert's). If you are a boxholder and there is no calendar for you please telephone Pauline on 2581456 or Kath on 2577041. Many thanks.

Amoris Laetitia

Exploring and Engaging with Pope Francis' Exhortation on Marriage and Family Life with Rev Sean Hall. Wednesday 14 December 2016 at St. Charles' Parish, Gosforth between 7.00 - 8.30pm. To book please contact the Diocesan Department for Adult Formation and Evangelisation by email or tel: 0191 243 3313.

Ushaw Lecture and Carol Service:

'O Come All Ye Faithful: A Musical Mystery Tour'. Tuesday 13 December: 5.15pm drinks reception. A lecture given by Prof. Bennett Zon in the Exhibition Hall, Ushaw College commencing at 5.45pm. The Carol Service follows at 7.30pm in St Cuthbert's Chapel, featuring The Crook and Weardale Singers. To attend the drinks reception, lecture or carol service, please email: ccs.admin@durham.ac.uk or tel: 0191 334 1656. To attend an optional Christmas buffet preceding the lecture at 4.45pm, refer to the poster for full instructions on how to book.

Department of Spirituality

Saturday 17 December at St. Andrew's Church, Worswick Street, Newcastle there will be two opportunities to take a short time out from your shopping, to rest, relax, and reflect with the One whose birth we celebrate. 10.00am - 12.30pm and then again from 1.30pm - 3.30pm.

Advent Deanery Penitential Service

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

Northern Catholic Calendar

The 2017 edition of the Northern Catholic Calendar is now available at the back of Church. Ring copies are £3.00 and Flat copies are £2.50

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.

Bonus Ball

Please note that the Bonus Ball due to be paid today, 11th December.

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.

Choir of the Year BBC 4 Sunday 11 December at 8.00pm

If you see this on Sunday evening you may recognise one of our parishioners, Sue Davies, who sings with the St Cuthbert's group on a Sunday morning. Sue is a member of 'Voices of Hope' who were one of the teams in the year's finals. Please look to see how her choir fared in the competition. Worth watching!

Vonne Mitchell RIP

The body of Veronica (Vonne) Mitchell will be received into St Cuthbert's Church on Monday 19 December at 5.00pm. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 20th December at 11.00am.

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 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.

Advent Events at the Cathedral

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

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 as soon as possible.

Christmas Coffee Morning

At this time of writing over £2,000 has been raised with more money to be counted. Well done to all who contributed in any way.

Please Note: There are 8 unclaimed raffle prizes, see list at the back of church, contact Nora Pearson if you are a winner.