

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

FIRST READING

The maiden is with child.

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

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

Psalm 23

Response: *Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.*

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| <p>1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.</p> | <p>2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.</p> |
| <p>3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.</p> | |

SECOND READING

Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

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Father Anthony Donaghue ☎ 0191 262 3882
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Sunday, 18th December 2016 – 4th Sunday of Advent – Year A

Masses, Devotions and Services		
	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
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
Monday 19 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 20 th December		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Private Intention (JA)
Wednesday 21 st December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Kerry O'Neill	
Thursday 22 nd December		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass:
Friday 23 rd December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Paul Hull	
Saturday 24 th December	7:30pm: Carols 8:00pm Mass: Bernard & Anna Teresa Hearn	9:30am Mass: Theresa Hoban
Sunday 25 th December The Nativity of the Lord	11:00am Mass: Audrey Hall	9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Edith & Vivian O'Kane

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.

Mass Times for Next Weekend		
Saturday, 24th December:		
St Cuthbert's	7:30pm	Carols
	8:00pm	1st Mass of Christmas
Sunday, 25th December		
St Joseph's:	9:30am	Mass
St Cuthbert's:	11:00am	Mass
<u>There will be no Confessions at 4.45pm or the usual Saturday 5.30 Vigil Mass next Saturday</u>		

Collections

11th December - £951.33
Advent Alms - £85.39

Fourth Sunday of Advent

From the 17th December the focus and shift of gear of Advent dramatically changes. No longer are we looking forward to Christ coming again but now we begin to retell of those events that took place before the first coming of Christ. This Sunday we look at those events through the eyes of St Joseph. The readings are clear about the significance of the first coming of Christ- Emmanuel, God-with-us. May this message of Emmanuel give us hope and may be open to those signs of 'God-with-us' in our lives and in our world.

Crib Festival

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Crib festival. The festival will come to an end with the Carol service this evening at 6.00pm. Special thanks to all who have prepared the Church to look as beautiful as it does.

Christmas Carol Service

This will be this Sunday evening at St Joseph's at 6.00pm. Many thanks to those who have helped to prepare for this service. It is lovely that schools have been part of this service. Refreshments will be served after the Carol Service

Congratulations

If you saw the Choir of the Year on BBC 4 you would have seen that the winners were 'Voices of Hope,' who are from the North East. One of the choir's members are the parish's 'very own' Sue Davies who is a member of the music group at St Cuthbert's. On behalf of the parish Fr Chris would like to pass on his warm and joyful congratulations to Sue and all the members of 'Voices of Hope'. It was a great performance Fr Chris loved the variety and the beauty of each of the three pieces they sang and it was good to hear words of 'local lad' St Bede. Well done Sue!

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.

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.

Mercy Associates

The Mercy Associates wish to thank everyone who attended their Christmas Coffee Morning which raised £278.90.

They also wish to express their gratitude to everyone who gave so generously to the appeal for items for the Christmas Parcels.

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:

- Today 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.

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.

Betty Hill

Congratulations to Betty Hill who celebrates her 99th Birthday on Wednesday, 21st December.