

25TH DECEMBER 2016 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

FIRST READING

A Son is given to us.

Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the barb across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95

Response: *Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.*

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| <p>1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.</p> <p>3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.</p> | <p>2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.</p> <p>4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.</p> |
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SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

Today a saviour has been born to you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

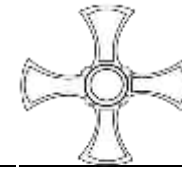
THANK YOU

This is the last bulletin of the year so in his first full year in the parish, Fr Chris would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your contribution to the life of the parish. People's generosity and commitment to the parish is much appreciated. As stated before, Fr Chris has been particularly touched in how newcomers to the parish are made to feel very welcome and supported by the parish. It is great that newcomers perceive a strong sense of community in our parish, it is a great witness that the parish gives.

2017 will see the establishment of a partnership, which will be new ground for the whole diocese, but as long as we see this as an opportunity to deepen and strengthen our union and discipleship with Christ, then we can with confidence know that 'God is with us'.

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

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Newsletter for 2 weeks – from 24th December 2016 to 8th January 2017

| Masses, Devotions and Services | | |
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| | St Cuthbert's Church | St Joseph's Church |
| Saturday 24th December | 7:30pm: Carols 8:00pm Mass: Bernard & Anna Teresa Hearn | 9:30am Mass: Theresa Hoban |
| Sunday 25th December The Nativity of the Lord | 11:00am Mass: Audrey Hall | 9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Edith & Vivian O'Kane |
| Monday 26 th December St. Stephen First Martyr | 9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 11:00am Mass: | |
| Tuesday 27 th December St. John Apostle | | 9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Mary Gnoake |
| Wednesday 28 th December | 9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Soul of Florencio and Rommel | |
| Thursday 29 th December St. Thomas Becket | | 9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Michael & Mary O'Grady |
| Friday 30 th December Holy Family | 9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Veronica Hanlon | |
| Saturday 31st December | 4:45pm-5:25pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass: Fatkin & Costello Families | 9:30am Mass: |
| Sunday 1st January Mary Mother of God | 11:00am Mass: Peter Smith | 9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: Gloria Gascon |
| Monday 2 nd January | 9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 11:00am Mass James Hughes (RIP) | |
| Tuesday 3 rd January | | 9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: |
| Wednesday 4 th January | 9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion | |
| Thursday 5 th January | | 9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: |
| Friday 6 th January | 9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: | |
| Saturday 7 th January | 4:45pm-5:25pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass: | 9:30am Mass: |
| Sunday 8 th January The Epiphany of the Lord | 11:00am Mass: | 9:25am The Angelus 9:30am Mass: |

1ST JANUARY 2017

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

FIRST READING

They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace." This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.' The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: O God, be gracious and bless us.

Psalm 66

1. God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. R/

SECOND READING

God sent his Son, born of a woman.

Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

They found Mary and Joseph and the baby. When the eighth days came, they have him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

| Christmas 2016 | Funerals |
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| <p>'A Saviour has been for you. He is Christ the Lord'. Luke 2: 11 'The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us' John 1: 14. These two single lines from Scripture are that the heart of the Christmas Celebration. As the theologians stated during the early life of the Church 'God has become human so that we can humans can become like God'. The transformation offered to us is in sharing in the very life of God! Fr Chris hope that this profound sense of transformation that offers hope, peace, hope and love is shared by you, our communities and our world. 2016 has been politically turbulent year with a lot of uncertainty regarding the future, with plenty reminders of the fallibility of the human condition. At Christmas we remember that the source of life, our eternal God, is also the source of our restoration and salvation. Our God in Christ is 'shoulder to shoulder' with us. May his presence give us encouragement and strength to face the future knowing as Gabriel said to Our Lady 'Nothing is impossible to God'</p> <p>Fr Chris would like to take this opportunity to wish you and those you love a blessed Christmas. He would also like to thanks parishioners for the generosity and kindness with cards and gifts, it is much appreciated.</p> | <p>Jane Walsh (daughter of Ann Walsh who has been staying at St Cuthbert's Presbytery) at St Clare's, Blackley, Manchester on Friday 6th January at 1pm.</p> <p>Mary McBride Funeral Service at St Joseph's 29th December at 12.15 pm</p> <p>Margaret Grant Requiem Mass at St Cuthbert's 10th January at 12.00 noon May they rest in peace.</p> |

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 Jane Walsh, Margaret Grant and Mary McBride who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

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.

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.

The Christmas Liturgical Celebrations and Crib Service

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the Carol service and to preparing for the Crib Festival. Both events were wonderful ways to help the parish to prepare for Christmas. It was wonderful to see the church so full. It was also lovely to see representatives from St Thomas More's, St Cuthbert's and St Joseph's schools. The singing of St Joseph's pupils was particularly moving. Congratulations and respect to all who contributed in any way.

Celebration of Baptism

On the feast of the Feast of the Epiphany, the day before the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we will have a baptism at the 11.00am Mass at St Cuthbert's. At 3pm on the same day at St Joseph's there will be a celebration to remember all those baptised in the last 12 months. All parents of children baptised in our parish in 2016 have been invited to take part in a simple ceremony to mark their child's blessing and to pray for their commitment to the Christ. The entire parish are very welcome to this event

Our School's Celebration of Christmas

Fr Chris would like to acknowledge on behalf of the entire parish the inspiring and moving contribution all the three Catholic schools have made to our parish. Many of our parishioners went to the Community party at St Thomas More and were very moved by the warm welcome, good manners and respect shown by the pupils of the school. Those present very much enjoyed themselves. The nativity play and Advent Mass lead by St Cuthbert's Primary school were moving and inspiring liturgies that were a credit to the school. St Joseph's Primary school gave a wonderful start off to crib festival, with the wonderful singing and enthusiastic telling of the Christmas story The children singing at the Carol Service was very moving. The end of term Mass was uplifting and joyous.

Youth Party

On January 8th from 6-8pm there is a party for the young people in the parish at St Cuthbert's Church hall. All our young people are welcome to this

Elections to Parish Council

Elections to the parish council will take place in January. There are at least five vacancies on the council. Please consider if you would like to be on the council. Fr Chris would like to see the parish very much reflecting the very rich diversity of the parish. As we enter into a partnership, it is very important that the parish is focussed on its mission and covering all areas of Christian life. The parish council can enable this to happen. Nominations to be given to Ian Pearson, the Chair of the parish council by 15th of January.

Children's Liturgy St Joseph's

The Children Liturgy needs more people to help with this. Even if you are DBS covered, just being present in the chapel would be helpful. Please see either Fr Chris or Sheila Hall, Joanna Waggot or Maria Robson.

Blessing of Animals

This was a very successful event last year and it has been decided to be repeated but this time outside on the grass near the car-park. It will take place on Saturday 21 January at 12 noon

'Silence' directed by Martin Scorsese

This film may be of interest. It is released on January 1st. It is about the European Jesuit Missionaries who attempted to spread the Gospel in 17th century Japan. The film is based on the novel of the same name by the late Japanese Catholic author, Shusako Endo. Both Endo and Scorsese are interested in the relationship of culture and faith. Scorsese premiered the film to 3,000 Jesuits at their HQ in Rome last week. Some of the leading actors were taken through the Spiritual exercises of St Ignatius and for some this was done at the Jesuit Centre for Spirituality, St Bueno's, in North Wales. Fr Chris has been there a number of times but is not aware of meeting any Hollywood film stars, but may be next time!?

All day event for Aleppo

This will be Saturday 7th January raising funds to help the people of Aleppo at The Exchange in Howard Street. There will be crafts and family activities through to early afternoon, acoustic live music from about 2-8, then four bands in the evening. All are welcome. Please support this funder raiser event to alleviate the terrible suffering in Aleppo.

CAFOD Emergency Appeal for Crisis in Yemen

Advent is a time of prayer and reflection as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. CAFOD especially asks over the coming weeks for us to remember the people of Yemen. CAFOD's partner in Yemen is providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, medical care and shelter. You can find updates on the situation and how we are responding to this crisis: <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Yemen-Crisis-Explained> You can download prayers to use: http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/609/5794/version/6/file/Prayer_conflict_may-your-kingdom-come_prayer.pdf

Should your parish or anyone like to support this appeal, they can donate online at: <http://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/yemen-crisis-appeal> or give donations in an envelope marked 'Yemen Emergency appeal'

The White Flower Appeal

This will be on January 8th to assist the work of the Society of the Unborn Child (SPUCK) in protecting the sanctity of all human life. There will be a retiring collection at all Masses that week-end