

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year B, 16th & 17th December 2017

SUNDAY READINGS REFLECTION

There is a theme running through the book of Isaiah, which promises that God will send his spirit upon his chosen one. This was fulfilled at Jesus' baptism by John. As he came out of the water, the spirit of the Lord descended upon him like a dove and God declared "You are my Son, the beloved, my favour rests on you" John was baptising in the wilderness and all the people made their way to him including the authorities who wanted an answer as to who he was. They were looking for the Christ and when John declares that it is not him they go away wrapped in their own troubles and worries, failing to recognise the one standing among them. We do the same, Jesus can come to us in a way we do not recognise; he may come as suffering, disappointment, bereavement but behind each experience there is a God who loves us. He is standing right by us, showing us the way, although we cannot always see it at the time.

Deacon Terry



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2017

In Advent, Jesus foretells the end of the world and the signs that accompany it. He taught his disciples to stay calm, to hold their heads high and not to be afraid. He also told them to be prepared since no-one knows when all these things will happen. Advent gives us a time to do the same. In Advent, we step back and look calmly at what is happening in the world, knowing that God is in these situations. We also see people already preparing for Christmas, with little awareness that it is a Christian festival beyond the food and presents. It can be hard to stay calm faced with what is in front of us.

In Advent, there are booklets of reflection and prayer prepared by the Diocesan Department for Spirituality available at the back of each church. Please take them and use them each week. Also, please take them for your family and friends, for work colleagues, and for those who are house-bound or in care homes. Have a blessed and joyful Advent! Mgr Andrew.

DATE	CELEBRATION	CHURCH & TIME
Sunday, 17th December	Parish Carol Service	Our Lady & St Edmund, 4.00pm
Tuesday, 19th December	Partnership Advent Penitential Service	St Edward, 7.00pm
Saturday, 23rd December	Exposition & Confessions	St Edward, 10.00 - 11.00am
Sunday, 24th December	Christmas Vigil: Carols & Masses	St Edward, 5.30pm Immaculate Heart of Mary, 7.30pm
Monday, 25th December	Christmas Day Masses	Our Lady & St Edmund, 9.30am St Edward, 11.00am

PARISH MASSES

Until further notice, weekday Mass will be celebrated as follows:

- St Edward's Church - Mass at 7.00pm on Tuesdays, and at 9.30am on Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church - Mass at 10.00am on Wednesdays and Fridays.

There will be Word and Communion only on Mondays at St Edward's and Immaculate Heart of Mary to encourage attendance at Mass on the other days.

SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER 2017 – CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

4.00PM

Please join us for our annual Carols by Candlelight Service and afterwards enjoy mulled wine and mince pies.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Raymond Chrisp, who died on the 7th December. His funeral will be celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Wednesday, 20th December at 10.30am. May he rest in peace. Amen

FR TOM CUNNINGHAM

Father Tom is having treatment for his hip and will be absent from the Parish until 15th January, including his convalescence at St Joseph's Care Home in Newcastle. If you would like to send him a card, the address is: St Joseph's Care Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. We assure Father Tom of our prayers.

PARISH MONDAY CLUB - ST EDWARD'S CHURCH

The Parish Monday Club will not meet on Mondays 18th or 25th December 2017 or the 1st January 2018. We will return on the 8th January. We wish everyone a holy and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH TEAS/COFFEES

There will not be a Mass said in church on Wednesday, 20th December as there is a funeral being held at 10.30am. Please note therefore, that we will not be serving teas/coffees as usual.

OUR LADY AND ST EDMUND CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA

We are holding our Annual Christmas Tombola on Sunday, 24th December after Mass and would be grateful for any donations of suitable prizes or unused gifts that could help our fundraising for The International Refugee Trust.

THANKS

- **Justice & Peace** - Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas coffee morning at St Edward's and to all who donated raffle prizes. We raised £241.00. Any prizes we are unable to deliver will be left on the J&P cupboard in the Narthex for collection.
- **Christmas Bags for Depaul** - Thanks to everybody for their generosity. This year we had extra in most of the contributions so all the bags got an extra item. We put a Card in each bag "from the Churches in Whitley Bay". The bags are distributed to the young people as near Christmas Eve as possible.

OTHER NOTICES

Please consider giving your crib offering to help Christians in Bethlehem. More information is available from Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk Remittance of offerings can be made by cheque made payable to Friends of the Holy Land and posted to their offices at Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth, Warks CV8 2DH.

SWEP - SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

Volunteers are urgently needed to enable this service to run here in Whitley Bay. In brief, for SWEP the council and Police identify those without a bed for the night, when the temperatures are 0 degrees and below. Street Pastor and Church volunteers meet at 9.30pm on the selected nights at Oxford Street Methodist Church in the hall, where we welcome our guests and settle them down on the settees for the night. Likewise, the volunteers bring their duvets and pillows and also settle down. In the morning we wake our guest, prepare their/our breakfasts and we all leave by 8.00am. On the occasions when we don't have any guests we leave at 6-00am. We need more volunteers, especially those who can be here on Friday and Saturday nights. Please get in touch as soon as you can. Ring Deirdre James 0191 2513740 or email deirdrejames40@yahoo.co.uk

MASS INTENTIONS			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S
Sat 16th December ST JOHN DIEGO	9.30am Brenda Curren (SC) 10.00am CONFESSIONS	6.00pm Alan Watson (AW)	
Sun 17th December 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	11.00am Tom Thomson (MS)		9.30am People of the Parish
Mon 18th December	9.30am Word & Communion	10.00am Word & Communion	
Tues 19th December	9.30am Word & Communion 7.00pm Partnership Penitential Service		
Wed 20th December	9.30am Word & Communion 8.00pm Prayer Group	10.30am Funeral Service, Robert Raymond Chrisp	
Thur 21st December ST PETER CANISIUS	9.30am Brenda Curren (St Edward's Prayer Group) 7.00pm Compline		
Fri 22nd December		10.00am Wilfred & Agnes Hall (MJ)	
Sat 23rd December ST JOHN OF KANTY	9.30am Caritas Christi 10.00am CONFESSIONS	6.00pm People of the Parish (The sick, house-bound, poor and homeless)	
Sun 24th December 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	11.00am Marian Blasozak (PB) 5.30pm Carols 6.00pm The Southwell Family (HS)	7.30pm Carols 8.00pm Lino Avantaggiato (MQ)	9.30am Keith Opstad (AO)

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill: John Little, Norma Smith, Tatyana Zynovieva, Norah Blewitt, Maureen Langlands and Judy Ashton. Please also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently especially Rev Andrew France, Margaret Thomson and Robert Raymond Chrisp.

Hospital Chaplaincies

North Tyneside General Hospital, Rake Lane, North Shields & Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, Northumbria Way, Cramlington: Contact Fr Stephen Watson on 07768 3873931.

RVI, Freeman & Walkergate: Please phone Fr Andrew Shaw at St Andrew's, Worswick Street, Newcastle on 0191 2321892.

Newcastle General Hospital: Sister Teresa, 0191 2336161 ext. 28465.

Contact email addresses, numbers and website:

Monsignor Andrew (St. Edward) stedwardsne26@btconnect.com (0191) 2528021
Star of the Sea Primary School starofthesea.primary@northtyneside.gov.uk (0191) 6432080

Cluster Website www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk

Priests' telephone numbers

Monsignor Andrew Faley 0191 2528021, Father Martin Stempczyk 0191 2513770,
Father Chris Hughes 0191 2575801, Fr John McElhone 0191 2632159, Fr David Smith 0191 2623882.
Deacon Terry McGann contact via Parish Office 0191 2527066.

Parish Office opening hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am—12.00noon.

For bulletin entries please contact the Parish Secretary - email parishofficeolss@btconnect.com or telephone 0191 2527066.

Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 12.00 noon on Thursdays.

READINGS AT MASS
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 17TH DECEMBER 2017
The Order of Mass is in the Laudate Hymn book from page 200.

First reading

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has rapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.' The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

Response: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you. Lord Jesus Christ.**

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.