

MASS READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY (YEAR B)
FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

I exult in joy in the Lord.

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 wrapped 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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

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| <p>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.</p> | <p>2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.</p> |
| <p>3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.</p> | |

SECOND READING

Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

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.

Alleluia

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

John 1:6-8. 19-28

There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.

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.

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The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

<p>Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church Albion Road West North Shields</p>	<p>Tynemouth Priory Partnership</p> 	<p>Saint Joseph Catholic Church Wallsend Road North Shields</p>
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<p>Cluster Telephone Numbers Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021 Father Martin Stempczyk ☎ 0191 251 3770 St Cuthbert's Church ☎ 0191 257 3408</p>		<p><i>Other Deanery Numbers</i> Father John McElhone ☎ 0191 262 3820 Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr Stephen Watson ☎ 07768 3873931</p>

Sunday, 17th December 2017 – 3rd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

Masses, Devotions and Services			
		St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
Saturday	16 th December	4:45pm-5:15pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass: Bernard & Anna Teresa Hearn	
Sunday	17 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent (B)	11:00am Mass: Ann Halgason	9:30am Mass: Edith & Vivian O'Kane and Family
Monday	18 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Word & Communion	
Tuesday	19 th December		9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass: Paul Black
Wednesday	20 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Kerry O'Neill	
Thursday	21 st December		9:30am Mass:
Friday	22 nd December	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Gavin Turner	
Saturday	23 rd December	4:45pm-5:15pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass: Paul Hull	9:30am Mass: Ellen Tyrell
Sunday	24 th December 4 th Sunday of Advent (B)	11:00am Mass:	9:30am Mass: Jun & Gloria Gascon
Sunday	24th December	7:30pm Carols 8:00pm Mass: David McManus	
Monday	25th December	11:00am Mass:	9:30am Mass:
		The Nativity of the Lord	

Bidding Prayers and our Partnership

We seek the intercession of our parish saints and pray:

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| Holy Mary, Mother of God. | Pray for us |
| St Joseph | Pray for us |
| St Columba | Pray for us |
| St Aidan | Pray for us |
| St Oswin | Pray for us |
| St Cuthbert | Pray for us |
| St Edmund | Pray for us |
| St Edward | Pray for us |
| St Bernadette | Pray for us |
| Lord, in your mercy | Hear our prayer |

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, Father Bill Bellamy, Ros McGann, Father Richard Harriott, Gary James, Catherine West, Dorothy Rutherford, Nancy Healy, Gerry Thirsk, Tom Wright, Florence Redpath, Mary Wood, Chandra, Debbie Megan, Kay Butler, Sarah Harrison, Fred Stimpson, Lena Armbuster, Scott Oakley, Pat Skelly and Jean Slater. Please pray for Audrey Lewis and Bdelia Smith who have died recently and those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Advent Services

Our Parish Carol Service will be this Sunday at St Cuthbert's at 6.00pm. All are welcome. On behalf of the entire parish may I offer many thanks to all who have contributed to the service. Last week the Filipino community enriched a reflection on Advent; Fr Chris would like to offer his thanks to them and the Syra-Marabellian community for their contribution to our reflection on Advents. The rich diversity of our parish is a great blessing

Service of Reconciliation

The Partnership Celebration of Reconciliation will be at St Edward's, Whitley Bay on Tuesday 19th December at 7.00pm

Funeral Services

Audrey Lewis: Tynemouth Crematorium, Tuesday 19th December at 11.15am
Bdelia Smith: St Joseph's Wednesday 20th December at 2.30pm
May they rest in peace.

Masses for Christmas

First Mass of Christmas starts with Carols at 7.30pm with Mass starting at 8.00pm on Sunday 24th December at St Cuthberts.
On Christmas Day, Monday 25th December, Masses will be:
St Joseph's at 9.30am
St Cuthbert's 11.00am

Crib Festival

This year the Crib Festival will be at St Cuthbert's. The festival started on Friday 15th December and will formally end at the Carol Service on the evening of December 17th but hopefully most of the cribs will stay in St Cuthbert's until the end of the Christmas Period.

School Celebrations for Christmas

This parish is blessed with schools that celebrate liturgies with great creativity, skills and inspiring enthusiasm. This is very much the case with their celebrations of Christmas. So I would very much encourage you, if you can, to attend any of the following School lead Christmas Liturgies:

Thursday 21st December 9.30am: St Joseph's Church, St Joseph's School Christmas Mass
Thursday 21st December 6.00pm: St Cuthbert's Church, St Cuthbert's School Carol Service
Friday 22nd December 9.30am: St Cuthbert's Church, St Cuthbert's School Christmas Mass

You are all welcome and I have no doubt that you will be inspired in any of these celebration Warning- tears may flow!

Mercy Associates

Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning. We raised £276.70 and a cheque for £500 will now be sent to help keep up the good work at the Sisters of Mercy mission in Muhoroni.
Thank you also to everyone who donated items for our Christmas Parcel appeal. The parcels have been made up and taken into St Joseph's School and distributed on Thursday December 14th.
We greatly appreciate your support and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.
The next meeting of the Mercy Associates will be 1.00pm on December 18th at the Convent, 17, Cartington Road.

Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:
Parish Secretary, St Robert, Morpeth 16 hours per week. Closing date: 11 December.
Administration Assistant, St Mary, Sunderland 4 hours per week. Closing date: 12 December.
For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us (0191 243 3301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk)

Journey of Faith

This year the Journey of Faith Programme for those inquiring about becoming a Catholic has commenced and the group meets regularly on a Thursday to reflect on the scriptures at St Cuthbert's. Fr Chris is very grateful to this group for their willingness to open up their group to those who wish to come into the Church. This meeting is also open to anyone in the parish who would like to know more about the scriptures and spend time reflecting on them.

Catholic Schools

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.
The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledge that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.
Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Change of Mass Times

At the parish council we discussed the Bishop's decision that all the Churches in the partnership would have one Mass in each Church at a weekend. This would mean that St Colomba's, St Aidan's and our own parish would only have two Masses each weekend. Although we, as a parish, have no choice in accepting the Bishop's decision, we do have choices in deciding when the two Masses will take place at the weekend. It was decided that at the Parish Council after Christmas, the Chair of the Parish Council will address all the Masses, presenting a number of options for the parish to consider. A vote will then take place. Once an option has been chosen, Fr Chris will then inform the Bishop who will make the final decision on whether to accept our proposal. The new Mass times will start eh 17th/18th February, the first Sunday of Lent.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Study Day

Fundamentals of Children's Liturgy of the Word At St. Hilda's Resource Centre West Road, Newcastle, NE15 7PYonSaturday 3rd February 2018—10:30am—3:30pm (Registration and refreshments from 10:00am) If interested, please contact Fr Chris or Catherine, the Parish Administrator to book or contact the Department for Liturgy on :- Tel: 0191 243 3312 Email: liturgy@diocesehn.org.uk

World Gifts for Christmas

Please see leaflet from CAFOD at the back of church that may help you with the Christmas shopping. You can buy gifts on behalf of people that will help people to have a more just and healthier life. These are presents that will express the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Candles at St Josephs Church

Anyone who would like a Christmas Candle in memory or for an intention please contact Janet Martin.

Christmas Parcel Appeal

As you will be aware our Parish has a long tradition of distributing food hampers to some of the less fortunate in our area. Boxes for cash donations to fund this will be in the entrance throughout November. Donations can also be given to Fr. Chris or any SVP members if you miss the box. Last year we also received supermarket vouchers and again these would be most welcome.
If you are aware of any deserving family or single person who you believe would welcome a hamper please write details - name address & preferably a contact no. - and again deposit in the box or hand over to Fr. Chris/SVP. The number and size of hampers will depend on your generosity but this initiative is always wonderfully supported by our Parish so thank you in advance.

St Joseph's Nursery

If you are getting rid of any toys St Joseph's Nursery would be grateful for any donations of: toy trains and cars, Small World Toys, e.g. Play People, animals and Dinosaurs, pre-school electronic toys, outdoor toys e.g. scooters, prams etc. construction toys (not Lego). Many thanks.

Pantomime - Saturday 6th January 2018

This year's Pantomime at Tynemouth Priory Theatre is Hansel & Gretel. Tickets are £6.00. Lists are now on the notice boards at both churches, please sign up as soon as possible. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Tynemouth Priory Prayer:

God of all Creation, You have constantly poured out your Spirit upon our Diocese and kindled here a light which has spread throughout the world.
Lord Jesus, you gathered disciples to yourself to learn from you and to model their lives on you. Your Holy Spirit empowered them to continue your work in the world.
Come upon us, Holy Spirit, deepen the faith you in invite us to share and inspire us to become faithful witnesses. As we begin to develop our partnerships, help each one of us to use the gifts you give us to nurture one another to serve the world and to live in harmony with the whole of creation. All of this we ask in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen