

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year B, 23th & 24th December 2017

SUNDAY READINGS REFLECTION

King David had become very powerful, it was God's doing and he knew it. Therefore he wanted to give something back by building a substantial house in which to put the ark of the covenant – the two tablets of stone received by Moses on Mount Sinai. He was not allowed to build his temple because God said to him he will build the house. This will be not in the usual sense, but be a house as in a dynastic name. It was fulfilled in the eternal kingship of the Son of David, Mary's son and this fulfilment began at the Annunciation. This fourth Sunday focuses on Mary. God became man, to give us hope and to honour his promise to David of standing by us. There are many Masses, and carols sung this weekend and they all focus on the great gift of Christmas, Christ is born in Bethlehem. We may have to experience many difficulties in our lives, but this is a joyful time, because it shows us that God is at our side. Have a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Deacon Terry

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS & THANKS

On behalf of Father Cunningham, Deacon Terry and myself, a blessed and peaceful Christmas to you, your families and to all you hold dear. Thank you for all your cards and generous gifts, which are greatly appreciated. Mgr Andrew

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 and Christmas! Mgr Andrew.

DATE	CELEBRATION	CHURCH & TIME
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
Tuesday, 26th December	No Mass	
Wednesday, 27th December	Mass	Immaculate Heart of Mary, 10.00am

PARISH MASSES

Until further notice, weekday Mass will be celebrated at the normal times during the week.

COFFEE AFTER MASS AT ST EDWARD'S

This weekend there will be no teas/coffees after Mass. New coffee rotas are ready for collection in kitchen. Thank you to all our volunteers for all their hard work over the past year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER

24th December is a day of special prayer for expectant mothers.

PARISH MONDAY CLUB - ST EDWARD'S CHURCH

The Parish Monday Club will return on the 8th January. We wish everyone a holy and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

COMPLINE AT ST EDWARD'S

We're taking a Christmas break and Compline will resume on Thursday, 11th January.

DATES OF NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

- ST EDWARD'S 6.00pm on Monday, 8th January 2018 in the Parish house
- IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY - 10th January 2018

REVIVE THE PASSION FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

You are invited to a day on Saturday, 6th January 10.00am - 4.00pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church with Fr Michael Hickey and Michael & Hilda Hedley to explore who God is, what the Church is about, who we are, to revel in God's love for us and reconnect with him in our world. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch. Let us know if you would like to come, either through your own parish priest or Fr Michael on 07912 060628.

THANKS

On behalf of our family, Liz and Bernard would like to thank all our friends and parishioners for the many cards and messages of condolence on the death of our sister Margaret Last. We felt so much support and are thankful for our family of faith. God bless you all.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM DON BOSCO CENTRE, AJJANAHALLI, INDIA

Dear and loving parishioners of Our Lady, Star of the Sea. I would like to extend my many thanks to you for sending us your parishioner, Joseph O'Brien, who has been volunteering with our community here in India since May. I would also like to thank you who have donated money through Joseph to support our work. Through your generosity we are planning to equip our Centre with solar panels so we can have reliable power and light all day and save on energy bills. Your donations will also fund Christmas Day here, and provide the best food for our boys. Please continue to support our work through your prayers and donations. Fr Sonychen Mathew SDB, Rector, Don Bosco Centre, Ajjanahalli.

Half of this year's Christmas collection will be sent to support the work of this community in India. Many thanks for your generosity. Mgr Andrew

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.

MASS INTENTIONS			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S
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)
Mon 25th December NATIVITY OF THE LORD HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	11.00am People of the Parish		9.30am Donor's Intentions (MD)
Tues 26th December ST STEPHEN			
Wed 27th December ST JOHN		10.00am Deceased members of The Berry & Anderson Families (RA)	
Thur 28th December HOLY INNOCENTS	9.30am Pat O'Shea (BO'S)	10.00am Donor's Intentions	
Fri 29th December ST THOMAS BECKET	9.30am Nancy Murphy	10.00am David Green (MA)	
Sat 30th December	9.30am Michael Snowdon (MEAPS) 10.00am CONFESSIONS	6.00pm People of the Parish	
Sun 31st December HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	11.00am Pat Perry (Coyle) (VAA)		9.30am Michael Tevlin

BAPTISM	ST EDWARD
Sunday, 31st December, 12.30pm (Mgr Andrew)	Sebastian Hesselberth

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 Margaret Thomson, Robert Raymond Chrisp and Paddy Gribbin.

Hospital Chaplaincies

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

RVI, Freeman and Walkergate Hospitals: Contact Fr Arockia Mariadass Pagyasamy OCD, at St Teresa's, Heaton Road, Newcastle on 0191 265 5290.

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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 24TH DECEMBER 2017

The Order of Mass is in the Laudate Hymn book from page 200.

First reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'" The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 88:2-5,27,29

Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.
3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.'

Second reading

Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I reach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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.