

MASS READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)
FIRST READING

Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

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. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 88

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

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| <p>1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
 through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
 Of course I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
 that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.</p> | <p>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 the ages.</p> |
| <p>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;
 for him my covenant shall endure.</p> | |

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, 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.

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

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

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 Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church <i>Albion Road West</i> <i>North Shields</i>	Tynemouth Priory Partnership 	Saint Joseph Catholic Church <i>Wallsend Road</i> <i>North Shields</i>
Father Christopher Hughes, St Joseph's Church, Wallsend Road, Chirton, North Shields, NE29 7AA ☎ (Tel) 0191 257 5801 / ☎ (Fax) 0191 259 2589 ✉ (Email) northshields.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk / northshields.stcuthbert@rcdhn.org.uk		
Cluster Telephone Numbers Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021 Father Martin Stempczyk ☎ 0191 251 3770 St Cuthbert's Church ☎ 0191 257 3408		Other Deanery Numbers Father John McElhone ☎ 0191 262 3820 Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr Stephen Watson ☎ 07768 3873931

Sunday, 24th December 2017 – 4th Sunday of Advent (B) Sunday, 7th January 2018 – Feast of the Holy Family			
Masses, Devotions and Services			
	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church	
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: No Coffee after Mass	9:30am Mass: Jun & Gloria Gascon	
Sunday 24th December The First Mass of Christmas	7:30pm Carols 8:00pm Mass: David McManus		
Monday 25th December The Nativity of the Lord	11:00am Mass: Audrey Hall	9:30am Mass:	
Tuesday 26 th December		11:00am Mass: Teresa Hobson	
Wednesday 27 th December	9:00am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass: Monica Knights		
Thursday 28 th December		9:30am Mass:	
Friday 29 th December	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am Mass:		
Saturday 30 th December	4:45pm-5:15pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass: Ellen & Alf Hezelgrave	No Mass	
Sunday 31 st December Feast of the Holy Family	11:00am Mass: No Intention No Coffee after Mass	9:30am Mass: Michael & Arthur Falla	
Monday 1 st January	11:00am Mass: Peter Smith		
Tuesday 2 nd January		9:30am Word & Communion	
Wednesday 3 rd January	9:30am Mass: Requiem for Gus Shotton		
Thursday 4 th January		9:30am Mass: Diamond Wedding for Pat & Harry Horn	
Friday 5 th January	9:30am Mass:		
Saturday 6 th January	4:45pm-5:15pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass:	9:30am Mass:	
Sunday 7 th January Feast of the Epiphany	11:00am Mass: Bill & Neil Henderson	9:30am Mass:	

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.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.
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.
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING

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

Titus 2:11-14

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

Today a saviour has been born to you.

Luke 2:1-14

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.'

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 Gus Shotton and Monica Knights who have died recently and those whose anniversaries are at this time

Christmas 2017

Fr Chris would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your families the hope, joy, love and peace of Christmas. As I will spell out in my sermon, Christmas celebrates the dynamic and wonder of God's self-gift, divine transformational encounters and God's constant offer of a mutual and enriching communion. May these God given blessings be shared by you, your families and all in our community and throughout the world. The sense of progress and development which we presumed in decades gone by appears to have an uncertain future but these elements of the Christmas story we can place our trust in. The two great themes of Christmas, Incarnation and Epiphany, reveal God is with us and our source of love, hope and peace.

As a parish there has been a number of sad and tragic moments in 2017 but the sense of community, solidarity and support the parish has shown has been appreciated by many within and beyond the parish. It is an inspiring witness- well done!

As 2017 comes to an end, Fr Chris would also wish to thank all those who contribute in any way to the parish. People's commitment, generosity and dedication is often unseen but it is appreciated and vital for our parish to develop and thrive.

On a personal level, Fr Chris would like to thank parishioners for their generosity with cards and gifts. It is all very appreciated and very kind.

I hope you have time for rest and enjoyment with family and friend. Wishing you all every blessing and joy for 2018 when it arrives.

Revive the passion for Relationship with Christ

You are invited to a day on Saturday, 6th January 10am-4pm at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, West Monkseaton, NE25 9PG 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 & 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 060 628.

Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of the 2018 Northern Catholic Calendar are now available for sale. 'Flat' Copies £3.00. Ringbound £3.50

The Late Gus Shotton

The Body of the Late Gus Shotton will be received into St Cuthbert's on Tuesday 2nd January at 4.00pm. His Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 3rd January at 9.30. May he rest in peace.

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 acknowledged 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 on 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 7PY on Saturday 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