

**MASS READINGS**

**THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**FIRST READING**

*I will make you the light of the nations*

Isaiah 49:1-6

Islands, listen to me, pay attention, remotest peoples. The Lord called me before I was born, from my mother's womb he pronounced my name. He made my mouth a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, 'You are my servant (Israel) in whom I shall be glorified'; while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing'; and all the while my cause was with the Lord, my reward with my God. I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** *I thank you for the wonder of my being.*

Psalm 138

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| <p>1. Lord, you search me and you know me,<br/>you know my resting and my rising,<br/>you discern my purpose from afar.<br/>You mark when I walk or lie down,<br/>all my ways lie open to you.</p> | <p>2. For it was you who created my being,<br/>knit me together in my mother's womb.<br/>I thank you for the wonder of my being,<br/>for the wonders of all your creation.</p> |
| <p>3. Already you knew my soul,<br/>my body held no secret from you<br/>when I was being fashioned in secret<br/>and moulded in the depths of the earth.</p>                                       |  |

**SECOND READING**

*Jesus, whose coming was heralded by John*

Acts 13:22-26

Paul said: "God made David the King of our ancestors, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose. To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal." 'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.'

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! As for you, little child, you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High. You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before him. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

*His name is John*

Luke 1:57-66. 80

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy. Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up. 'No,' she said 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name', and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. The father asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished. At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him. Meanwhile the child grew up and his spirit matured. And he lived out in the wilderness until the day he appeared openly to Israel.

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**The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields**

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

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Birth of St John the Baptist**

Masses, Devotions and Services			
		St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>4:45-5:15pm: Confessions</b> <b>5:30pm: Mass:</b> Repose of the soul of Frank O'Looney	<b>9:30am Mass:</b>
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup> June Birth of St John the Baptist		<b>11:00am Mass:</b> Kerry O'Neill
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>9:00am:</b> Adoration of Blessed Sacrament <b>9:30am: Word &amp; Communion</b>	
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup> June		<b>9:30am Mass:</b>
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>9:00am:</b> Adoration of Blessed Sacrament <b>9:30am: Mass:</b> Olive & Joseph Flynn	
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> June		<b>9:30am Mass:</b>
<b>Holyday of Obligation</b> Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June <b>Sts Peter &amp; Paul</b>		<b>7:00pm: Mass: Vincent Donohoe</b>	<b>9:30am Mass:</b>
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>4:45-5:15pm: Confessions</b> <b>5:30pm: Mass:</b> Peter & Paul Whalen	<b>9:30am Mass:</b>
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> July 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time		<b>11:00am Mass:</b> John & Catherine Nichol

**Bidding Prayers and our Partnership**

We seek the intercession of our parish saints and pray:

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 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, Patricia Conlon, Betty Hill, Father Bill Bellamy, Ros McGann, Father Richard Harriott, Gary James, Catherine West, Dorothy Rutherford, Gerry Thirsk, Tom Wright, Florence Redpath, Mary Wood, Chandra, Debbie Megan, Kay Butler, Sarah Harrison, Fred Stimpson, Lena Armbuster, Scott Oakley, Pat Skelly, Jean Slater and Katie McVay. Please pray for John Hyland who has died recently and for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

**Collections – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
**£713.00**

#### **Week-end Masses in the Parish**

Fr Chris is very grateful to the parish council for an honest discussion about Mass times in the parish on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The role of the parish council is to advise and not to make decisions. In the light of the discussion - Fr Chris has decided on the following:

- Although it is clear that some of the parish would prefer to have the Sunday morning Mass at an earlier time, having Mass at a later time allows young families and older parishioners more time to come from various parts of the parish for the one Sunday morning Mass in the parish.
- There is not a clear consensus within the parish as to which of our two Churches should host respectively the Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses.
- Having had a three month period of the Vigil Mass at St Cuthbert's and the morning Mass at St Joseph, I have decided that the way forward to arrive at a final decision is to have a three month trial period starting the weekend of July 7-8<sup>th</sup> when the Vigil Mass will be at St Joseph's at 5.30pm and the morning Mass at St Cuthbert's at 11.00am. At the end of the period, having given the parish the opportunity to experience and reflect on both options, there will be a vote in about three months. Fr Chris will accept the simple majority. Unlike the last vote there is no need to consult the Bishop, so the vote will be binding.
- It has been made very clear to Fr Chris that there is an important priority for the whole parish to develop a shared sense of collective identity, so that we have a clear perception of our parish, our churches and our partnership. At the next meeting of the parish council on July 25<sup>th</sup>, I will be asking the parish council to reflect on we can develop a shared sense of unity and community within our parish. Any suggestions from parishioners would be very welcome.
- I appreciate that all that is said above creates more change and uncertainty for another period but it is with the hope that by the end of the process we will have certainty and clarity, that will enable the parish to move forward, so that we can be a living sign and instrument of Christ as his community of disciples. Let us pray for all our parish.

#### **Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul**

This week we have the Holyday of Obligation of the Feast of the Saints Peter and Paul, the two foundations of the early apostolic Church. The morning Mass will be at St Joseph's at 9.30am. The evening Mass will be at St. Cuthbert's at 7.00pm.

#### **Pulpit Swap**

Next Sunday, Churches Together church leaders are swapping pulpits. I will be preaching at the Salvation Army Service on July 1<sup>st</sup> and at St Joseph's Captain Cor Van der Woude of the Salvation Army will be preaching at the 11.00am Mass at St Joseph's. I trust he is made to feel very welcome

#### **Feedback from Parish Groups**

##### Parish Proclaimers

The group reflected that their role is to express what we are about as a catholic community 'out there' as a way of spreading the Good News of Jesus and are happy to support other groups in the parish in this shared mission.

The group reflected on how at big parish occasions, such as First Holy Communion and Confirmations, are opportunities to make people feel welcome and share our faith. The group also explored how it can help develop a sense of community within the parish.

The group reviewed past actions such as banners and prayer cards- Feedback was positive.

#### **Solemnity of the Birthday of St John the Baptist**

Since this great feast day falls on a Sunday, the Church throughout the world will be celebrating the Birthday of John the Baptist. Since the only other birthday celebrated in the Church are Jesus and Mary, we can see how important John the Baptist is for the Church. John is seen as the last of the great prophets of the Jewish tradition who is a link between the Hebrew and Christian testaments. My image for this great saint is the daffodil flower. Once that begins to grow in the depth of winter to proclaim, the herald the new age of spring. By May they have long gone but the age of new life and summer has come upon us. John points not to himself but to Christ. May this 'prophetic daffodil' inspire us to be heralds and signs pointing to Christ.

#### **Youth Ministry Invitation**

All those concerned about how we can support young people on their faith journey are invited to a co-workers' meeting at the Emmaus Village on Sunday 8th July at 3.00pm (Tea, coffee and cake from 2.15pm). YMT will present a number of opportunities including the national Flame event which happens in March 2019 and this will also be a time to share good practice with people from other parts of the diocese. Please let YMT know if you are coming on 01207 592244 or [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org)

#### **Faith in Action Award**

This national Catholic award scheme for school years 6-11, encouraging young people to reflect on their faith and put into action, can be carried out in both school and parish groups. Two training sessions will take place for those who would like to run the Award: Thurs 5th July 7pm – 8.30pm St Aloysius Parish Hall, Hebburn and Friday 6th July 1.30pm – 3pm at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn. To book a place, please contact [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org)

#### **Youth Ministry Toolkit**

A new online resource is now available on [www.hnyouthtoolkit.org.uk](http://www.hnyouthtoolkit.org.uk)

#### **Mercy Associates**

The Mercy Associates Coffee Morning with Strawberries & Cream will take place at St Joseph's on Tuesday July 3rd at 10.15am. Tickets £1. All welcome.

#### **Canon Alec Barrass Diamond Jubilee**

The Mass will be at 7pm on Friday 13th July at St Mary's, Sunderland followed by a reception. If you wish to concelebrate could you please inform Fr Marc Lyden-Smith: [sunderlandpriest@outlook.com](mailto:sunderlandpriest@outlook.com)

#### **A Christian Meditation group**

is held every Monday at 6pm in The parish centre of Church of The Holy Saviour, Tynemouth. The meditation sessions follow the teachings of John Maine OSB and Laurence Freeman OSB. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to join us in Christian meditation. Information can be found on [wccm.org](http://wccm.org) The World Community of Christian Meditation.

#### **Diocesan Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Refugee Project**

Although refugees fleeing war and violence is less in the headlines, there still many refugees needing help. The Government's dispersal policy means that an increasing number of refugees are coming to the north east. The Diocesan refugee project in Newcastle increases its numbers every month placing strain on the resources they can share with refugees. A Head of the Justice and Peace department, I have seen the great work that is being done. If you would like to support the diocesan project you could volunteer on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. You could also make a regular donation by making a standing order to the project. Please contact me if you are interested in helping in either way. Those making standing orders may wish to increase their donation at no cost if they are tax payers. We have a specific gift aid form available and this can be provided by post or email, please contact: [pat.conway1@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.conway1@btinternet.com) or phone 01913868216 or 07943 016225 or write to her at 116 Moor Crescent, Durham DH1 1DL.

#### **Lecture on Priesthood, gender and sexuality**

You are invited to hear Terry Wright, Emeritus Professor of English Literature at Newcastle University and author of twelve books on various aspects of Religion and Literature, speak on "Why the Church Should Change Her Mind on Priesthood, Sex and Gender" in the Church Hall at The Holy Name Parish Church, North Jesmond Avenue, Newcastle NE2 3JX, on Wednesday July 4th at 7pm

#### **Pastoral Care for the Bereaved**

We have a group of parishioners who are willing to spend time with anyone who has suffered the death of a loved one. They can be contacted on the Pastoral Carers phone line on: 07526080729.

#### **St Aidan's Wallsend**

are hosting a Midsummer Concert with the Ravenswood Singers on Saturday 30th June at 7pm. The concert will include songs from the shows, Sacred Music and Viennese Songs. Tickets costing £6 include a complimentary glass of wine. Tickets available by ringing St Aidan's office: 2623820 or emailing [staidans.parish@btconnect.com](mailto:staidans.parish@btconnect.com). We are keeping the price down at £6 to make the event accessible to as many people as possible.

#### **Churches Together North Shields**

Sunday 1st July at 6pm North Shields Baptist Church: Service for Christian Unity – a collection will be taken up for Nite Bite.

#### **Songs of Praise from Newcastle**

We would like to extend to you a warm invitation to join us for a recording of modern worship songs at The Church of St Thomas The Martyr, Newcastle, led by acclaimed singer songwriter and worship leader Philippa Hanna. The music will be filmed for BBC One's Songs of Praise and will be broadcast in future editions of the programme. We are especially keen for enthusiastic singers to join us, to lead the viewers at home in the singing.

When: Thursday 5th July, 6.30pm – 9.30pm  
Where: St Thomas The Martyr, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 7PF

To apply, please send your name and postcode, and the number of people taking part to [SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv](mailto:SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv) Please include 'Newcastle Recording' in your subject header.

We ask that you apply for this free event as soon as possible, to enable us to cater for the correct number of people. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the team at [SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv](mailto:SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv) or call us on 0161 873 7073. If you would like to opt-out of future invitations, please let us know. Songs of Praise has been championing Christian music for over 55 years and continues to be enormously popular. For this to continue we need the participation of people like yourself and we'd be grateful if you could encourage others to take part too. Songs of Praise Team

#### **Reviving the Passion for Christ, 30th June 2018**

You are invited to a day on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 10am-4pm at St Cuthbert's Church, North Shields 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.

#### **Parents and Communities Acting Together**

This group meets at St Cuthbert's from 9.15am on a Thursday morning. The group will be now meeting every Thursday till the end of term in July. All parents of your people are invited to take part. It is an opportunity to meet other parents of young children and share concerns or issues you have encountered. Please contact Wendy O'Connell on 07950426780 for more information.

#### **St. Cuthbert's Church Grounds.**

With the upcoming bi-centenary in 2021 of St. Cuthbert's, along with other tasks, Fr. Michael has himself set about tidying/improving the church grounds. Unfortunately it is not a small job but fortunately we are not a small congregation. When the floodlights failed at St. James' Park a Chinese member of the crowd asked everyone to raise their arms and wave them. The floodlights came back on and the game resumed. When asked how he did it he simply replied "Many hands make light work." We have many hands so can You help Your Church? For some jobs great gardening knowledge is not necessary. There are a lot of small jobs - taking tree & shrub cuttings/waste to the tip, watering new planting, removing moss/litter. Of course if you are a Monty Don..... If you can give a little time please leave name and contact detail and how you can help at the Church.