

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C, 15TH & 16TH DECEMBER 2018**

**SUNDAY READINGS REFLECTION**

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday and it is the half way mark in the Advent Season, when we change our focus from penitence and look forward to the joy of the coming event. To mark this, the rose Advent candle is lit and the priest and deacon can wear rose vestments, although purple is acceptable. I'm sure it hasn't escaped your notice that the media is full of Christmas cheer. Cheer is created by our surroundings, however, joy comes from within. So in the middle of all this commercialism, try to insulate yourself from all the fuss and perhaps talk to someone and engage their thoughts by asking what they would like for Christmas - I did this with some children the other day - one said "a new iPhone" and the other said an "iPad". Ho Ho Ho !!! **Deacon Terry**

**PARTNERSHIP MATTERS**

The Partnership is holding a series of services during December, to which everyone is invited. The remaining programme is: 16th December at St Bernadette's; 23rd December at St Columba's; 30th December (Feast of the Holy Family) at St Cuthbert's (all on Sundays).  
The Partnership Penitential Service will be on Wednesday 19th December at St Mary's, Cullercoats.  
These services offer a valuable opportunity to reflect prayerfully on the meaning of Advent and Christmas, and to celebrate the gift of family life.

**Can we please remind everyone that on coming in to church for Mass,  
mobile phones should be turned off or set to silent.**

**PARISH NOTICES**

**OPEN CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS - ST EDWARD'S**

In order to make the best use of our volunteers across the Parish, it has been decided that only St Edward's Church will open its doors on Saturday, 22nd December and Sunday, 23rd December. We will welcome visitors, families and passers-by to visit and enjoy a time of quiet and peace in the midst of the Christmas rush. St Edward's will be open on Saturday 10.00am till 4.00pm and Sunday 12.00pm till 4.00pm. There will be sheets at the back of the church for volunteers to cover each one hour on the rota. There must be two people for each hour. Anyone from Our Lady's and St Edmund's Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church wishing to volunteer, please contact Sheila Clapperton on 0191 2528935 or Chris Gunning on 0191 2669035.

**PARISH LUNCHEON CLUB - CHRISTMAS FEAST**

Many thanks to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Luncheon Club Team for the delicious Christmas lunch which was served last Wednesday. Thanks also to the staff and pupils of Star of the Sea who entertained our guests to carols and song. It was all very much enjoyed! Mgr Andrew

**FOOD BANK**

The people of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish are always generous in their donations to the Bay Food Bank, but during Advent we have the chance to show the true spirit of the season by trying a reverse Advent calendar. Instead of receiving a small gift as we open the calendar door each day, perhaps we could donate a small gift to the food bank. It need not be anything expensive, a carton of long life milk, a tin of beans, or a packet of biscuits are all very welcome and if lots of us donate half a dozen items each week it will soon mount up. If you regularly donate then thank you very much and if you haven't done so in the past, this would be a great time to start! Thank you.

**PARISH MONDAY CLUB**

The Monday Club will not be meeting during the Christmas holidays, we wish everyone all the very best for Christmas and the New Year and look forward to our return on 14th January.

### **JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP**

Our Christmas Carols coffee/Irish coffee, mince pies and raffle will be held this Sunday, 16th December after Mass at St Edward's Church. Donations of wine, chocolates or biscuits would be gratefully received. These can be left in the Justice and Peace box in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.

### **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

This annual parish event will take place this year at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church this Sunday, 16th December at 4.00pm, when we will welcome children from Star of the Sea School. Please join in this lovely celebration. The service will be followed, as usual, by light refreshments.

### **JOURNEY OF FAITH**

The next Journey of Faith session takes place this Monday, 17th December in St Edward's parish rooms. The topic is 'The Incarnation', linked to Advent.

### **PARISH WALKING GROUP**

The next walk will be on Tuesday, 18th December. Please meet at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at 9.30am. Because of the shortage of day light at this time of year, we are only going to Whitley Bay cemetery. From there we will walk past St Mary's Island and on to Seaton Sluice, up through Holywell Dene and on to the Waggonways as far as Whitley Bay golf course, then across the fields back to the cemetery. A total distance of 6 miles. If you require more information please contact Peter Weighill 0191 2512917.

### **A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS - 22ND DECEMBER, 7.30PM**

At **Celebration of Christmas** at St Edward's Church featuring the Felling Male Voice Choir, the Scott Singers, a sketch 'No Room at the Inn' and congregational carols. Tickets £5.00, which includes refreshments, are available after weekend Masses, from parish office, Tom and Sheila Clapperton 0191 2528934, Jim Humble (Immaculate Heart of Mary Church) and Ryan Blakey 07723 722480. **Christmas visitors welcome. Students free.**

### **OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S CHURCH - CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA, 23RD DECEMBER**

We will be having a Tombola on Sunday, 23rd December and would like to ask for donations of gifts please.

### **THE MINDFUL HOUR FOR JANUARY**

Wednesday, 9th January at 7.00pm in St Edwards. The theme next month will be 'Acceptance'. All are welcome.

### **COMPLINE**

Compline is taking a Christmas break and will resume on 10th January

### **GIFT AID - LETTERS OF THANKS**

**PLEASE** collect your letter from the back of church to avoid postage. If you wish to join the Gift Aid scheme or have any questions, please contact Michael Reynolds on 0191 6704364 or Michael Cosgrove on 0191 2866006. Thank you for your generous support.

### **USED POSTAGE STAMPS**

Used postage stamps are now collected for the support of St Joseph's Care Home in Newcastle. Please collect your stamps and leave them in the boxes at the back of our churches. It is surprising how much is raised by this simple collection. Thank you for your help.

### **NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR**

The new edition for 2019 is now on sale. 'Ringbound' copies are £3.50 and 'Flat' copies are £3.00.

### **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CRIBS FOR ISAAC'S HOUSE**

A total of £631 was raised. Many thanks for your support and a huge thank you to Peter Hughes for his superb craftsmanship and his generosity in giving his time and materials for this much appreciated project.

MASS INTENTIONS & OTHER SERVICES			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S
Saturday 15th December	9.30am Tom Thomson (MS) 10.00am <b>CONFESSIONS</b>	6.00pm The Recently Deceased	
Sunday 16th December <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	11.00am Monica & George Thrift (MT)		9.30am People of the Parish
Monday 17th December		10.00am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 18th December	7.00pm Philip Rafferty (PK)		
Wednesday 19th December	8.00pm Prayer Group	10.00am Cyril Wilson (AW) 7.00pm Partnership Penitential Service, St Mary's Church, Cullercoats	
Thursday 20th December	9.30am Angela Cooke (LL)		
FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER <b>ST PETER CANISUS</b>		10.00am Claire Campbell (ME)	
Saturday 22nd December	9.30am Special Intention (P&GR) 10.00am <b>CONFESSIONS</b>	5.30pm - 5.50pm <b>CONFESSIONS</b> 6.00pm Angela Brown (EB)	
Sunday 23rd December <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	11.00am Pat O'Shea (BO'S)		9.30am People of the Parish
<p><b>Please remember in your prayers</b> those who are ill: Anne McLaughlan, Margaret Duffy, Michael Heaney and Eileen Waters. Please also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently especially Rita Hetherington and Elizabeth Mary Richardson.</p>			

**Contact email addresses, numbers and website:**

Monsignor Andrew Faley (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](http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk)

A comprehensive Parish Directory is held in the parish office. The directory contains names and contact numbers for those responsible for various groups and activities associated with our parish.

This can be viewed in the parish office or you can telephone the number overleaf if you have an enquiry.

**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 387393.

**RVI, Freeman and Walkergate Hospitals**: Contact Fr Arockia Mariadass Pagyasamy OCD, at St Teresa's, Heaton Road, Newcastle on 0191 2655290.

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

**PRIESTS' TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Fr Martin Stempczyk 0191 2513770, Fr Chris Hughes 0191 2575801, Fr John McElhone 0191 2623820,  
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, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.  
For bulletin entries please contact the Parish Secretary - email [parishofficeolss@btconnect.com](mailto: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**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 16TH DECEMBER 2018**  
*The Order of Mass is in the Laudate Hymn book from page 200.*

**First Reading**

**Zephaniah 3:14-18**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

**Psalm Isaiah 12**

**Psalm Response:** *Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

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| 1. Truly, God is my salvation,<br>I trust, I shall not fear.<br>For the Lord is my strength, my song,<br>he became my saviour.<br>With joy you will draw water<br>from the wells of salvation. | 3. Sing a psalm to the Lord<br>for he has done glorious deeds;<br>make them known to all the earth!<br>People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,<br>for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. |
| 2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!<br>Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!<br>Declare the greatness of his name.  |  |

**Second reading**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. 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**

**Luke 3:10-18**

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them. 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.