

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C, 22ND & 23RD DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY READINGS REFLECTION

On this the final Sunday of Advent our thoughts are with Mary as she prepares to give birth to her Son. God's standards are different from ours. He invariably chooses the least distinguished. Bethlehem, was an insignificant little town and home to the smallest tribe, but it had two moments of fame. One was when David was anointed there, the other, when Jesus was born. Centuries later a carol was composed, "O little town of Bethlehem... in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light". It was a long walk for Mary to visit Elizabeth, but when they meet both are filled with the Holy Spirit as they marvel at the destiny of their unborn children. It prompts us to wonder: is there someone in my life for whom a visit, or a card, would bring them joy at Christmas?

Deacon Terry

PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The December edition of *Partnership Matters* is now available on the front page of the Diocesan website (www.rcdhn.org.uk). There is also a copy on the notice board. It includes items on future support for Partnerships and an update on the Property and Community Review.

**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

CHRISTMAS THANKS & BLESSINGS

This is my fifth Christmas as your Parish Priest and at this time of the year, we take stock of where we are. I want to thank those in our Parish who do so much for us in so many ways, and to assure them of our prayers. Thanks, also, to everyone who have worked so hard to prepare our churches for Christmas. And thanks from Deacon Terry and I for your cards, gifts and best wishes. Christmas blessings to you all! Mgr Andrew

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Bahari of Redesdale Court, West Monkseaton, who died on 2nd December. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 28th December at St Edward's Church at 10.30am, followed by committal at Whitley Bay Crematorium. May she rest in peace. Amen.

NEW YEARS DAY

Mass will be celebrated at 12.00 noon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church followed by a shared table. Everyone is invited to start the New Year with Mass and a shared lunch!

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.

• **THANKS**

- To all of our Whitley Bay Churches who joined together in providing Christmas Goody Bags for 120 young people supported by De Paul UK.
- Justice & Peace. Thankyou to everyone who supported our Justice & Peace Christmas coffee event last Sunday, especially the choir, the helpers and people who donated raffle prizes. We made £314 for our causes. There are a few unclaimed prizes in the Narthex. Please check and thank you once again.

THE MINDFUL HOUR FOR JANUARY

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

PARISH WALKING GROUP

The next walk, and first walk of the New Year, will be on Wednesday, 9th January. Please meet at WEST MONKSEATON METRO STATION at 9.30am prompt. We will travel to Gateshead Metro Interchange to catch a bus to Stanley. From there we will walk east along the Consett/Sunderland railway trail. Passing Beamish, Pelton Fell and ending at Barley Mow where we will catch a bus back to Gateshead. This is a flat walk of 6 miles, an easy start for the New Year. If you require more info please contact Peter Weighill on 0191 2512917.

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.

ST EDWARD'S TEA AND COFFEE ROTAS

Rotas are now ready for collection in the kitchen next to the parish rooms.

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.

CHURCH VIEWS MAGAZINE

Subscriptions are due in January for the inter-church monthly magazine. The annual subscription is £12.00 and, in an envelope bearing your name and telephone number, can be put through the letter box of the parish office at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. New subscribers are welcome by contacting Astrid Hymers on 0191 2529257.

OTHER NOTICES

THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES

- **Health and Safety Officer** - required to co-ordinate all aspects of health and safety across the Diocese, ensuring that all Diocesan properties and activities conducted in and around them are safe and without risk as far as reasonably practicable. Based at the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle with extensive travel throughout the Diocese. Closing date: 11th January.
- **Administrator**, St John XXIII, Washington and St Joseph, Birtley - 16 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 15th January.
- **Administrator**, Dept. for Safeguarding – full-time, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 16th January.

For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us on 0191 2433301 or email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

SANTO NIÑO FILIPINO FESTIVAL 2019

Filipino Holy Mass, praise and worship, Sinulog Dance presentation and procession and Filipino refreshments on Sunday 20th January 2019 from 2.00pm - 5.00pm being held at St Teresa of the Infant Jesus Catholic Church, Heaton Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 5HN. Con-celebrated Mass officiated by Fr Patrick Vance Nogoy, SJ, Parish Priest Fr Arokia Mariadass Pagyasamy O.C.D and Assistant Priest Fr John Ulaganathan O.C.D. A blessing of Santo Niño statues will be done after Holy Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS & OTHER SERVICES			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY'S AND ST EDMUND'S
Saturday 22nd December	9.30am Special Intention (P&GR) 10.00am CONFESSIONS	5.30pm - 5.50pm CONFESSIONS 6.00pm Angela Brown (EB)	
Sunday 23rd December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	11.00am Pat O'Shea (BO'S)		9.30am People of the Parish
Monday 24th December	6.00pm The Southwell Family (HS)	8.00pm Nancy Lynch (VL)	
Tuesday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	11.00am Angela Cooke (L&BH)		9.30am People of the Parish
Wednesday 26th December ST STEPHEN			
Thursday 27th December ST JOHN	9.30am Dipak Mukherjee (M&JR)		
Friday 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS	10.30am Requiem Mass, Mary Bahari		
Saturday 29th December ST THOMAS BECKET	9.30am Philip Rafferty (LL) 10.00am CONFESSIONS	5.30pm - 5.50pm CONFESSIONS 6.00pm People of the Parish and all the people of the world (Pastoral Care Team)	
Sunday 30th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	11.00am Monica Kennedy (L&BH)		9.30am Living & Deceased Members of The Scanlan Family (GR)

Please remember in your prayers 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 Elizabeth Mary Richardson and Mary Bahari.

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

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 or telephone 0191 2527066.
 Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 12.00 noon on Thursdays.

READINGS AT MASS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 23RD DECEMBER 2018
The Order of Mass is in the Laudate Hymn book from page 200.

First Reading

Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

Psalm Response: *Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: *You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'* Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ. 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 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.