

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)  
FIRST READING**

*God himself is coming to save you.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** *Come, Lord, and save us.*

Psalm 145

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| <p>1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,<br/>who is just to those who are oppressed.<br/>It is he who gives bread to the hungry,<br/>the Lord, who sets prisoners free.</p> | <p>2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,<br/>who raises up those who are bowed down,<br/>the Lord, who protects the stranger<br/>and upholds the widow and orphan.</p> |
| <p>3. It is the Lord who loves the just<br/>but thwarts the path of the wicked.<br/>The Lord will reign for ever,<br/>Zion's God from age to age.</p>                             |  |

**SECOND READING**

*Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.*

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Alleluia**

**Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. 'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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

**Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church**  
*Albion Road West  
North Shields*

Tynemouth Priory Partnership



**Saint Joseph Catholic Church**  
*Wallsend Road  
North Shields*

**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

**Parish website information at: <http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk>**

We are three Roman Catholic Parishes in the eastern half of the borough of North Tyneside, within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Our website gives an overview of our three parishes and seven churches, as well as mass times, and details of parish ministries and groups.

**Partnership Telephone Numbers**

Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021  
Father Martin Stempczyk ☎ 0191 251 3770  
St Cuthbert's Church ☎ 0191 257 3408

**Partnership Telephone Numbers**

Father John McElhone ☎ 0191 262 3820  
Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr Stephen Watson ☎ 07768 3873931  
Father David Smith: ☎ 0191 262 3882

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent - A**

Masses, Devotions and Services			
	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December St John of the Cross	9:00-9:30am: Confessions 9:30am: Mass:	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5:30pm: Mass: People of the Parish	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - A	11:00am: Mass:		
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Word & Communion		
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December		9:00am: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass:	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass:		
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December		9:00am: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass:	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00am: 9:30am: Mass:		
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	9:30-10:30am: Confessions 2:00pm: Mass: For the Sick & Housebound	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5:30pm: Mass: Fatkin Family	
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - A	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish		

**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

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Openness to God's Word; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers  
 Those who are sick: please pray for all who are sick, for all who are in hospital, hospice or nursing homes, including Patricia Conlon, Ros McGann, Father Richard Harriott, Gary James, Catherine West, Gerry Thirsk, Tom Wright, Florence Redpath, Mary Wood, Sarah Harrison, Fred Stimpson, Scott Oakley, Pat Skelly, Jean Slater, Frank Whillis, James Laing, George Miller, Sheila Kirk, Veronica Owens and Sheelagh Goodwin. Please pray for Kath Lyons, Walter O'Flanagan, Margaret Jones and John Walsh to those who have died recently.

### Advent

During Advent we engage with the drama of our Salvation revealed in Christ. Till December 16<sup>th</sup>, the reading and prayers of the Eucharist see the Church as joyfully expecting Christ for the second time. Advent is a time of hope where we acknowledge present realities but in the knowledge that all imperfections are called to be transformed by the God who is constantly approaching us.  
 In days of literally increasing darkness may the Light of Christ shine in our hearts.

### Advent in Parish, Partnership and Diocese

The following is the programme to mark the start of the Year of the Word:

On the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 15<sup>th</sup>** there will be a Service a St Bernadette's in Wallsend at 4pm to celebrate the Year of the Word. All are welcome.

On the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we have the Parish Carol Service at St Joseph's at 6.00pm

### Christmas Masses for our Schools

The Christmas Mass for St Joseph's Primary School will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at St Joseph's Church at 9:30am  
 The Christmas Mass for St Cuthbert's Primary School will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at St Cuthbert's Church at 9.30am.  
 All are welcome to either Mass. I am sure they will be joyful and inspiring celebrations of the Christmas story

### Trinity Charity Shop

Fr Chris has recently the quarterly cheque from the Trinity Charity share with the parish share of the receipts. It was for over £2,770, which is a great total. Sincere thanks to all parishioners who work on the shop on a Thursday. Your efforts are much appreciated.

### Property and Community Review Group

I am grateful to the parish for helping the Review group to identify three main areas of concern: Developing our sense of community, supporting children and families and meeting the needs of the vulnerable and poor in our community. The group has completed a Community Audit. With discussions with our primary schools the groups this is potential in working together to use parish and school resources to meet some of the needs identified.

### Christmas Coffee Morning

The final total for this event was £1,892-60. Excellent! Well done to all involved

### Funerals

Sadly in the past week there have had number of deaths. The Funeral Service of John Walsh of Roxby Gardens, North Shields, who died on 5<sup>th</sup> December, will take place at St Joseph's on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 12 Noon.  
 The Requiem Mass for Walter O'Flanagan, of Fern Avenue North Shields, who died on December 7<sup>th</sup>, will take place at St Cuthbert's on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm.  
 The Funeral arrangements for Kath Lyons of Grey St North Shields, who died on December 8<sup>th</sup>. have yet to be confirmed. May they rest in peace.

### Candles for Loved Ones

Candles are available to put around the Church for Advent and Christmas. Candles are £5 each.

### Live Simply Tip

Looking for a Christmas present idea? 12 Small Acts to Save our World is a very informative little book produced by the World Wildlife Fund using entirely recycled paper, telling you what you can do to make a difference. And you'll be supporting the WWF as well!

### YMCA Christmas Carol Service

There is an invitation from the YMCA to their Community Carol Service at Christ Church, North Shields on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm. Followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.  
 The service has been put together by residents and young people to help bring together the community this Christmas. All are welcome. Please see poster at back for more details

### Job Vacancy Deputy Headteacher St Bede's RC Primary Bedlington Required April 2020 L6 – L10 Group 2 NOR 240

We are seeking to appoint an exceptional practising Catholic Deputy Headteacher to work closely with the Headteacher. The ideal candidate will:

- have a clear understanding of Catholic Education
- have an exemplary teaching track record
- be able to lead and manage strategic development
- be committed to working in partnership with staff, parents, governors, the parish and the wider community
- have experience of teaching to secure consistently outstanding progress and attainment
- have relentless drive, boundless enthusiasm, resilience and the ability to inspire and motivate others
- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills that build professional relationships and develop and support colleagues

Application forms can be downloaded online via the school website or can be requested from and returned to the school office at [admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk)

### Celebrations for Christmas:

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December –**  
 8.00pm at St Cuthbert's - First Mass of Christmas with Carols and a reflection lead by the young member of the Syro-Malabar Community at 7.30pm

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December –**  
 9.30 am Mass at St Joseph's  
 11.00am Mass at St Cuthbert's

### Party and Mass for Sick and Housebound

There will be a Mass for Healing at St Cuthbert's on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm followed by a Christmas Tea in the hall, to which all are invited. If you visit or know of anyone who is sick, housebound or lonely and think would appreciate an invitation then please collect one from the sacristy. Transport can be provided and contact details are on the invitation, or details can be given to Fr Chris. Our young people who are working towards the John Paul II award will be serving the refreshments after Mass, but if you are able to help in any other way then please let Fr Chris know.

### Parish Council

At the meeting of the parish council, it was acknowledged that 4 of the council members had served 6 years on the council and so under the constitution were having to stand down for good. They are: Ian Pearson, Linda Shotton, Doreen Hull and Bernard Carley. Jill Taylor and Clare Harvey who have been on the Council for three years are also standing down though they can be nominated for a further three years. Fr Chris would like to thank them for all the service and contribution to the parish. Their dedication and commitment is much appreciated. Therefore there are now 6 vacancies for the Parish Council. Nominations will be open until 12<sup>th</sup> January.

### Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound

We had a meeting of many of our Special Ministers of the Eucharist who take Holy Communion to our Sick and Housebound. It became clear that assistance in this important parish ministry would be much appreciated. If you are Special Minister but are not taking Holy Communion to our Sick and Housebound but you would like to do so, please contact Fr Chris or Pauline Rogers.

### Vinnies Memory Tree (SVP)

Giving to the Vinnies Memory Tree at Christmas is a wonderful way of remembering a loved one's life. Please see poster on display on the notice board for details. Giving in memory of a loved one at Christmas is a wonderful way of remembering their life. Every donation made allows the SVP to be able to provide much needed help and support to those who are homeless, vulnerable, isolated or finding themselves in a time of need. If you would like to make a donation and add a memory heart to the SVP Christmas tree. Please contact [emmab@svp.org.uk](mailto:emmab@svp.org.uk) or call the reception team on 0191 2616027 (option 1).

### Live Simply Tip

This Christmas seek out plastic free Christmas crackers or consider making your own.  
 See: <https://how-to-make-plastic-free-christmas-crackers> for some ideas.

### MumSpace

MumSpace is continuing to grow and become more successful. We now have 110 mums that have attended the groups since it started. Mums hear about the group from local GP surgeries, Health visitors, Facebook and word of mouth. We continue to have support and build relationships with the local health authorities. We have started to run a DadSpace once a month which has reached 6 dads so far but I am sure with time it will continue to grow. We are still waiting to hear from Comic Relief for funding but have been informed we will hear by December if we have been successful. The groups are getting more popular, on average 25 mums attend each session with around 30 children so we need more volunteers as the groups grow. At the moment we have 6. Wendy O'Connell 079504267786

What's On in our Parish			
All are very welcome to participate in these activities			
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mercy Associates meet Monthly in the afternoon. More details to follow.</b> Prayer and practical compassionate support for those in need. <b>SVP meets fortnightly. More details to follow.</b> Putting concern into action. Visiting the sick and housebound and providing practical support for those in need in our community.		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Mum's Space</b> <i>Parents and Children Together</i>	<b>1:30pm</b>	Church Hall at St. Cuthbert's
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Upstairs Room at St. Cuthbert's
	<b>Craft Class</b>	<b>1:30pm</b>	Upstairs Room at St. Cuthbert's
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>MumSpace</b> <i>Parents and Children Together</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Church Hall at St. Cuthbert's
	<b>Bible Study</b> <i>A study and discussion on Scripture for Masses the following weekend.</i>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Upstairs Room at St. Cuthbert's
<b>Friday</b>			
<b>Saturday</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Children's Liturgy of the Word</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Children to meet in the chapel before Mass
	<b>Coffee/Tea</b>	<b>After Mass</b>	Church Hall at St. Cuthbert's

Collections for 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - £678.91