

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

The maiden is with child.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No,’ Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

Responsorial Psalm (to be read by the whole congregation together)

Psalm 23

Response: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

1. The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,  
a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.


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

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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, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2019 – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – A		
Sunday, 29 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth - A		
	Masses, Devotions and Services	
	St Cuthbert’s Church	St Joseph’s Church
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December		4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5:30pm: Mass: Fatkin Family
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 4th Sunday of Advent - A	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	10:00am: Mass: Requiem Mass for Kath Lyons	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	7:30pm: Mass: Hymns & Reflection 8:00pm: First Mass of Christmas	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass: Paul Hull
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	11:00am: Mass:	9:30am: Mass: People of the Parish
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> December Feast of St Stephen		10.30am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 11:00am: Mass: Michael & Mary O’Grady
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> December St John the Evangelist	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass: Mr A Curran	
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> December Feast of Holy Innocents	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.30am: Mass: 10.00am Confessions	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5:30pm: Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December Feast of the Holy Family	11:00am: Mass:	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Word & Communion	
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass:
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January Feast of Mary Mother of God	10.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 11:00am: Mass:	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January		9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass:
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass:	
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00am: Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9:30am: Mass:	4:45-5:15pm: Confessions 5:30pm: Mass:
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany of the Lord	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish	

**THE HOLY FAMILY – YEAR A  
FIRST READING**

*He who fears the Lord respects his parents.*

The Lord honours the Father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Response: *O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!*

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| 1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord<br>and walk in his ways!<br>By the labour of your hands you shall eat.<br>You will be happy and prosper.. | 2. Your wife like a fruitful vine<br>in the heart of your house;<br>Your children like shoots of the olive,<br>around your table. |
| 3. Indeed thus shall be blessed<br>the man who fears the Lord.<br>May the Lord bless you from Zion<br>all the days of your life!                   |   |

**SECOND READING**

*Family life in the Lord*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in our hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as part of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

**Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;  
let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

*Take the child and his mother and escape into Egypt.*

After the wise men ha left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.” So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the profit. I called my son out of Egypt. After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.” So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled. He will be called a Nazarene.

**Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6 12-14**

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 all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries are at this time.

**A Saviour Has Been Born for You**

These are the words proclaimed by the angels to a group of people who were rejected and feared. In a passage of scripture that mentions the most powerful men in the world and in the region at the time, the Good news is proclaimed to people who society thought did not matter. The birth of Christ shows that the outreach of God has no limits. If the good news is for dirty, scruffy shepherds, it is for everyone. At a time of transition and uncertainty for our nation, my prayer is that you know the outreach of God who enfolds you into his life and love and that this divine enfolding will be reflected in all that you do and say. At a time of family celebration may the peace, joy, hope and love revealed in the Incarnation and Epiphany of the Lord will be known by you and all that you love.

My personal thanks to all the Christmas wishes, cards and kind gifts from parishioners. Your kindness is much appreciated. Prayers and very best wishes for Christmas 2019

**Reception and Requiem Mass for Kath Lyons**

The Reception of the late Kath Lyons will take place at St Cuthbert's on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 4pm. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Cuthbert's at 10.00am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 10.00am

**Meeting of Catechists**

Please note that there will be a meeting for all catechists in the parish on January 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm at St Cuthbert's. This will be an opportunity to share ideas, good practice and any queries

**Parish Council Elections**

A reminder that from 2020 there will be 6 vacancies for the Parish Council. Nominations will be open to Sunday 12 January. We hope to have all parish groups represented on the council

**A Note of Thanks**

Anne O' Flanagan on behalf of herself and her family would like to express her heartfelt thanks for all the support, condolences and prayers they have received. Parishioners attendance at Walter's Requiem Mass was also greatly valued. Such kindness is very much appreciated at this time of loss.

**Collection for 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - £732.69**

**Live Simply**

As we celebrate Christmas perhaps we could support a homeless charity or purchase the Big Issue or donate to a foodbank

**Revised Diocesan Academy Policy**

The Diocesan Academy Policy has been revised with the aim that our diocesan schools will become academies within one of four Diocesan education trusts by July 2022. Underpinning the Diocesan Academy Policy is the desire and need to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle so that it is fit for the mission of the Church. There are 156 schools in our diocese educating 53,600 children. 45 of our schools are currently academies. The implementation of this policy will happen in two stages:

- Stage 1 consolidation of existing academies and trusts into one base trust  
Stage 2: conversion of voluntary aided schools to academy status within their regional trust

Whenever voluntary aided schools convert to academy status, they will join their single regional trust as equal partners with all schools within the trust. All schools in the region will be included in the process from the outset. In establishing these trust structures and having a single system in our Diocese, we aim to ensure that the children and young people in our schools will continue to receive the very best educational opportunities and life fulfilling experiences, within communities which have the teachings of Christ and his Church at the very centre. A Catholic trust model where every school has its place will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in a rapidly changing environment. It will ensure that the uniqueness of each individual school is celebrated and the unique contribution of each is recognised and appreciated. In order for this policy to be fulfilled, the Bishop expects all schools to continue to work together as a Diocesan family for the good of Catholic education in our Diocese. Through the trust structures the aim is to facilitate greater sharing, adding strength and capacity to our system and ensuring that all schools are supported and included. In this way we will better fulfil the mission of Catholic education within the Church.

**Advent in Parish, Partnership and Diocese**

**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

**Candles for Loved Ones**

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

**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