

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A, 21st & 22nd December 2019

The Cycle of Prayer

Advent and Christmas

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: **Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; expectant Mothers.**

The gospel reading for the last Sunday of Advent focuses on St Joseph. Joseph was a man of commitment. He truly loved Mary, and would not subject her to a demeaning public divorce process and was ready to do this quietly. He listened to and was reassured by God making him totally committed to Mary and Jesus. In amongst all the glitter and Christmas lights surrounding us we need to protect the truth of Christmas. Joseph, as the protector of the Holy Family, reminds us of the spiritual meaning of Christmas, that it is about Jesus Christ. So for us, Christmas is not just a beautiful story that warms our heart, it's about a solid fact that can save our soul.

Deacon Terry

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2019

DATE	CELEBRATION	CHURCH
Saturday, 21 December	Nuptial Mass – Kate Lowes & Mark Gibbins	St Edward's, Whitley Bay, 3.00pm
Fourth Sunday of Advent, 22 December	Parish Carol Service	Our Lady's & St Edmund's, Backworth, 4.00pm
Tuesday, 24 December	Christmas Eve - Carols & Masses	St Edward's, Whitley Bay, 5.30pm Immaculate Heart, West Monkseaton, 7.30pm
Wednesday, 25 December	Christmas Day Masses	Our Lady's & St Edmund's, Backworth, 9.30am St Edward's, Whitley Bay, 11.00am
Tuesday, 31 December	New Year's Eve Mass	St Edward's, 9.30am
New Year's Day, 1 January 2020	Parish Mass & Shared New Year Lunch	Immaculate Heart, West Monkseaton, 12.00 Noon

RECENTLY DECEASED

- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fred Robson who died on 7th December aged 89 years. His Funeral Service will take place at 12.00 Noon on 31st December in St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay, followed by committal at Whitley Bay Crematorium. May he rest in peace. Amen.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to MARK GIBBINS & KATE LOWES who are to be married on the 21st December at St Edward's Church at 3.00pm.

ST CUTHBERT'S CARE—RED VAN

This Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the above. "Over the last two years the Red Van has delivered thousands of food parcels, good quality clothing and toys to some of the most needy families and individuals in our Diocese. Your Advent Alms will help us to keep this essential service on the road. Thank you." Moira Ashman of St Cuthbert's Care

WALKING GROUP

Our next walk is on Friday 3rd January. All meet at West Monkseaton Metro Station at 9.30am to travel to Hadrian Rd. We will walk through Burns Close and pass Holy Cross, under the Coast Rd and into the Rising Sun Country Park, across the Metro line into Forest Hall and across Killingworth Moor to Holystone and return via Northumberland Park Metro. If you require more information please contact Peter Weighill on 2512917.

OUR LADY'S & ST EDMUND'S CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA

We would like to thank all the generous people in the parish who have given lots of wonderful prizes for Our Lady's & St Edmund's Christmas Tombola which will be held after Mass on Sunday 22nd December. Please stay after Mass or join us to enjoy the Tombola surprises, refreshments and a chat in aid of our charity, International Refugee Trust.

BEREAVEMENT DROP-IN COFFEE MORNINGS

There is a 'drop-in' Coffee Morning on the first Friday of each month in the meeting room in St Edward's presbytery from 11.00 till 12.30, open to anyone who has suffered a bereavement (not necessarily recently) and feels that it would help to talk to someone. The next Coffee Morning will be on *Friday 3rd January*.

DRIVING FOR DIOCESAN OR PARISH ACTIVITIES

All parishes have received guidance notes from the Diocesan Health & Safety Advisor for parish volunteers who drive their personal vehicle to carry out volunteer duties for the parish. The Diocese does not hold any motor insurance for employees or volunteers and it relies upon your personal motor insurance policy providing sufficient cover in the case of an accident. Copies of the guidance notes and declaration forms have been placed at the back of each church.

Please take the time to take a copy of the guidance notes and declaration form and read them carefully. Remember that it is vital that your motor insurance policy covers you for ALL your driving activities. Finally, please hand completed declaration forms in at the Parish Office or hand to any member of your Church Council. Thank you.

PRAYER GROUP & COMPLINE

Both Prayer Group and Compline are taking a Christmas break. Prayer Group will resume on the 8th January and Compline on the 9th January.

PARISH MONDAY CLUB

After a lot of deliberation and with acceptance of dwindling attendance, it has been agreed that the Monday Club will cease in its present format. There will be no speakers organised for the foreseeable future but from January 13th 2020 tea, coffee, cake and conversation will always be on offer between 10.00 and 11.00 on Monday mornings and everyone is very welcome.

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR

The new edition for 2020 is now on sale. 'Ringbound' copies are £3.50 and 'Flat' copies are £3.00.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Please don't forget to save the stamps from your Christmas Cards. These used stamps are collected at the back of each church for St. Joseph's Care Home and their sale raises useful funds for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

STAR OF THE SEA NURSERY PLACES

The Star of the Sea Primary School currently has places available in the morning and afternoon sessions in their Nursery. If you would like further information about applying for a place, please contact the school office on 0191 6432080.

OTHER NOTICES

THANK YOU, ASTRID

Astrid Hymers has decided it's time to put down her pen. Every month for over twenty years she has contributed our parish news items to Church Views, the inter-church magazine covering the churches in Earsdon, Monkseaton and Backworth. That is quite an undertaking, so a very big thank you, Astrid, for your unflagging commitment.

Contact email addresses, numbers and website:

Monsignor Andrew Faley (St. Edward)	stedwardsne26@btconnect.com	(0191) 2528021
Star of the Sea Primary School	starofthesea.primary@ntlp.org.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 if you have an enquiry (number below).

Parish Office opening hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am - 1.00pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.
For bulletin entries please contact the Parish Secretary - email parishofficecolss@btconnect.com or telephone 0191 2527066.
Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 10.00am on Thursdays.

MASS INTENTIONS & OTHER SERVICES			
DAY	ST EDWARD'S	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY	OUR LADY AND ST EDMUND'S
Saturday 21st December	9.30am Claire Campbell (MME) 10.00am CONFESSIONS 3.00pm Nuptial Mass Kate Lowes & Mark Gibbins	5.30pm - 5.50pm CONFESSIONS 6.00pm Agnes & Wilf Hall (MJ)	
Sunday 22nd December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	11.00am Monica & George Thrift (MT)		9.30am People of the Parish
Monday 23rd December ST JOHN OF KANTY	9.30am Mass Private Intention		
Tuesday 24th December	5.30pm Beatrice & Pat O'Shea (BO)	7.30pm Alec Stirton (M & CM)	
Wednesday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	11.00am Giovanni Arnone (MA)		9.30am People of the Parish
Thursday 26th December ST STEPHEN	9.30am Dipak Mukherjee (M & JR)		
Friday 27th December ST JOHN		9.30am Tony & Kathleen Woodward (SW)	
Saturday 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS	9.30am Carole Duffy (R & MK) 10.00am CONFESSIONS	5.30pm - 5.50pm CONFESSIONS 6.00pm People of the Parish	
Sunday 29th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	11.00am Mary Wardlaw (L & L)		9.30am Paul Thompson

BAPTISM	ST EDWARD'S
Sunday 29th December, 12.30pm (Deacon Terry)	Matilda Cunningham

Please remember in your prayers Terry Murphy, Nicola Burns, Kathryn Newton-Henderson, Margaret Ward, Fr Tom Cunningham, Margaret Donnelly and Sheila Godwin who are ill. Please also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently, especially Noel Bogie, Beatrice O'Shea, George Miller, Margaret Webber, Paul Thomson, Sari Handley, Vera Larkin and Fred Robson.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

North Tyneside General Hospital & Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, Cramlington: Contact Fr Stephen Watson on 07768 387393.

RVI, Freeman and Walkergate Hospitals: Contact Fr Arockia Mariadass Pagyasamy OCD, at St Teresa's, Heaton 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 the Parish Office: 0191 2527066.

READINGS AT MASS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 22nd December 2019

The Order of Mass is in the Laudate Hymn book from page 200.

First reading

Isaiah 7:10-1

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."'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23(24):1-6

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

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.

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

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

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 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.