

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A, 14th & 15th 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 third Sunday of Advent gives us a break from penitence, it is called Gaudete Sunday from the Latin for rejoice. However, it is not the sort of rejoicing which stirs within us some sort of emotional state of joy and happiness. It is the sort of joy that is more fully understood as serene, confident and stable. We do not have many passages from St James, the letter was written to the scattered Jewish communities around the Mediterranean and it has a message for us too. We are to be patient until the Lord comes. As the farmer waits patiently, so must we, not losing heart because the Lord's coming is near. After this week we move away from the story of John the Baptist and turn to focus on Mary and the birth of our Lord. The greatest love event that the world has ever known.

**Deacon Terry**

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2019**

DATE	CELEBRATION	CHURCH
Gaudete Sunday, 15 December	Partnership Advent Service	St Bernadette's, Wallsend, 4.30pm
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 Sari Handley who died on 1st December aged 84 years. Following a private cremation, Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 2.15pm in St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay, on 17th December. May she rest in peace. Amen.
- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vera Larkin who died on 4th December aged 86 years. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am in St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay, on 20th December, followed by interment at Whitley Bay Cemetery. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**THANKS FROM THE MILLER FAMILY**

Anna Miller and her family would like to thank Monsignor Andrew Faley for the beautiful Requiem Mass for George Miller. The day went well and friends from the bowling club were very impressed. Lovely feedback was received, especially from those who are non-Catholic. Also a thank you to the Parish family who continue to support Anna.

**HELP NEEDED**

Several people are needed to assemble and erect the Christmas tree at St Edward's Church. If you are able to assist on the afternoons of the 14th & 21st December, please message Freda Jack on 07982 258476.

### **PARISH MONDAY CLUB**

The Parish Monday Club will meet in the Parish Rooms at St Edward's on December 16th after the Service, when we welcome the return of Kath and Harry Gilbert who will tell us about: "Travels in an Antique Land" - their journey through Eastern Turkey. Their talks are always fascinating and everyone is very welcome to come and hear them.

### **JOURNEY OF FAITH**

The next meeting of the Journey of Faith takes place on Thursday 19th December at 7pm in St Edward's Parish Rooms. The topic is: Advent and the place of Mary, Mother of God. All are welcome.

### **WALKING GROUP**

Our next walk is on Thursday 19th December. Please meet at West Monkseaton Metro Station at 9.30am to travel to North Shields. We will walk past the Fish Quay and Tynemouth Castle to go north along the sea front to Whitley Bay and return via Monkseaton Drive which is a distance of 6 miles. If you require more information please contact Peter Weighill 2512917.

### **MARRIAGE**

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

### **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.

### **ST EDWARD'S JUSTICE & PEACE**

The coffee morning held on December 8th raised the grand total of £326.80. Many thanks to all who came and helped raise this wonderful sum.

### **CAKE STALL**

There will be a cake stall at both the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Saturday) and St Edwards Church (Sunday) after Mass this weekend to raise funds for Erin Caulfield for her HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes.

### **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.

### **OTHER NOTICES**

#### **ST. THOMAS MORE CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE**

You are all warmly invited to attend the Candlelit Carol Service taking place at St. Thomas More on Wednesday December 18th at 6pm. It will be an evening of readings, music and carols and is an opportunity to reflect on the journey of Advent in the light of Christmas. To give us some idea of numbers could you email: [mthompson@stmacademy.org.uk](mailto:mthompson@stmacademy.org.uk) if you would like to attend. Best wishes from Michael Thompson School Chaplain.

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

Monsignor Andrew Faley (St. Edward)	<a href="mailto:stedwardsne26@btconnect.com">stedwardsne26@btconnect.com</a>	(0191) 2528021
Star of the Sea Primary School	<a href="mailto:starofthesea.primary@ntlp.org.uk">starofthesea.primary@ntlp.org.uk</a>	(0191) 6432080
<b>Cluster Website</b>	<b><a href="http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk">www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk</a></b>	

**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 [parishofficeolss@btconnect.com](mailto:parishofficeolss@btconnect.com) or telephone 0191 2527066.  
Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 10.00am on Thursdays.

<b>MASS INTENTIONS &amp; OTHER SERVICES</b>			
<b>DAY</b>	<b>ST EDWARD'S</b>	<b>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY</b>	<b>OUR LADY AND ST EDMUND'S</b>
Saturday 14th December <b>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS</b>	9.30am Sheila Clapperton (LL) 10.00am <b>CONFESSIONS</b>	5.30pm - 5.50pm <b>CONFESSIONS</b> 6.00pm The Recently Deceased	
Sunday 15th December <b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	11.00am Mary Bridget Murphy (JB)		9.30am People of the Parish
Monday 16th December	9.30am Word & Communion	9.30am Word & Communion	
Tuesday 17th December	2.15pm Requiem Mass Sari Handley		
Wednesday 18th December	8.00pm Prayer Group	9.30am Patrick Timothy Sullivan (K & RY)	
Thursday 19th December	9.30am Wendy Jeffs (MS) 7.00pm Compline		
Friday 20th December	10.00am Requiem Mass Vera Larkin		
Saturday 21st December	9.30am Claire Campbell (MME) 10.00am <b>CONFESSIONS</b> 3.00pm Nuptial Mass Kate Lowes & Mark Gibbins	5.30pm - 5.50pm <b>CONFESSIONS</b> 6.00pm Agnes & Wilf Hall (MJ)	
Sunday 22nd December <b>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	11.00am Monica & George Thrift (MT)		9.30am People of the Parish

**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**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 15th December 2019**  
*The Order of Mass is in the Laudate Hymn book from page 200.*

**First reading**

**Isaiah 35:1-6,10**

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.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 145(146):6-10**

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

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

**Second Reading**

**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.

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**

**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 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.