

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C, 4TH & 5TH DECEMBER 2021

The Year of St Joseph, Father of the Church.

PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF IT OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: **Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.**

SUNDAY REFLECTION

The middle Sundays of Advent focus on John the Baptist whose main task is to prepare the way for Jesus. His message is one of repentance – the kingdom of God is close at hand, be alert and get ready. He was baptizing with water, but he states quite clearly that one is to follow who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Luke begins his story by naming the people in authority at the time but equally he teaches that no authority, civil or religious can prevent God's chosen one's from accomplishing God's will. Pope Francis has released his prayer intention for the month of December, and it is to invite everyone to pray for catechists, that they might "be its witnesses, of courage and creativity, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, carry out their ministry with joy and much peace."

Deacon Terry

DIOCESAN COVID CONTROLS – BISHOP ROBERT BYRNE

Bishop Byrne has issued the following statement. *As people begin returning to more regular patterns of parish life, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a statement about the importance of honouring Sunday. To facilitate this return to church I have taken both clergy and lay advice and offer some simple clarifications of our Diocesan COVID controls. These may allow our church capacities to increase, whilst still protecting the health of our clergy and congregations.*

Hand Sanitiser: use of hand sanitiser on entering and leaving church should continue.

Face coverings: all those attending church are recommended to wear a face covering unless they are exempt. Priests in the sanctuary, providing they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation, do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion.

Social Distancing and Capacity of Churches: it is now possible for each row of pews to be used providing that a minimum 1M spacing between households sitting in the same pew is maintained.

Cleaning: clean using commonly available cleaning materials. You should clean high frequency touch points in buildings after each act of worship, and thoroughly clean the church once a week.

Congregational Singing: indoor congregational singing can take place if face coverings are worn.

NHS Test and Trace: the Government encourages certain venues including places of worship to keep a record of those attending to support the NHS Test and Trace programme. This could be achieved by displaying an NHS QR code poster at the church entrance and exit. Consideration should also be given to using a separate signing-in system which is manageable for the parish.

Immunisation of Eucharistic Ministers: guidance has been requested on whether Eucharistic Ministers function if they have opted not to receive COVID vaccinations. People who are not vaccinated are at much greater risk of becoming infected with COVID and passing it on. The risk of transmission by touch or expelled breath is increased further because the Eucharistic Minister would be in close contact with communicants in church, the sick or housebound at home. Additionally, a sick communicant is much more likely to develop a more serious reaction to COVID if it were transmitted. Eucharistic Ministers who distribute Holy Communion in church or to the sick and housebound must only do so if they have received the COVID vaccinations.

I would request that there be no further relaxation of the controls outlined above at this time. These arrangements will be reviewed again at the beginning of February. An update of the Diocesan Risk Assessment, Handbook, FAQ's and Cleaning Protocol is available on the diocesan website.

TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION – PARTICIPATION – MISSION

In his October pastoral letter, Bishop Robert announced our part as a Diocese in the Synod called by Pope Francis. The core questions Pope Francis asks of us are: 'How do we journey together as a local church?', and 'What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?' These are good questions to reflect on as we emerge as a Church from the Pandemic. For guidance, we are offered from Rome some questions which the Diocese has printed in a leaflet, framed within the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus from St Luke's Gospel. There is a lot to consider, so we need time to prayerfully reflect on them. The leaflet is available for you to take home. You are asked to reflect on the

questions during Advent and Christmas, and a gathering for reflection for parishioners from across the Partnership will take place at St Cuthbert's, North Shields, on Saturday, 29 January 2022. More details to follow.

STORM DAMAGE TO PARISH PROPERTY

Unfortunately, substantial damage has been done to the roofs at St Edward's Church and Presbytery, and less damage at Immaculate Heart and Our Lady's & St Edmund's. Repairs are being processed through the Parish's property insurance.

DIOCESAN YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST & SYNOD

Resources and points for reflection on the Year of the Eucharist and the Synod are available on the new diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk>.

CHRISTMAS OCTAVE MASSES 25 DECEMBER 2021 – 1 JANUARY 2022

Covid-19 regulations mean that numbers attending this year's Christmas Masses will be limited to 90 at St Edward's Church and 86 at Immaculate Heart Church. You must phone to reserve places for the Masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and on Sunday, 26 December. Please phone **07340 169249**. Bookings available on 20 and 21 December between 10.00am and 12.00 Noon, 2.00pm and 4.00pm and 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Texts will not be accepted.

Christmas Eve Masses: 5.30pm - St Edward's Church and 7.30pm - Immaculate Heart Church.

Christmas Day Masses: 9.30am - Immaculate Heart Church and 11.00am - St Edward's Church. Sunday,

26 December: 10.00am - St Edward's Church.

Once the capacity of the church has been reached, people will not be able to enter. Instead of attending Mass on Christmas Day, come to Christmas Mass during the days of the Christmas Octave until 1 January. Stewards who are present are asked to cover the Christmas Octave Masses which are not on the rota.

RECENTLY DECEASED

- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Dalby of Carolyn Way, Whitley Bay, who died on 29 October aged 96 years. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am at St Edward's Church, on 8 December 2021. May she rest in peace. Amen.

FOOD BANK

It's the final week of our Reverse Advent Calendar. Instead of opening a door on your Advent Calendar and receiving a chocolate each day, we are encouraging everyone to support the food bank by giving a small item each day. They can be brought, as usual, on a Monday morning to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and will then be taken to the foodbank. For inspiration, I have suggested what you might contribute each week. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Merry Christmas Everyone!
Tinned Rice	Tooth Brush	Microwave Rice	Juice	

RESTORATION – CHURCH ITEMS

Restoration work is being carried out on the six large brass candlesticks, the sanctuary bell and the thurible at St Edward's Church. These items belong to the legacy of our Parish and deserve to be preserved for the future. This work is due to the generous donations of deceased parishioners - may they rest in peace. Amen.

AN INVITATION TO SINGERS

Parishioners who like to sing are invited to join a singing group for hymns at our weekly vigil mass at Immaculate Heart church. Weekly practice will follow Friday morning mass and for those unable to attend, there will be another opportunity at 5 o'clock on Saturday to precede the mass itself. All are welcome.

OTHER NOTICES

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The Vicariate for Faith and Mission has produced a set of booklets of Advent reflections, one for each week of Advent. The Seasonal Reflections page on the diocesan website can be found here: https://diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer/#seasonal*. As we prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and their relevance to our daily Christian living. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community. Kindest regards and thank you for your help in spreading the Good News!

Contact email addresses, numbers and website:

Monsignor Andrew Faley	stedwardsne26@btconnect.com	0191 2528021
Star of the Sea Primary School	starofthesea.primary@ntl.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 in our Parish. Telephone the number below if you have an enquiry.

Current Parish Office opening hours: Wednesday & Thursday, 9.15am - 4pm and Friday 9.15am - 2pm, 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 3.00pm on Wednesday.

MASSES & OTHER SERVICES	
DAY & DATE	CHURCH
Saturday 4th December	IMMACULATE HEART 6pm People of the Parish
Sunday 5th December 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	ST EDWARD'S 10.00am Janet Fawcett (EF)
Monday 6th December	No Mass
Tuesday 7th December ST AMBROSE	ST EDWARD'S 9.30am Judy Ashton (LA)
Wednesday 8th December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PATRON OF THE DIOCESE	ST EDWARD'S 10am - Requiem Mass Mary Dalby
Thursday 9th December	ST EDWARD'S 9.30am Eric, Helen, Vivienne & Tony Riley (EW)
Friday 10th December	IMMACULATE HEART 9.30am Giovanni Arnone (MA)
Saturday 11th December	IMMACULATE HEART 6pm Kathleen & Joseph Harbottle & Anthony (Tony) (KC)
Sunday 12th December 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	ST EDWARD'S 10.00am People of the Parish

BAPTISM	ST EDWARD'S
Sunday 5th December 11.30am (Deacon Terry)	Harriet Thornton Hodges

Please remember in your prayers:

Nicola Burns, Mary Woodman, Clifford Browne, Christopher Browne, Kathryn Newton-Henderson, Layton Jay Newton, David Johnson, Ann Stroud, Eileen Scott and Win Foley who are ill. Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for those who have died recently, especially Ray Blackburn, Michael Wilson, Damian MacAndrews, Sylvia Begg, Albert Whiting and Mary Dalby. May they rest in peace. Amen.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At these words, all bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

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

RVI, Freeman and Walkergate Hospitals: Contact Fr Arockia Mariadass Pagyasamy OCD, at English Martyrs, Newcastle on 0191 2733903. **Newcastle General Hospital:** Sister Teresa, 0191 2336161 ext. 28465.

PRIESTS' TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Mgr Andrew Faley 0191 2528021, Canon Martin Stempczyk 0191 2513770, Fr Chris Hughes 0191 2575801, Fr David Smith 0191 2623882. Deacon Terry McGann - contact via the Parish Office: 0191 2527066.

READINGS AT MASS
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C, 4TH & 5TH DECEMBER 2021

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125(126)

We say the Psalm together

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| 1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. | 2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. |
| 3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. | 4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. |

Second Reading

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**