

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY, YEAR C, 11TH & 12TH 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 Christmas we are asked to pray for these intentions: **Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.**

**SUNDAY REFLECTION**

John the Baptist calls the people to repentance, he says that with a clean sheet they can prepare a way for the Lord. Although bringing Good News, he is not very encouraged by their response, however they continue to come and eventually say to him 'What shall we do?' He gives out instructions to everyone to repent and believe the good news, even to tax collectors who were not welcome by society because they had paid for the privilege to collect the taxes. His message is so powerful that the people begin to wonder if he is the promised messiah. John clearly denies this possibility. As Christmas approaches we are left considering what will it be like, will festivities be overshadowed by the pandemic? Our Lord says, through the prophet 'do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love' It is his message to us this Christmas.

**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 in 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:** use commonly available cleaning materials. 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 places of worship to keep a record of those attending to support the NHS Test and Trace. Display an NHS QR code poster at the church entrance and exit. Use 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. Further information is available on the diocesan website.*

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Florence Lipinski of St Lucia Close, Whitley Lodge, who died on 6 December aged 98 years. Requiem Mass will take place at 10.30am on 22 December at St Edward's Church, followed by committal at West Road Crematorium, Newcastle. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**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. We need time to prayerfully reflect on them. The leaflet is available to take home. Please reflect on the questions during Advent and Christmas. 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.

#### **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.

#### **WEEKEND MASSES**

Parishioners are still required to book places for weekend mass. Please phone **07340 169249** on Thursdays only, 10.00am - 12.00 Noon or 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

#### **FOOD BANK**

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken part in the reverse Advent calendar over the last four weeks. Your contributions represent the true spirit of Christmas and mean a huge amount to people in need and help them see that there are caring people in the world who want to help. This week we would be grateful for long life milk, soup, toilet rolls and sweet snacks - chocolate etc. Thank you again.

#### **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY – THANKS FROM MISSIO**

Thank you very much for the gift of £210.87 received from your Parish. You and your parishioners are helping to create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future through prayers and financial support. With sincere good wishes, Fr Anthony Chantry, Missio National Director.

#### **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 5pm on Saturday to precede the mass itself. All are welcome.

#### **SVP LOTTERY**

SVP Lottery: subscriptions of £12 for the year are now due. Please ring Rena Rowe on 0191 2522761. New subscribers are most welcome. Thank you, Pat Shinn.

#### **OTHER NOTICES**

#### **ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission has produced a set of booklets of Advent weekly reflections. 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 these will foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and their relevance to our daily lives. The reflections are written by a clergy and lay people to express the richness and variety of our Diocese.

#### **ST CUTHBERT'S CARE - ADVENT ALMS 2021**

This Advent, we ask you to consider supporting St Cuthbert's Care. Our charity provides frontline registered care services for people with complex disabilities, residential homes and fostering for young people and two Catholic nursing homes for older people. Your support is precious to us and helps us to continue to provide outstanding care and peace of mind to families. Thank you so much. Moira Ashman CEO.

#### **ORGAN RECITAL**

Peter Locke will give an Organ Recital at the Cathedral Church of Saint Nicholas, in Newcastle, on Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup> December, at 1.05pm. The recital will have an Advent and Christmas theme, and will feature music inspired by the Gregorian Chant of the Church.

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

Monsignor Andrew Faley	<a href="mailto:stedwardsne26@btconnect.com">stedwardsne26@btconnect.com</a>	0191 2528021
Star of the Sea Primary School	<a href="mailto:starofthesea.primary@ntl.org.uk">starofthesea.primary@ntl.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 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](mailto:parishofficeolss@btconnect.com) or telephone 0191 2527066. Items for inclusion in the bulletin should be received by 3.00pm on Wednesday.**

<b>MASSES &amp; OTHER SERVICES</b>	
<b>DAY &amp; DATE</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
Saturday 11th December	<b>IMMACULATE HEART</b> 6pm Kathleen & Joseph Harbottle & Anthony (Tony) (KC)
Sunday 12th December <b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>ST EDWARD'S</b> 10.00am People of the Parish
Monday 13th December <b>ST LUCY</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
Tuesday 14th December <b>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS</b>	<b>ST EDWARD'S</b> 9.30am Sheila Clapperton (Sr. MF)
Wednesday 15th December	<b>IMMACULATE HEART</b> 9.30am Michael Wilson
Thursday 16th December	<b>ST EDWARD'S</b> 9.30am Lily & Albert Riley (EW)
Friday 17th December	<b>IMMACULATE HEART</b> 9.30am Marian Dynes (AW)
Saturday 18th December	<b>IMMACULATE HEART</b> 6pm People of the Parish
Sunday 19th December <b>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>ST EDWARD'S</b> 10.00am Mary MacAndrews (DM)

**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.

**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, Mary Dalby and Florence Lipinski. May they rest in peace. 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

### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY, YEAR C, 11TH & 12TH DECEMBER 2021

#### First Reading

**Zephaniah 3:14-18**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Isaiah 12**

#### *We say the Psalm together*

1. Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds;  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

#### Second Reading

**Philippians 4:4-7**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.  
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

**Luke 3:10-18**

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**