

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C, 18TH & 19TH DECEMBER 2021

DIOCESAN YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

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

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we focus on Mary as she prepares to give birth to her Son. We know that God's wisdom is very different to ours, he shows himself not through the strong but in the weak and marginalised. Luke's gospel has the story of the visitation. With her special news Mary goes to visit Elizabeth and is surprised to find that she is also to give birth. John the Baptist recognises Jesus immediately and gives his mother a sharp kick as she approaches. Though many of us are tired and weary of the situation we are in, it is in these situations that God shows himself to be very close to us. Perhaps we cannot celebrate in the same way this Christmas but we believe this; the birth of Christ represents the greatest gift given to man. So despite being socially distanced, let us be joyful with people and say a few words to their children who are clearly excited. Our Lord and Christ is coming. Have a great Christmas. God Bless.

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 there is at a minimum 1M spacing between households in the same pew.

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. The NHS QR code poster is 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 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 all very much for your generosity this year. We will resume food bank collections on Monday January 3rd 2022. I hope you all have a happy and holy Christmas and a joyous New Year.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR DEPAUL UK YOUNG PEOPLE

Once again, your generosity has meant that, in collaboration with other Whitley Bay churches, 100 Christmas gift bags were assembled for the young clients of DePaul UK. Huge thanks to all who donated or helped in any way.

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.

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/liturg-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 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 20th 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	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 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 parishoffice@ntlp.org.uk 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 18th December	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 6pm People of the Parish
Sunday 19th December 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am Mary MacAndrews (DM)
Monday 20th December	No Mass
Tuesday 21st December	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Cyril Wilson (AW)
Wednesday 22nd December	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.30am Requiem Mass Florence Lipinski
Thursday 23rd December	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Mary Patricia Rumney (GR)
Friday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 5.30pm Estelita Marciano (PS) IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 7.30pm Dorothy Osbourne (AW)
Saturday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am The Gallagher Family (TM) ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 11.00am Georgina 'Ursula' Quinn (MQ)
Sunday 26th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am People of the Parish
BAPTISM	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH
Sunday 2nd January 11.30am (Father Andrew)	Oliver James Leggett

Please remember in your prayers:

Nicola Burns, Mary Woodman, Clifford Browne, Christopher Browne, 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.

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
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C, 18TH & 19TH DECEMBER 2021

First Reading

Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

We say the Psalm together

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: *You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'* Notice that he says first: *You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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