

**MASS READINGS
SUNDAY – 2nd DECEMBER**

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (Year C)

FIRST READING

Samuel is made over to the Lord for the whole of his life.

Samuel 1:20-22. 2-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel “since” she said “I asked the Lord for him. When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, “not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.”

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three- year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child’s mother came to Eli. She said, “If you please, my Lord. As you live, my Lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.” There she left him for the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Psalm 83

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| <p>1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.</p> <p>3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.</p> | <p>2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
They walk with every growing strength.</p> |
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SECOND READING

We are called God’s children: and that is what we are.

John 3:1-2, 21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, and therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall all be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God’s presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these; that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We now that he lives in use by the Spirit that he has given us.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOPEL

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.

Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day’s journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions and all those who heard him were astounded at this intelligence and his replied. They were overcome when they saw him and his mother said to him. “My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.” “Why were you looking for me?” he replied, “Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father’s affairs?” But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority, His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church
*Albion Road West
North Shields*

Tynemouth Priory Partnership



Saint Joseph Catholic Church
*Wallsend Road
North Shields*

Father Christopher Hughes, St Joseph’s Church, Wallsend Road, Chirton, North Shields, NE29 7AA

☎ (Tel) 0191 257 5801 / ☎ (Fax) 0191 259 2589

✉ (Email) northshields.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Mrs Katherine Main - Tuesday-Friday 9.00am-1.00pm

Tel: 07506 176996

Email: northshields.stcuthbert@rcdhn.org.uk

Parish website information at: <http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk>

We are three Roman Catholic Parishes in the eastern half of the borough of North Tyneside, within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Our website gives an overview of our three parishes and seven churches, as well as mass times, and details of parish ministries and groups.

Partnership Telephone Numbers

Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021

Father Martin Stempczyk ☎ 0191 251 3770

St Cuthbert’s Church ☎ 0191 257 3408

Partnership Telephone Numbers

Father David Smith ☎ 0191 262 3882

Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr Paul Jenkins ☎ 01670 712476

Deacon: Rev Stephen Boulter: ☎ 07816077858

25th/26th December 2021 – Christmas Day & Feast of the Holy Family - C

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert’s Church	St Joseph’s Church
Saturday 25th December Christmas Day	11:00am: Mass: Ron Boulton Live streamed	9:30am: Mass The O’Kane Family No Vigil Mass
Sunday 26th December Feast of the Holy Family	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish Live streamed	9:30am: Mass: In thanksgiving
Monday 27th December	No Mass	
Tuesday 28th December		9:30am: Mass: Raymond Howe
Wednesday 29th December	9:30am: Mass Diamond Wedding of Stan and Maureen Storer	
Thursday 30th December	No Mass	
Friday 31st December		7.00pm: Mass: Vincent Donohoe
Saturday 1st January Feast of Mary Mother of God	11:00am: Mass: Rosemary & Tom Rice	5:30pm: Mass People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd January 2nd Sunday after Christmas	11:00am: Mass: Patrick Quinn Live streamed	

The Parish of St Cuthbert’s and St Joseph’s, North Shields

What’sApp group: text your name & number to 07752009361 to be added to ***StCuthStJosNshields*** Group

Facebook: search - - The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields.

Website: www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk

Parish office: 0191 257 3408

Prayer List

Prayer Intentions for Advent and Christmas: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers and the Homeless.

We pray for all who are sick, including Patricia Conlon, Ros McGann, Gary James, Gerry Thirsk, Tom Wright, Mary Wood, Sarah Harrison, Scott Oakley, Pat Skelly, Jean Slater, Frank Whillis, Barbara & Tony Hicks 'Baby Stevie Dawn Roadment', Jim Campbell, Richard Sutherland, Irene Keenaghan, Eileen Stevens, Paula More, Tony Cocalis, John and Ann Smiles

Please pray for Fr Peter Smith, Fr Kevin Daley, Fr Richard Harriott and all those who have died recently, and also for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Feast of the Holy Family

Bishop Robert has given us a pastoral letter for this Feast Day. We give thanks for our families and acknowledge that in the Christ event we are all now Children in God's family

Baptism

This Sunday we have the baptism at St Joseph's at 1pm of Jack Pinckney. We pray for Jack, his parent and wider family as he is united with Christ on this special feast of the Holy family

Mercy Associates Christmas Parcel Appeal

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our Christmas Parcel appeal. The parcels were made up and taken into St Joseph's School for distribution on Tuesday December 7th. The school and the Mercy Associates greatly appreciate your support and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Job Available

A family in the parish are looking to appoint the right candidate with immediate effect, ideally for someone who has experience with vascular dementia and experience of caring for those in their 80's! Duties to include: light housework, meal preparation, shopping, companionship and some personal care duties. Excellent rates of hourly pay, for approximately 16 hours per week. For further information please contact: 07547 391 643

The Past Year

As we approach the end of 2021, I would also like to thank you all for your work, prayer and contributions to the parish. Much goes on often behind the scenes to keep the parish going, along with the added challenge of keeping us all safe from Covid. I appreciate that the hoped-for normality of pre covid life has not returned. It has been inspiring to witness the worship life of the parish gradually increase so much so that often at the weekend we are near our capacity to keep us safe. I also appreciate that not being able to re-open the social spaces has been a stumbling block in rebuilding our community. Sadly, but understandably, the Bishop has announced that of 17th December halls must not be used for social gatherings till further notice.

Acknowledging the challenges and the limited opportunities, Sacraments such as Confession, First Holy Communions, Weddings, Baptisms along with the preparation for these sacraments, especially in the RCIA Programmes have been re-started in the coming year. I am very grateful for all the hard work from catechist and stewards who have enabled this to happen.

I am also grateful for the witness of the parish to wider community. There is the support of the sick, housebound and bereaved. The Pastoral group has developed with people training in listening skills and a useful session was offered in dealing with stress which will be repeated in a few weeks' time. There are also exciting plans to make the grounds at St. Cuthbert's more accessible for quiet and contemplation and more friendlier to the environment. There has been your support of Nite-Bite, New to the UK, the Diocesan Mercy and Refugee projects with parishioners being willing to volunteer at these projects as well as your generous donations.

The parish has joined Tyne and Wear Citizens with five parishioners taking part in training and the successful campaign to improve the Alexander Scott Park on Coach Lane. Next year we will be tackling the problem of dog muck around St Cuthbert's school. There is also the national campaign of Tyne and Wear Citizens to ensure all our health and care workers are paid the real National Living Wage, which I think will be applicable to some of our parishioners. We also hope that in 2022 a refugee family will take up residence in the presbytery as part of the Government Resettlement Programme. We have also engaged with listening to each other as part of Tyne and Wear Citizens and the Synodal process. Please, please keep talking and listening! It is so important. We have taking part in the Diocesan Holy Year of the Eucharist and I am pleased that Exposition has been re-introduced on a Tuesday and Wednesday morning before Mass.

I am also conscious that we have lost some inspiring and much-loved parishioners. I will not mention any names but I am sure many of you are conscious that there are empty spaces in our pews that were filled by faith filled and prayerful people. They are much missed! We remember them and their families.

So, despite the challenges I hope you can see glimpses of grace as we reflect on the past year. I hope you also sense in looking back at the past 12 months there have been blessings to our community I would like to wish you every joy and blessing for 2022. Let's see what it brings but may we know the Presence of the Word Made Flesh so we can to quote the prayer, accept the things we cannot change, to change what we can and have the wisdom to know the difference,

On personal note, I greatly appreciated your concern and prayers for my mum, my sister after her accident and for myself after my mishap. Jo has made great progress though my mum is showing signs of increased fragility. I am very grateful to the parish for the care, support and encouragement given after my accident. The recovery process has been a slog but my consultant said I am doing fantastically well. As the hymn says, 'When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there?' You certainly were! Thank-you. I am also grateful for your kind gifts and cards over the Christmas period. Your kindness is most touching.

With love, prayers and best wishes,
Fr Chris

Diamond Wedding Celebrations

Very warm and sincere congratulations to Patricia and Joseph Saint who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on December 23rd and also to Stan and Maureen Storer who celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 29th December

Christmas Celebrations in the Parish after Christmas Day

Sunday 26th December - Feast of the Holy Family

9.30am St Joseph's

11.00am St Cuthbert's

Saturday January 1st - New Year's Day

11.00am St Cuthbert's - Mass for the Feast of the Mother of God

5.30pm St Joseph's - Vigil Mass for the 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Sunday 2nd January

11.00am St Cuthbert's 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Thursday 6th January - Feast of the Epiphany

9.30am St Joseph's

7.00pm St Cuthbert's

Saturday 8th January

5.30pm St Joseph's - Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Sunday 9th January

11.00am St Cuthbert's - Sunday Mass for the

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Weekday Masses will be as normal during this period

CAFOD and Disasters Emergency Committee Afghanistan Appeal

CAFOD have announced that they are working with the Disasters Emergency Committee with AN appeal for the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

There will be a retiring collection for the rest of Advent and Christmas for this important appeal. You can also donate at: <https://cafod.org.uk/donations/picker?singleamount=25®ularamount=&defaultuniversaltype=single&Appeal=124814>

Christmas Carol Service

Sincere thanks to all contributed to the Christmas Carol Service at St Joseph's on Sunday 19th December. My thanks to the music group at St Joseph's for preparing the service.

Northern Cross

Paper copies of the Diocesan Newspaper are now available at the back of church. Cost is £1.50.

Northern Catholic Calendar

The Northern Catholic Calendar for 2022 is now available at the back of Church. Ring-bound £3.50 Flat £3.00.

Synodal Process

My thanks for those who stayed behind to make their comments last week. Here are some of the key points that came from the discussion

Inclusivity and Equality are seen to be major parts of modern culture, but it is not reflected in the Church. A welcoming and open Church is essential that must be engage with all spectrums of what it means to be human such as gender, race, social background and sexuality To a culture that has little understand of the Catholic tradition we need to communicate in a way that will be relevant to people outside the Church. The front image of the new Diocesan Website of the Bishop leading Benediction was offered as an example as an image that would have little resonance with people beyond the Church or even to many within it.

There needs to be genuine dialogue between laity and clergy about a mutual understanding of Evangelising and Mission. It was expressed that much evangelising does not do justice to the richness and diversity of our tradition. Two examples of aspects that could be brought to people's attention is the richness and diversity of spirituality especially coming from Religious Orders such as the Carmelites, Franciscans, Jesuits and Benedictines and also the depth and breadth of Catholic Social Teaching. There is also the need to constantly engage with an everchanging and diverse culture. The reflection and questions based on the Road to Emmaus story did little to address the major need for changing structures faced with fewer priests and younger priests having more traditional perspectives than many of the people they serve. A Church that really allowed the laity to be part of the decision-making process of the Church is needed.

It was also expressed that within the parish would like to see more communal events and gatherings as was the case before the pandemic.

Parish Council

There are four vacancies in the parish council. Please let me know if you would like to be nominated for the council or there is someone you would like to nominate. I want the council to reflect the broad diversity of the parish.

Charity Shop

I am very grateful to all the work carried out in the Trinity Charity Shop on Wallsend Road by our volunteers on a Thursday. More volunteers are needed especially between 1-3pm. Please let me know if you are interested.

First Holy Communions

At a meeting with teachers and catechists it was decided that starting in the new year there will be a shortened programme with four First Communion Liturgies within Mass between February and May. We will not have one big Mass but perhaps up to three events if needed. These will take place in June.

There will be an initial meeting via zoom on Tuesday 18th January at 7.00pm. If your child is in year four or above and does not attend either St Cuthbert's or St Joseph's School, please let me know

Would you like someone to talk to?

A trained listener is available who can offer a confidential listening service to anyone who needs a listening ear. This could include issues such as loss, anxiety, loneliness or any other matters of concern. An initial phone call can be made with the option of meeting one to one or continuing on the telephone.

Please contact Fr Chris or email, leaving your name and contact details and a listener will get in touch.

'Being listened to and heard is one of the greatest desires of the human heart'

Rosary group

When two or three are gathered in my name..."All welcome to join a small group of parishioners praying the Rosary each week over Zoom.

Day: Thursday - Time: 7:30pm

For more information contact Nestah Masiwa at: nehmasiwa@yahoo.com or Ruth Corless on 07752009361.