

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A, 17TH & 18TH DECEMBER 2022

The Cycle of Prayer

Advent and Christmas

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

BISHOP ROBERT BYRNE – RESIGNATION

In today's Pastoral Letter, Bishop Robert writes: *I have concluded that the office of the Diocesan Bishop has become too great a burden and I feel I must resign from my position as your Bishop. Having undertaken this discernment process, and with due consultation with others, I indicated my wish to resign to the Holy Father and he has graciously accepted my request. Since my arrival in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, I have received many graces. These have included the considerable kindnesses, care, and support of so many of you. I am and will remain deeply grateful to you all for that support and the care which you have provided to me. I ask for your continued prayers and provide you with an assurance of a remembrance in my own prayers.*

We assure Bishop Robert of our prayers and best wishes for his future as he returns to his Oratorian Community in Oxford. We also pray for Archbishop Malcolm McMahon who is now the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese.

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH - MASS LIVE-STREAMING

We are delighted that live-streaming has been installed in St Edward's Church. To access the live-stream, go to the YouTube website and search for 'St Edward's Whitley Bay'. The live-stream starts five minutes before Mass on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. If anyone would like to help run the live-streaming, please contact Michael Reynolds on 07758 583694. It would be useful to have more people trained to operate the system, which is easy to use.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve – 5.00pm Carols & Mass, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay, 7.00pm Carols & Mass, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, West Monkseaton.

Christmas Day – 10.00am Mass, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay.

St Stephen's Day, 26 December – 10.00am Mass, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay.

NEW PARISH BOUNDARIES

The Diocese has carried out a revision of its parish boundaries, and a copy of the Bishop's decree of authorisation and a map showing our Parish's boundaries are displayed in St Edward's Narthex, as requested by the Bishop.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

We cater for children between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Pre-school children must be accompanied by an adult or an older sibling. We will be offering Children's Liturgy for December at the following Mass times **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monkseaton - Saturday evening 6:00 pm, 17 December. St Edwards, Whitley Bay - Sunday morning 10:00 am, 18 December.**

JOURNEY OF FAITH

The next Journey of Faith meeting is on Tuesday 20 December at St Edward's Parish Rooms. Please ring the Parish Rooms door bell at the Presbytery.

FOOD BANK

Thank you all so much for your incredible generosity over the last few weeks. The food bank has been astonished at the amount that people have donated at a time when money is scarce. If you are able to continue to donate there is still a huge need for the basic foodstuffs. This week we are asking for sweet snacks – chocolate etc., pot noodles, microwave rice and tinned fruit. Monday 19 December is the last collection day for the Food Bank. It re-commences on Monday 9 January. Thank you once again.

WALKING GROUP

The next walk will be on Monday 16 January. This will be a short local walk finishing in a pub for lunch. If you want to go, please give your names to Peter Weighill on 0191 2512917 or e-mail peterweighill@aol.co.uk. Closing date to book the meal is 5 January. More details to follow in the New Year.

JUDGE FAMILY THANKS

Norman's family would like to acknowledge Fr Andrew, the community of St Edwards and all his friends for giving him such a loving send-off on his final journey. We now know he will be resting in peace.

SVP200 CLUB

Club subscriptions are now due from existing members and new members are most welcome. For further information please ring Rena Rowe on 0191 2522761.

OTHER NOTICES

ST CUTHBERT'S CARE - ADVENT ALMS 2022

This Advent, we call on your generosity to help us raise funds to purchase a vehicle for our two nursing homes. Your support will allow us to offer more regular outings, so our residents' lives are as varied as possible. We appreciate this winter will be difficult for many and ask support only if you are able. For information on our charity, visit www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk. Thank you. Moira Ashman, CEO, St Cuthbert's Care.

A WARM WELCOME IN WHITLEY BAY

Some of the churches in the Whitley Bay area have opened their doors to the public. They offer a warm, safe place, something to drink and a friendly welcome, and all completely free. Monday, St Paul's Anglican Church, Whitley Bay: 9.00am – 1.00pm. Tuesday, Whitley Bay Baptist Church, Park Avenue: 9.00am – 5.00pm. Wednesday, Hillheads Community Church, Kingsley Avenue: 10.00am – 4.00pm. Thursday, The Bay Church, Whitley Road: 9.30am – 3.00pm. Friday, St John's Methodist Church, Ilfracombe Gardens: 9.00am – 1.00pm.

CHURCHES TOGETHER - CAROLS BY THE TREE

This year we are meeting on Saturday, 17 December at 4.00 pm, outside the Ship Inn and Black Horse in Monkseaton. We will sing under the lights of the Christmas tree and by the candlelight; we will hear the story of God's welcome at Christmas and will share in non-alcoholic mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies. Hope to see many of you then.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Newcastle Male Chorus and the Gibside Singers are performing a Christmas concert to raise funds for St Joseph's Care Home on Wednesday 21 December at 7.30pm. For tickets, which are £6, please contact The Little Sisters on 0191 2731279 or Terry O'Brien on 0191 2521481.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission has produced a series of reflections on the Advent readings. They have been written by people of the Diocese and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect. The third and fourth week of Advent reflections can now be downloaded from bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022 or by searching for #DHNAdvent2022 on Facebook.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Tyne to Tweed's 'Real Conversations' project is taking place at St Paul's Church, Whitley Bay, on Tuesday 10 January from 7.00pm to 9.30pm. Come along to share in your

experiences of Whitley Bay; add your voices to the conversation; discuss your hopes, needs and concerns; help create transformation and change; meet new people and new friends. We want to hear your voice. Sign up through our website www.realconvos.org or through Facebook event <https://fb.me/e/2k1hAMGa7>.

SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL (SWEP) NIGHT SHELTER

November to March, when the 'feels-like' temperature drops to zero degrees and below, a SWEP Night Shelter will operate for rough sleepers in Whitley Bay at Oxford Street Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed to help run the shelter. Can you, or someone in your church, help? Contact the SWEP Coordinator at email: whitleybay@streetpastors.org.uk or phone 07549 015896.

VACANCIES

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following permanent vacancies:

Parish Secretary, St Cuthbert's, Chester le Street – 16 hours per week. Closing date for applications: 19 December.

Cleaner, St Cuthbert's, North Shields - 3 hours per week. Closing date for applications: 20 December.

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 2433301.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023

Can you help the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year? We need nurses, healthcare assistants, doctors and volunteers to provide care to the assisted pilgrims who travel with us. We plan to travel on Friday 28th July. If you would like to find out more information please email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk or look at our website <https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/>.

HOLY ISLAND VINNIES CAMP 2022-23 - APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Have you got some time spare to help out our Term Time Camp? We urgently need volunteers for Term Time Camps taking place between Easter and the Summer Holidays and then September and October. We also need volunteers to supervise and look after children aged between 9 and 12 taking part in our weekly holidays over July and August. Volunteers would help organise activities and supervise their care. Commitment is for training, a DBS check and a few days to a week on the island. All roles can be applied for online at <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/> where there is also much more information.

Contact email addresses, numbers and website:

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| 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 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 17th December | ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Fred Sweeney (LL) |
| | IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 6.00pm People of the Parish |
| Sunday 18th December 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am A Sick Daughter (LH) |
| Monday 19th December | No Mass |
| Tuesday 20th December | ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Cyril Wilson (AW) |
| Wednesday 21st December | IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am Claire & Norman Campbell & son Norman (MME) |
| Thursday 22nd December | ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Philip Rafferty (PR) |
| Friday 23rd December | IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am Rowe & Kelly families (JS) |
| Saturday 24th December | ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Matthieu Flesselles (former St Edward's Choir) |
| | ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 5.00pm Carols & Mass Mary Annan (TA) |
| | IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 7.00pm Carols & Mass People of the Parish |
| Sunday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am Gerry Rafferty (M&JC) |

Please remember in your prayers: Bishop Robert, Ann Stroud, Win Foley, Eileen Scott, Don Williams, Pat Tinker, John Steele, Layton Newton & Ron Lowes who are sick. Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently, especially Margaret Joicey, Agnes Speedie, Sarah Walton, Francis Kelman, Norman Judge and Herbert Meldrum. 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 The Chaplaincy on 0191 2934268 or Father Sebastian on 01670 712476

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.

Readings at Mass
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A, 17TH & 18TH DECEMBER 2022

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23(24):1-6

We say the Psalm together

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|---|---|
| 1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. | 2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. |
| 3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. | |

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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