

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – A
FIRST READING {David is anointed king of Israel.}

Samuel 16:1.6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm {Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*}

Psalm 22

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| 1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. | 2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
with these you give me comfort. |
| 3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. | 4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. |

SECOND READING {Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.}

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL {The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.}

John 9: 1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?’ ‘Neither he nor his parents sinned,’ Jesus answered ‘he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ‘As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.’ Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’ So they said to him, ‘Then how do your eyes come to be open?’ ‘The man called Jesus’ he answered ‘made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, “Go and wash at Siloam”; so I went, and when I washed I could see.’ They asked, ‘Where is he?’ ‘I don’t know’ he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this? And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, ‘Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.’ His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, ‘He is old enough; ask him.’ So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, ‘Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.’ The man answered, ‘I don’t know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He replied, ‘I have told you once and you wouldn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?’ At this they hurled abuse at him: ‘You can be his disciple,’ they said ‘we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man replied, ‘Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don’t know where he comes from! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn’t do a thing.’ ‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him. Jesus said: ‘It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.’ Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, ‘We are not blind, surely?’ Jesus replied: ‘Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, “We see,” your guilt remains.

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

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Tel: 0191 2573408

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

Canon Martin Stempczyk ☎ 0191 251 3770

St Cuthbert’s Church ☎ 0191 257 3408

Partnership Telephone Numbers

Father David Smith ☎ 0191 262 3882

Hospital Chaplaincy: ☎ 01670 712476

Deacon: Rev Stephen Boulter: ☎ 07816077858

18th/19th March 2023 – 4th Sunday of Lent – A

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert’s Church	St Joseph’s Church
Saturday 18 th March	9.30am Stations of the Cross 10.00am Mass Tommy Walsh 12.30am The Nuptial Mass of Augustine Oshegbu & Christiana Umeadi	4.45pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30pm: Vigil Mass: Margaret Didsbury
Sunday 19 ^h March 4 th Sunday of Lent A	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish Live streamed	
Monday 20 th March		
Tuesday 21 st March		9:30am: Mass:
Wednesday 22 nd March	9:30am: Word and Communion	
Thursday 23 rd March		9:30am: Mass
Friday 24 th March	7.00pm Mass 9, Preston Avenue, North Shields, NE30 2BN	
Saturday 25 th March		9.30am Station of the Cross 10.00am Mass People of the Parish 4.45pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30pm: Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 26 th March 5 th Sunday of Lent A	11:00am: Mass: Fr Michael Hickey 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:

Website: www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk

Parish office: 0191 257 3408

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Prayer Intentions for Ordinary Time in Winter: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those Who to Combat It; The Unemployed
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, Mary Quinn, Eleanor Robson, Vera Reay, Paul Atkinson, Leigh Miranda, Francis McSherry, Bishop Robert and Mary Kidd..

Please pray for Jenny Jordan, David Mills, the victims of the Turkish and Syrian Earthquake and all those who have died recently.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Laetare Sunday' or Rejoice Sunday. The Gospel for this week-end is the story of man born blind. The crux of the story is how the word 'see' can be literally seeing something or to understand. The blind man who cannot see Christ I comes to fully understands his significance whereas the religious leaders who can literally see, cannot understand or appreciate his significance. The call is to trust in God we cannot see who has revealed in Christ. Lent is an opportunity to deepen our knowledge, love and understanding of Christ, a reality present yet concealed.

Mother's Day

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is always Mothering Sunday. So a happy Mothers Sunday to all our mums in our community. We also remember those mums who have died, remembering their lives and their contribution of the Church.

Holy Week

The celebrations for Holy Week Triduum Services will be as follows

Holy Week Triduum Liturgies

Celebration of the Last Supper

Thursday 6th April 7.30pm St Cuthbert's

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus

Friday 7th April 3.00pm St Joseph's

The Easter Vigil

Saturday 8th April 8.00pm, St Cuthbert's

Masses for Easter Sunday

Sunday 9th April 9.30am, St Joseph's
11.00am St Cuthbert's

Lenten Reflections

Diocesan Lenten Reflection can be found at: The dedicated Lenten reflection page on the diocesan website can be found here: <https://bit.ly/DHNLent2023>

Diocesan Investigations

The investigation commissioned by the Dicastery for Bishops has issued a survey to be completed by parishioners. This is an anonymous survey, all answers are provided in complete confidence, and you are asked to give your own individual views. The survey will run until Monday 27th March 2023 and can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/wevQ6zrj1t8SCxNq5> or through the Diocesan website. Please complete the survey only once, even if you hold more than one role in the Diocese.

Parish Council

The parish council will be meeting on Thursday 23rd of March at St Cuthbert's at 7.00pm.

CAFOD

Next week-end at the 11.00am Sunday Mass, we will welcome Mark Maughan, who is the Diocesan representative for CAFOD. He will be talking about their work

Communion Under Both Kinds

The Bishops have announced that from Maundy Thursday, priests are permitted though not obliged to offer the Precious Blood at Mass. I will use this permission from the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday April 6th.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

In the parish the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Saturday at 10:30am after the 10:00am Mass and from 4.45pm to 5.15pm at St Joseph's before vigil Mass.

Message from Tyneside Welcomes

Dear Parishioners at St Cuthberts and St Joseph. You have been very supportive to Tyneside Welcomes in the provision of the church house and in providing some volunteers to help us getting a family settled under the Community Resettlement Scheme. Thank you. It was a great privilege for me to address you in church some months ago.

The ongoing support to the family will continue for many months yet but some initial volunteers to the branch have had to step back. We want to provide as much opportunity for the family and we need more people to help the family move forward in their life here in the UK and help support each other in this work. There are many areas we need to cover and not having enough people makes it a longer process to complete some things. So if you feel called, as suggested by Pope Francis, to support a refugee family then we can help you deliver this.

I hope you will consider it. I can be contacted by email - vintotton@btinternet.com - or through Fr Chris. Best wishes, Vin Totton

Tyne and Wear Citizens Issue Workshop

The first of the issues workshops for the listening campaign is on Thursday March 30th at 6pm at the Recovery Collective College at 1, Clariol Square Newcastle- just opposite St Andrew Church, Worswick Street. To sign up please go to: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/tyne-wear-citizens-issues-workshop>

Statement on Illegal Migration Bill

The Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, Bishop Paul McAleenan, has commented on the government's Illegal Migration Bill:

"Everyone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to build a better life here has a name, a face, and a story.

"People are driven from their homes by poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. Many have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet, far too often, there are no safe routes open to them.

"While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities. Establishing more safe routes, and genuinely understanding people's individual circumstances are essential to meeting these.

"As Christians we call for the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be put at the heart of public policy."

Day of Prayer for Life

On Saturday 25 March 2023 (the Solemn Feast of the Annunciation) there will be a Day of Prayer for Life - in particular for the unborn and for pregnant women - including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and opportunity to venerate the relics of St Gianna Molla at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle following the 10.00 am Mass until 4.00 pm organised by Catholic members of SPUC.

Lenten Concert at Holy Saviour Church Tynemouth

Johannis will be performing a Lenten concert at Holy Saviour's Church Tynemouth on Friday 31 March at 7:30pm. Musica Johannis is an octet of accomplished and experienced singers performing pieces by Byrd, Purcell and Stainer. The programme will lead us through reflective music and readings into Holy Week. Tickets are £8 by contacting office@holysaviours.org.uk or on the door.

Thank-you

A personal note of thanks to the parish for your prayers, support and condolences on the death of David, my brother-in-law, and for his widow, my sister Liz, her family and myself. It is much appreciated. David's funeral will be on March 22nd.

Retreat in Daily Life

Eight of us in the parish had a fruitful discussion with Vron Smith last Thursday, 23rd February. She invited us as parish to discern what is God calling us as a parish to do. She has given us some material to reflect upon. If you would like copies of this please let me know. We will be meeting again on Tuesday 2nd April at 7.00pm at St Cuthbert's to share the fruits of our discernment. All are welcome. Please not change of time

Feeding Folk

As a response to the Poverty Action Event on February 19th, Gerry Beldon and his friends are organising a 'Feeding Folk' event on Thursday 23rd March from 7.30pm. The event will be a mixture of songs and poems. The entrance fee is some food for you to bring to donate to the Bay Foodbank. Cash donations will also be accepted

Live Simply Tip

Living Simply is based on the following three strands:

- living simply
- living in solidarity with people in poverty
- living sustainably with creation.

This week's tip:

If you can, remember the food bank bin when you go shopping. You can also donate to the Bay Food Bank online at: <https://www.thebayfoodbank.org.uk>.

Parish Finance – Standing Orders

If you would like to set up a Standing Order the details of the parish account are:

Name: DHN North Shields St Cuthbert & St Joseph

Bank: HSBC, Sort code: 40-34-45,

Account number 91146513

A Prayer for Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God. We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Lord have mercy. Amen.