

## MASS READINGS

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B

#### FIRST READING

*Prepare a way for the Lord.*

Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Response:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

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|---|---|
| <p>1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,<br/>a voice that speaks of peace,<br/>peace for his people.<br/>His help is near for those who fear him<br/>and his glory will dwell in our land.</p> | <p>2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;<br/>justice and peace have embraced.<br/>Faithfulness shall spring from the earth<br/>and justice look down from heaven.</p> |
| <p>3. The Lord will make us prosper<br/>and our earth shall yield its fruit.<br/>Justice shall march before him<br/>and peace shall follow his steps.</p>   |   |

#### SECOND READING

*We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

#### Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL

*Make his paths straight.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Isiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Psalm 84

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

## 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 8.45am-12.45pm**

Tel: 0191 2573408

Email: [northshields.stcuthbert@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto: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

## 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 –Second Sunday of Advent - B

### Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>5:30pm: Mass:</b> Pearl Andrade
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - B</b>	<b>11:00am: Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>Live stream</b>	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December		
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December		<b>9:30am: Mass:</b> Intentions of Alma Fox
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9.00am Exposition</b> <b>9:30am: Mass:</b> Joan Gray	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December		<b>9:30am: Mass:</b> James Hughes
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>6.15pm Exposition</b> <b>7:00pm: Mass:</b> Intention of AB	
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>5:30pm: Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - B</b>	<b>11:00am: Mass:</b> <b>Live stream</b>	

#### 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](http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk)

**Parish office:** 0191 257 3408

Prayer Intentions for Advent & Christmas- Migrants and Refugees, expectant mothers, peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land We pray for all who are sick, including Patricia Conlon, Ros McGann Sarah Harrison, Scott Oakley, Pat Skelly, Jean Slater, Barbara & Tony Hicks, Jim Campbell, Richard Sutherland, Irene Keenaghan, Eileen Stevens, Paula More, Mary Quinn, Eleanor Robson, Paul Atkinson, Francis McSherry, Mary Kidd, Mary Rowley and Antoni Kulik.

Please pray for Ada Story, Terry Corke, Elizabeth Davis, Jacqui Ellis and all those who have died recently.

### Advent

For the next two Sundays the focus is on John Baptist who calls us to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' as we wait for God's Kingdom to be fulfilled. In the time of quiet after the Gospel we will reflect on the theme of peace.

### Baptism

This Sunday at St Joseph's at 1pm, we will have the Baptism of Alfie Piinckney. We pray for Alfie and his parents as he is welcomed into our Parish Community

### First Holy Communion Liturgy

We have the next of our First Holy Communion Liturgies this week-end. Our candidates will be reminded of their baptism

### Young People in the Parish

My thanks to the eight young people who came to the gathering on Sunday. I appreciated the honest and well thought out comments that were made. We agreed that we would consult other students in St Thomas More as to what are the stumbling blocks being part of a worshipping community.

### Christmas Liturgies

**Christmas Carol Service** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm at St Joseph's - Advent and Christmas Carol Service

### Masses for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	5:30pm Mass	at St Joseph's
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11:00am Mass	at St Cuthbert's

### Masses for Christmas Day

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm Mass	at St Joseph's
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00pm Mass	at St Cuthbert's
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am Mass	at St Cuthbert's

Since the 5:00pm Mass on Christmas eve will be a 'family Mass' our children are very welcome to dress up as a character in the Christmas story be that Joseph, Mary, angels, kings and shepherds.

### CAFOD and Conflict in Gaza

Let me first of all reassure you that, though heavily restricted, humanitarian aid is reaching people worst hit in Gaza through CAFOD's partners who live and work in the region. Thank you, so much, to all those of you have donated or fundraised so far to resource this aid.

However, with great sadness I must report to you more deaths of staff and volunteers in our partner organisations. Please do pray for their families and colleagues as you pray for the conflict to end.

Their colleagues continue to risk their lives daily, to provide life-saving help to others in great need.

As the conflict enters its ninth week, we are now also asking all parishes to do what they can to support our Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal.

We also invite your parish to join us in calling for a lasting peace by writing to the Foreign Secretary. Go to: [https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/136932/action/1?\\_gl=1\\*1b3b2ra\\*\\_ga\\*MzE4MzExODcyLjE2NjExODYxMTQ.\\*\\_ga\\_S7Z01NJESC\\*MTcwMTEwNzI0Ny4xMDUuMS4xNzAxMTA3MjY1LjQyLjAuMA](https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/136932/action/1?_gl=1*1b3b2ra*_ga*MzE4MzExODcyLjE2NjExODYxMTQ.*_ga_S7Z01NJESC*MTcwMTEwNzI0Ny4xMDUuMS4xNzAxMTA3MjY1LjQyLjAuMA)

### Reflections for Advent

The diocese will be offering daily reflections for Advent on its website. They can be seen at: [https://bit.ly/DHNAdventor:AdventReflections2023FINAL\(diocesehn.org.uk\)](https://bit.ly/DHNAdventor:AdventReflections2023FINAL(diocesehn.org.uk)).

I will also be placing them on the Parish Facebook page each day during Advent. I have also been sent series of reflections, prayers and poems to dip into during the four weeks of Advent for individual, group or schools' use on the themes of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE (attached above or download here: <https://jpschrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/advent-reflection-sheet-2023-a4-5-2.pdf>)

### Christmas Coffee Morning

The Social group would like to thank all those who worked with us to make the Christmas coffee morning a social and financial success. The final total is £1,593.30. This could not have been achieved without the kindness of all those who donated items, who helped us set up, those who came along on the day and helped and came and spent money on the day and on Sunday after Mass. Many thanks

Barbara Davies Chair of the Social Group

### Partnership Penance Service

There will be a partnership penitential service at St Edward's, Whitley Bay on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

### Advent at St Cuthbert's Primary

St Cuthbert's Primary School have asked to inform the parish of the various events taking place in Advent. All parishioners would be very welcome:

15/12/2023	2.30pm Advent Service - School hall
21/12/2023	6:00pm Key Stage 2 Carol Service - St. Cuthbert's Church

### Nativity Celebrations at St Joseph's Primary

On this Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm at St Joseph's Church we will have their Key stage 2 pupils from St Joseph's Primary narrating the Christmas Story in song, drama, scriptures, through their distinct childhood sense of wonder and (some) innocence. Parishioners are welcome. Tissues are recommended, well they are for the parish priest!

### Cribs

People are welcome to bring cribs in either Churches for people to reflect on the Christmas story.

### Diocesan Refugee Project

The vast majority of the items and the financial support that we provide at the Refugee Project are generously donated by parishes, schools and individuals and without the support of

donors, the project would simply not be possible. With new clients registering every week, in need of food to supplement their meagre allowance and with the rise in the cost of living, the cost of providing food bags and toiletry items to clients has more than doubled in the last 2 years and we are often in short supply. This Advent season, the project really does need your help. The need for toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gels, soap, shampoo and conditioners, as well as tinned goods such as chickpeas and tomatoes, cooking oil, coffee, sugar and rice is as strong as ever. Financial donations are particularly welcome, as we need to purchase food and toiletries on a regular basis. Please support us by placing items in our box at the back of church or by making a financial donation – details of how to donate can be found at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/services/caritas/justice-peace-refugee-project/#how> Thank you so much for your generous support!

### Holy Island SVP Camp.

Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs a donation of £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island> Applications opened on 5th December 2023.

### SVP Christmas Parcels

The SVP along with St. Thomas More will be hoping to provide Christmas parcels/gifts to parishioners in need.

If you know of any parishioners – single or families – who could benefit please pass on detail to Fr. Hughes or any SVP member.

### Tyne and Wear Citizens

The AGM for Tyne and Wear Citizens is on 14th December 6-8pm St James' URC Church, opposite the side of Newcastle City Hall. All are welcome. The tone will be informal and celebratory.

### Christmas Concert at Little Sisters, Newcastle

The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.00pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor here in St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home.

### Job Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies: Safeguarding Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 12<sup>th</sup> December IT Manager, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date 12<sup>th</sup> December Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

### Little Sisters of the Poor - Job Vacancies

Exciting opportunities are now available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for care assistants and nurses. Hours available:

Care Assistant: Shifts are 8am-3pm, 3pm-9pm

Nurse: Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm

Excellent rates of pay.

For more information, please contact Lee-Marie Thornley on 07856256095 or email [lee.marie@lspnondon.co.uk](mailto:lee.marie@lspnondon.co.uk)

### Proud Catholics - Mass and Christmas greetings

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 19th December, at 7.30pm. We will celebrate Mass in St Andrew's, followed by Christmas greetings with bring-and-share refreshments. Zoom link available, get in touch if interested. For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email [proud.catholics@yahoo.com](mailto:proud.catholics@yahoo.com), or visit our website <https://www.proud Catholics.co.uk/>

### Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of the 2024 Edition are now available. 'Flat' version £3.00 and Ringbound £3.50

### 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: Living Simply is based on the following three strands: This week's tip: In his address which was read out at COP 28 Pope Francis called for an end to conflict and addressed modern society's obsession with consumerism. "The drive to produce and possess has become an obsession, resulting in an inordinate greed that has made the environment the object of unbridled exploitation. The climate, run amok, is crying out to us to halt this illusion of omnipotence. Let us once more recognize our limits, with humility and courage, as the sole path to a life of authentic fulfilment." Full text available at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2023/december/documents/20231202-dubai-cop28.htm>

### 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 9114651

### Prayer for Peace

As the fever of day calms towards twilight. May all that is strained in us come to ease. We pray for all who suffered violence today. May an unexpected serenity surprise them.. For those who risk their lives each day for peace. May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.. That those who make riches from violence and war. Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.. That we might see through our fear of each other. A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.. That those who enjoy the privilege of peace. Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters That the wolf might lie down with the lamb. That our swords be beaten into ploughshares. And no hurt or harm be done anywhere along the holy mountain.

John O'Donohue Benedictus A Book of Blessings