

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 9TH & 10TH DECEMBER, 2023

The Cycle of Prayer

Advent and Christmas

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

Advent challenges us to look afresh at the mystery of our faith, the joy of our hope and the longing of our love. Advent is a time to stretch and arouse our imagination for the Lord's Coming as judge and new-born child. And we do so in the radiance of candles lit on the Advent Wreath, seeking deeper meaning to our faith set shimmering by the Holy Spirit in the truth of our living, and showers us with the blessedness of our Heavenly Father. As pilgrims of hope, we walk the Advent way of waiting, conversion, and hope. We wait for the first, humble coming of Jesus in our flesh and wait for his final, glorious coming as Lord of history and universal Judge. We are called to conversion in Advent through the prophets and especially John the Baptist. Our joyful hope shimmers with the truth that salvation is already accomplished by Jesus and that God's grace in the world reaches its fullness, granting us what is promised by faith, that "we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is" (John 3:2). The Christmas angels' message of glory to God and peace radiates the blessedness of Jesus' birth. Happy Advent!

- 12 December**, 7.00pm - Parish Advent Carol Service for Stella Maris, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, West Monkseaton
- 20 December**, 7.00pm - Parish Penitential Service, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay
- 24 December**, 5.30pm - Carols & Mass, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay
- 24 December**, 7.30pm - Carols & Mass, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, West Monkseaton
- Christmas Day**, 10.00am - Mass, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay

HOLY LAND — PRAYERS FOR PEACE

We pray for peace in the Holy Land, in Ukraine and in all other war-torn areas of the world. Violence always impacts most on the vulnerable. As well as our prayers, the Catholic community in England and Wales is ready to help with the growing needs of the people in Gaza. The CAFOD emergency appeal for the Holy Land is at: <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/israeli-palestinian-crisis-appeal>.

ADVENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9.00am before 9.30am Mass each weekday during Advent, including Mondays.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is held on the second and third Sundays of each month at both churches. **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monkseaton - Saturday evening 6.00pm, 9 & 16 December. St Edwards, Whitley Bay - Sunday morning 10.00am, 10 & 17 December.** All of our young children aged between 3 and 11 are invited to attend.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith is at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12 December in St Edward's Parish Rooms. All are welcome.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be an Advent Penitential Service at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20 December at St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay. Parishioners and clergy from the other Partnership Parishes will also be attending.

PARISH LUNCHEON CLUB

The Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday 14 December at 12.00pm at Immaculate Heart Church. Please book in advance by contacting Chris on 07984 963769 or Deirdre on 07963 570901. There is a limited number of tickets still available at a cost of £4.00.

WALKING GROUP

The next walk will be on Tuesday 19th December when Helen Young will lead a walk on the south side of the River Tyne from Hebburn to Newcastle. Please meet at West Monkseaton Metro Station at 9.30am to travel to North Shields and catch the ferry across the river. Peter Weighill.

FOOD BANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 2023 — WEEK 5

Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	 Merry Christmas Everyone!
Tinned Rice Pudding	Pasta in Sauce	Microwave Rice	Juice	

The idea is that we give an item on each of 24 days in the run up to Christmas. Each week there will be 5 everyday items and 1 'festive' item. We begin early so that the Food Bank has time to get things sent out before Christmas. As always we are grateful for anything you can give.

ST EDWARD'S PIETY STALL

The Piety Stall in the Narthex at St Edward's Church has a lovely range of Advent and Christmas cards, candles, calendars and gifts, all at very reasonable prices. Come and take a look.

PARISH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY — IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH, WEST MONKSEATON — CANCELLED

It has been decided that, unfortunately, the Children's Christmas Party will not now take place. If you have bought a ticket, please speak to the person you bought it from to arrange a refund.

MILL HILL MISSIONARIES 2024 CALENDAR

As a thank you to all of the supporters of the Charity, the 2024 Calendar will be available free at Immaculate Heart and St Edwards from this weekend. If anyone wishes to make donations for the December quarter can you please contact Margaret Graham (Immaculate Heart) on 2529569 or Bill Crumbley (St Edwards) on 07889969639. Thank you to all who donated for the September quarter.

DEPAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

For years, Churches Together in Whitley Bay has supported DePaul by collecting items for young people in supported accommodation to receive a Christmas Hamper. This year, all items should be delivered to DePaul by 12.00Noon on 14 December. The items will be distributed at a Christmas Lunch on 18 December. St Edward's and Immaculate Heart are asked to donate coffee and chocolate items such as biscuits and sweets. Please leave all items in the box in the narthex at either church. Many thanks.

USED STAMPS

Neil Cockburn collects the used stamps and the proceeds go to St Oswald's Hospice. The box for stamps is in the narthex of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Thank you.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission have produced a series of reflections on the readings used throughout our Advent preparations. The reflections have been written by a variety of people to express the richness of our diocesan community and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect. The first and second week of Advent reflections can be downloaded from <https://bit.ly/DHNAdvent>. A limited number have been printed and can be found at the back of each church.

OTHER NOTICES

WHITLEY BAY CHURCHES TOGETHER COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE — 10 DECEMBER

St Paul's Anglican Church, Whitley Bay, has kindly agreed to host a Community Carol Service as the closing activity of their Christmas Tree Festival at 4.00pm on Sunday 10 December 2023. All are welcome.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies: **Safeguarding Adviser**, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 12 December. **IT Manager**, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 12 December. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 2433301.

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 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 or contact Michael Reynolds on 07758583694.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St Bede's Choral Group & Diocesan Choir will be singing at St Bede's Church in Jarrow on Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 December, from 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Tickets are £5 (entry is free for children) and are available from Dave McDermott on 07925141868. Wine will be served after the concert and all profits will go to local charities.

ST CUTHBERTS ADVENT ALMS 2023

This Advent, I wish to appeal for funds to support our community work, focusing on those in need of hot, nutritious food and older isolated people needing a little company. To help alleviate some of the financial pressures facing people this winter we will be providing a free delicious meal and a warm drink to our members and their family. This new project will complement our work to provide a subsidised meal for our lunch clubs where older isolated people come together to share a hot meal and much needed company. For information please visit: www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you hope, peace and joy this Christmas. Nic Gilbert, Chief Executive.

SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL NIGHT SHELTER

From November to March, when the 'feels-like' temperature drops to Zero 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. Contact SWEP Coordinator on 07549 015896 or email whitleybay@streetpastors.org.uk.

Contact email addresses, numbers and website:

Monsignor Andrew Faley	stedwardsne26@btconnect.com	0191 2528021
Star of the Sea Primary School	starofthesea.primary@ntl.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 9th December Confessions 10.00am St Edward's 5.30pm Immaculate Heart	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Cyril Wilson (AA) IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 6.00pm People of the Parish
Sunday 10th December 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am A Sick Daughter (LH)
Monday 11th December ST DAMASUS	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Audrey Jeffs (PK)
Tuesday 12th December OUR LADY OF GUADELOUPE	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Giovanni Arnone (MA)
Wednesday 13th December ST LUCY	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am Alan Watson (AW)
Thursday 14th December ST JOHN OF THE CROSS	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Catherine Kimmitt (JK)
Friday 15th December	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am Word & Communion
Saturday 16th December Confessions 10.00am St Edward's 5.30pm Immaculate Heart	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Tom & Margaret Thomson (MS) IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 6.00pm People of the Parish
Sunday 17th December 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am Mary Annan (TA)

BAPTISM	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH
Saturday, 9th December 11.00am	Jaxon Walters

Please remember in your prayers: Ann Stroud, Win Foley, Eddie Meenaghan, Eileen Whalen, Gilbert Rowell, Annette Pilman, Layton Newton, Eileen Scott, Michael Thrift & Elizabeth (Betty) Harrison who are sick. Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have died recently, especially Dan Stutt, Martha Goulbourn, Irene Miller, Pat Tinker & Kitty Smith. 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.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East. Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace. Where there is hatred and division sow seeds of calm and openness. Where there is destruction help us to rebuild. Where children are crying bring an end to tears. Shelter your peoples and protect them. Guide them and keep them from harm. Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of hope. Amen.

(Linda Jones, CAFOD)

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, on 0191 2733903.

Newcastle General Hospital: Sister Teresa, 0191 2336161 ext. 28465.

PRIESTS' TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Mgr Andrew Faley 0191 2528021, Fr Chris Hughes 0191 2575801, Fr David Smith 0191 2623882, Canon Martin Stempczyk 0191 2513770.

READINGS AT MASS
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 9TH & 10TH DECEMBER, 2023

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

'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.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84(85):9-14

We say the Psalm together

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

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

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.

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

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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.'

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