

MASS READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY - -B

FIRST READING

I exult in joy in the Lord.

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

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| <p>1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.</p> | <p>2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.</p> |
| <p>3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.</p> | |

SECOND READING

May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.

John 1:6-8. 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

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

16th/17th December 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent - B

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
Saturday 16th December		5:30pm: Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent - B	11:00am: Mass: Live stream	
Monday 18th December		
Tuesday 19th December		9.30am: Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 20th December	9.00am Exposition 9.30am: Mass: Stan Storer	2.00pm Requiem Mass for Ada Storey
Thursday 21st December	1.30pm Requiem Mass for Jacqueline Ellis	9.30am: Mass: End of Term Mass for St Joseph's Primary
Friday 22nd December	9.30 End of Term Mass for St Cuthbert's Primary 6.15pm Exposition 7:00pm: Mass: Catherine Ibbs	
Saturday 23rd December		5:30pm: Mass: Catherine Ibbs
Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent - B	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish Live stream	

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

WhatsApp 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 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 Storey, Terry Corke, Jacqui Ellis, Joseph Mulgrove 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 Joy on this Gaudete Sunday.

RCIA Journey of Faith

We have two members of our community, Caroline and Mark, who are taking part in the Journey of Faith, with the hope of being received into the Church at Easter. As part of the Journey, they will be formally welcomed into the Order of the Catechumenate as part of their Journey of Faith at the Mass this Sunday. Please pray for them as they prepare to be welcomed into our faith community

Funerals

The late Ada Storey will be received into St Joseph's Church on Tuesday 19th December at 4pm. Her Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 20th December at 2.00pm

The late Jacqueline Ellis will be received into the St Cuthbert's Church on Wednesday 20th December at 4.30pm. Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 21st December at 1.30pm

May they rest in peace

Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Carol Service Sunday 17th December 6.00pm at St Joseph's - Advent and Christmas Carol Service

Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent

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

Masses for Christmas Day

Sunday 24th December 5.00pm Mass at St Joseph's
Sunday 24th December 8.00pm Mass at St Cuthbert's
Monday 25th 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*MzE4MzExODcyLjE2NjExODYxMTg.*_ga_S7Z01NJESC*MTcwMTEwNzI0Ny4xMDUuMS4xNzAxMTA3MjY1LjQyLjAuMA

Parish Administrator

The Parish Administrator Katherine Main will be in the office from 8.45 to 12.45 from Tuesday to Friday as normal. As you will see from the Mass Schedule and newsletter that I am going to be quite busy this week! If you tell me anything I am likely to forget! So, if there are queries or information that you wish to share, please contact Katherine, thank-you.

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://jpschrebury.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 and Confessions

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

I will be available for Confession on the Sanctuary areas of both Churches at the following times
Friday 22nd December at St Cuthbert's from 5.45-6.45pm
Saturday 23rd December at St Joseph's from 11-am to 12 noon and 4.00pm to 5.15pm

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:
21/12/2023 6:00pm Key Stage 2 Carol Service St. Cuthbert's Church

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!

Christmas Coffee Morning Raffles Prizes

There are a number of unclaimed prizes. Please see Barbara Davies or call on 07731654851
278 Green- Hamper
337 Green -Champagne/Chocolates
302 Yellow - Prosecco/Chocolates
950 Yellow- Bayliss and Harding gift set
357 Green- Lindisfarne fruit wine/Chocolates
966 Green-Bucks Fizz/Chocolates
939 green-Bottle of Shiraz Wine/Biscuits
115 yellow-Lindisfarne Mead
762 Green- Bottle Shiraz/Biscuits
237 yellow Bottle of Mulled Wine
163 yellow-Tea and Biscuits

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.

Youth Ministry Conference – February 3 2024

This Youth Ministry and Practical Theology Conference is YMT's first conference since the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to gather with youth ministers, catechists, clergy, teachers, staff and volunteer co-workers from across the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and beyond! The theme for the conference is "Investing in the Fearlessness of Youth", inspired by a quote from Pope Francis' letter, Christus Vivit (Chapter 7 no. 233). We hope you can join us for this Youth Ministry Conference.

Booking is now open and you can either email nsalkeld@ymt.org or book online here:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam. Online booking will apply booking fees.

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, 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: nearly a quarter of a million households across England are now experiencing the worst forms of homelessness, rough sleeping alone has increased by 26% in the last year. Crisis at Christmas is an annual Christmas appeal that helps provide warm meals, shelter, support and companionship to those experiencing homelessness and introduces them to Crisis' year-round training, education and support to leave homelessness behind for good. You can donate at <https://www.crisis.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 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