

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 16TH & 17TH 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!

20 December, 7.00pm - Parish Penitential Service, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay

24 December, 10.00am - Mass, 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

26 December, 10.00am - Mass, St Edward's Church, Whitley Bay

FUNERALS

- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Brown of North Shields, who died on 1 December aged 70 years. A Funeral Service will take place at 3.00pm on 18 December at Tynemouth Crematorium. May he rest in peace. Amen.

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>. From the weekend before Christmas, 23 & 24 December, there will be a collection basket by the crib in each church. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the above appeal can place it there if they wish.

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, 16 December. St Edwards, Whitley Bay - Sunday morning 10.00am, 17 December.** Children aged 3 to 11 are invited.

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.

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.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith is at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9 January in St Edward's Parish Rooms. All are welcome.

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA — FOOD BANK

Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the foodbank over the last few weeks. Our Parish is known for its generosity but this year has been exceptional! Next Monday, December 18th, will be the last collection until Monday 8 January. Anything 'Christmassy' that you can donate would be much appreciated. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

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.

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. 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.

SVP200 CLUB

The SVP200 Club subs are now due. New members are most welcome. Ring Rena Rowe on 0191 2522761 or Bill Crumbley on 0191 2519901. Thank you.

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDARS

The 2024 edition of the Northern Catholic Calendar is now available at the back of each Church. Ringbound copies are £3.50.

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.

OTHER NOTICES

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, or there is a severe weather warning for rain or high winds, 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.

YMT LED CONFIRMATION RETREAT AT THE EMMAUS VILLAGE — 26 to 28 JANUARY 2024

There are still places for Confirmation candidates from across the Diocese in exploring our faith, the Church, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In this YMT led Confirmation Retreat, there will be time for fun, faith, and food. If you are a catechist and want to book your group, please contact nsalked@ymt.org before 19 January 2024.

YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE — 3 FEBRUARY 2024

This Youth Ministry and Practical Theology Conference is YMT's first conference since the Pandemic. We look forward to gathering with groups from across the Diocese and beyond! The conference theme is "Investing in the Fearlessness of Youth", inspired by a quote from Pope Francis' letter, Christus Vivit. Booking is now open and you can either email nsalked@ymt.org or book online here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam. Online booking includes booking fees. We are looking forward to welcoming the keynote speaker, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson, Director of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, and are also pleased to welcome back David Wells, international speaker, to guide us to reflect on our theme. For more information about the conference visit www.ymt.org/ymt-conference.

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.northyntesidecatholic.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 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)
Monday 18th December	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Ron Lippe (AL)
Tuesday 19th December	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Terence Donachy (LD)
Wednesday 20th December	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am Bill Moat (JT)
Thursday 21st December ST PETER CANISIUS	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Private Intention (PJC)
Friday 22nd December	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am In Thanksgiving (PH)
Saturday 23rd December ST JOHN OF CANTY Confessions 10.00am St Edward's 5.30pm Immaculate Heart	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Fr Charlie Flaherty (PS) IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 6.00pm Kevin Clarke (DC)
Sunday 24th December 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am People of the Parish ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 5.30pm Carols & Christmas Mass George Miller (AM) IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 7.30pm Carols & Christmas Mass People of the Parish

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 Martha Goulbourn, Irene Miller, Pat Tinker, Kitty Smith & Tony Brown. 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
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 16TH & 17TH DECEMBER, 2023

First Reading

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.'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

We say the Psalm together

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| 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. | 2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. |
| 3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. | |

Second Reading

1 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.

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

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

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