

## MASS READINGS

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B

#### FIRST READING

*The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.*

Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

Psalm 88

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|---|---|
| <p>1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;<br/>through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.<br/>Of course, I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,<br/>that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.</p> | <p>2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;<br/>I have sworn to David my servant:<br/>I will establish your dynasty for ever<br/>and set up your throne through all the ages.</p> |
| <p>3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,<br/>my God, the rock who saves me.'<br/>I will keep my love for him always;<br/>for him my covenant shall endure.</p>  |   |

#### SECOND READING

*The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.*

Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL

*Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.*

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so, the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

## 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

## 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 –Fourth Sunday of Advent - B

### Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>		<b>5:30pm: Mass:</b> Catherine Ibbs
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - B	<b>11:00am: Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>Live stream</b>	
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>8:00pm: Vigil Mass:</b> The McCann Family	<b>5:00pm: Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>10:00am: Mass:</b> Kerry O'Neill	
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>11. 00am:</b> McAloon Family
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9.00am Exposition</b> <b>9. 30am: Mass:</b> Stan Storer	
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>9.30am: Mass:</b> Martin McBeath
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>6.15pm Exposition</b> <b>7:00pm: Mass:</b>	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>5:30pm: Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	<b>11:00am: Mass:</b> Ellen and Alf Hazelgave <b>Live stream</b>	

#### 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](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, Jacqueline Ellis, Joseph Mulgrove and all those who have died recently.

### Christmas 2023

The cry of the Angels of "Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to all" may a strong dissonance in you when faced with present realities of the conflict in the Holy Land where violence, war, death, misery and conflict are making such a dreadful impact. But this was the reality of 2,000 thousand years ago, as a vulnerable, naked weak Christ born on the edge of the edge of the empire and the known world. The goodness and innocence of this story looks like a candle in a storm, but this vulnerable light has shone and the dark clouds and winds of history has not distinguished this light, though philosophies, armies, empire and tyrants have come and gone. Indeed, a transformation has taken place over 2000 years that begun at that stable at Bethlehem, with this child becoming the adult who would invite a few people to hear and follow his message at particular place to a movement of billions spanning across 2,000 years of history and to all edges of the globe, shining in and through the darkness. May we embrace this light of the world that has not been overpowered, a light that has confronted the stark and dark messiness of the world and the human condition. We are simply called to be open to this light and the peace, hope, love and joy it radiates.

I would like to wish you and all your family all the hope, peace, joy, love and wonder of this time.

May the word who became flesh truly make his home in your hearts and in your home.

I am very grateful to all those who have helped to prepare for the Christmas Liturgies, either in preparing the Church working behind the scenes or having an active ministry in the Liturgies such as Music, serving and reading.

On a personal note, I would like to offer a big thank-you for your generosity with your kind sharing of best wishes, cards, and kind gifts. It is much appreciated. My prayers and gratitude to you all.

### Christmas Liturgies

#### 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)

### Fiducia Supplicans: On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings

As you may have seen in the press, the Vatican in a document signed by Pope Francis have issued a declaration on the pastoral significance of blessings. The statement makes clear that in the light of this in certain circumstances blessings can be given to couples whose union is not recognised in Canon Law, including same-sex couples and heterosexual couples whose marriages are not recognised by the Church. Please contact me if you would like to discuss the meaning and significance of this document. It can be found at:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2023/12/18/0901/01963.html#en>

This is the final paragraph of the declaration

"Taking the above points into account and following the authoritative teaching of Pope Francis, this Dicastery finally wishes to recall that "the root of Christian meekness" is "the ability to feel blessed and the ability to bless [...]. This world needs blessings, and we can give blessings and receive blessings. The Father loves us, and the only thing that remains for us is the joy of blessing him, and the joy of thanking him, and of learning from him [...] to bless." In this way, every brother and every sister will be able to feel that, in the Church, they are always pilgrims, always beggars, always loved, and, despite everything, always blessed."

### 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. This is the final call. They will be recycled for the Summer Fayre!

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.

### 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](mailto:nsalkeld@ymt.org) or book online here: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam). Online booking will apply booking fees.

### Training for Readers

An introductory course which supports New Readers of the of the Liturgy of the Word in this ministry. Dates:

Session 1: Monday 15 January 2024, 7.00-9.00pm  
Session 2: Saturday 20 January 2024, 10.30am-3.00pm (to include a Commissioning Service)\*

\*Participants to bring a packed lunch for the day event - tea and coffee provided.

Location: St Mary, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE16 4EN.

Cost: £12.50 per person

Please let Fr Chris or Catherine in the office know if you would like to take part in this course.

### Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of the 2024 Edition are now available. 'Flat' version £3.00 and Ring bound £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

### 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