

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 23RD & 24TH 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!

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

1 January, 11.00am - Mass, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, West Monkseaton followed by Parish New Year's Day Shared Lunch at 12.30pm

CHRISTMAS THANKS AND PRAYERS

Thank you very much for your thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts, and messages of gratitude and support. We also thank those who generously decorated our churches and prepared the Christmas Masses. We remember in our prayers our visitors, families, and friends. May Our Lord fill you with His love this Christmas and shower you with His blessings for the New Year. Monsignor Andrew.

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.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS & SHARED LUNCH —
IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH**

Mass on New Year's Day will be at 11.00am at Immaculate Heart Church, followed by a shared buffet lunch for all parishioners. You are welcome to contribute food and drink to the shared table, which we will prepare together after Mass. If it helps, you can deliver items the afternoon before between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. All are welcome to share in this New Year's celebration.

WALKING GROUP

The next walk will be on Wednesday 3 January. Jim Gunning will lead a 6 mile walk from Four Lane Ends Metro Station through East Benton, Rising Sun Country Park and Holystone, finishing at Northumberland Park Metro Station. Meet at West Monkseaton Metro Station at 9.30am. For further details contact Jim on 07538327784.

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.

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, 13 & 20 January. St Edwards, Whitley Bay - Sunday morning 10.00am, 14 & 21 January.** Children aged 3 to 11 are invited.

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! Our next collection is on Monday 8 January and the Food Bank is currently in need of long life milk, pot noodles, meatballs & toilet rolls. 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

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. 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 visit www.ymt.org/ymt-conference.

VACANCIES — OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK AT THE EMMAUS VILLAGE

The Emmaus Village, home for the Youth Ministry Team, hosts all the residential retreats led by YMT for our Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools. It also offers catering and hospitality to the biggest gathering of Catholic Schools, the YMT Summer Festivals. With this in mind we are looking for an Assistant Catering Coordinator and Kitchen Technician, who will help our catering team deliver this valuable service. If you or someone you know wants to be part of the YMT team, please contact admin@ymt.org or click the link www.ymt.org/vacancies for more information with regards to our vacancies.

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 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
Monday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am Kathleen Keeler (MQ)
Tuesday 26th December ST STEPHEN	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am Ron Lippe (C&AG)
Wednesday 27th December ST JOHN	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am Marian Dimascio (PO)
Thursday 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am Charles Donachy (LD)
Friday 29th December ST THOMAS BECKETT	IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 9.30am Margaret Beadlien (NBF)
Saturday 30th December SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS Confessions 10.00am St Edward's 5.30pm Immaculate Heart	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 9.30am The Rumney Family (GR) IMMACULATE HEART CHURCH 6.00pm Hilda Valentine (TM)
Sunday 31st December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	ST EDWARD'S CHURCH 10.00am 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
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 23RD & 24TH DECEMBER, 2023

First Reading

2 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. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

We say the Psalm together

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

Second Reading

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.

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

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

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