

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - B**  
**FIRST READING**

*Your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood*

**Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3**

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision. "Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great." "My Lord God," Abram replied "what do you intend to give me? I go childless." Then Abram said, "See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir". And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood". Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to who Sarah had given birth.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 104**

**Response: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever**

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| <p>1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,<br/>make known his deeds among the peoples.<br/>O sing to him, sing his praise;<br/>tell all his wonderful works!</p> | <p>2. Be proud of his holy name,<br/>let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.<br/>Consider the Lord and his strength,<br/>constantly seek his face.</p>        |
| <p>3. Remember the wonders he has done,<br/>his miracles, the judgements he spoke<br/>O children of Abraham, his servant,<br/>O sons of the Jacob he chose.</p>     | <p>4. He remembers his covenant for ever,<br/>his promise for a thousand generations,<br/>the covenant he made with Abraham,<br/>the oath he swore to Isaac.</p> |

**SECOND READING**

*The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac*

**Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL**

*The child grew, filled with wisdom*

**Luke 2:22-40**

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

– observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man, he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said: "Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel." As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "You see this child; he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare." There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

**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](mailto: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

**30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - B**

**Masses, Devotions and Services**

	<b>St Cuthbert's Church</b>	<b>St Joseph's Church</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> <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>	<b>11:00am: Mass:</b> Ellen and Alf Hazelgave <b>Live stream</b>	
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> <b>Feast of Mary Mother of God</b>	<b>11.00am: Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>		<b>9.30am:</b> Ada Storey
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>9.00am Exposition</b> <b>9.30am: Mass:</b> Leo & Margaret Hopley	
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>9.30am: Mass:</b> Fr John Gibbons
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10.00am Requiem Mass for Joseph Mulgrove</b> <b>6.15pm Exposition</b> <b>7:00pm: Mass:</b>	
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>5:30pm: Mass:</b>
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>The Epiphany – B</b>	<b>11:00am: Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>Live stream</b>	

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

**What'sApp 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 Ros McGann Sarah Harrison, Scott Oakley, 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 Patricia Skelly, Joseph Mulgrove, Fr John Gibbons and all those who have died recently.

### **Feasts of the Holy Family and Mary Mother of God**

We continue to reflect on the mystery of God becoming human, of the incarnation, by reflecting the human family Jesus, the son of God was belonged to. He was part of a family, a refugee family, escaping a murderous regime, he was born of a woman. Early theologians were clear that God has to embrace all that is human for it to be liberated, for humanity to be redeemed. Families are a place of joy and love, but also a place where relationships can be strained and messy. We are all more likely to be harmed by a member of a family than an outsider. But God's offer of healing and reconciliation applies to all contexts, even our own families. May our families and the family of God, which is the Church, experience that peace, healing and reconciliation wherever it is needed. Bishop Stephen has a pastoral letter this week-end for the Feast of the Holy Family

### **Requiem Mass**

The Requiem Mass for Joseph Mulgrove will be 10.am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January at St Cuthbert's

### **Thank you**

The family of Ada Storey would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Fr Chris for such a beautiful mass and to everyone for their kind words, prayers and donations. It has proved a great comfort to us at this difficult time

### **Many thanks and some reflections at the end of 2023**

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the parish, for all that you contribute to the life of the parish. Above all, your presence as part of our worshipping community, a community that in Christ seeks to be active and contemplative. Thank-you for the example of your Christian discipleship. So many times, I am inspired by the way you quietly live out your faith, often with struggles and challenges but persisting with Gospel values and grace.

I am also grateful for your generosity with time and resources, which I appreciate are limited. I am grateful for the variety of ministries, services and contributions to parish groups that takes place. From music, cleaning, reading, counting the collection, serving, acting as special minister of the Eucharis, work back in the sacristy. The amount of work and effort is often unnoticed but is very much appreciated

When we had a Parish General Meeting in September those who took part were appreciative and some surprised by the breadth of groups that are active in the parish. These groups are: Parish and Children Catechists, the Social Group, Liturgy and Formation, the Mercy Associates, the SVP, the Proclaimers, Finance and Property, Christian Meditation, Pastoral Carers and the Parish Council. The diversity of these various Christian ministries in the parish is great to see.

I am aware that the development of the role of young people is something that the parish would like to see. I do see some 'green shoots' in this area and I hope these will continue to grow.

I appreciate that 2023 was a very challenging one for the diocese. I am aware of the call to move on but I hope and pray the causes as well as the symptoms of the issues that the diocese faced can be addressed, which above all for me is building up trust within the Church at all levels, especially between clergy and laity, as acknowledged by the diocesan submission for the synod process. Bishop Stephen has clearly made a positive impact and we continue to pray for him as he settles into the diocese.

The Synod Process is one that I find to be very exciting and gives me great hope. It will be fascinating to see what comes out of the Synod when it comes back together in October. Please pray for the process.

In terms of the liturgical and spiritual life of the parish, I am delighted with the success of the Christian meditation group. I am also grateful for the group discernment that took place to in deciding not to have a Retreat in Daily Life but to explore how we can make the parish more contemplative. People appear to engage well with the times of silence offered after the Gospel. Any comments on this attempt to develop the communal contemplative life of the parish will be appreciated  
It was also a joy on Christmas eve to have some hymns from the African community. All ethnic groups are welcome to offer a contribution to the Sunday liturgies.

I noted that many of those who sung that day have joined the parish in recent months. We are seeing increasing numbers of people coming to the town, many working in the NHS or care sector. I am so grateful that we are a strong welcoming parish and that people from overseas are made to feel welcome so quickly

2024 will be a very important year on the political level at a local, regional and national level. All councillors in North Tyneside will be up for re-election, we have the election of the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) and a general election has to be called within the next 12 months. Aware of the social upheaval that is taking place due to the increase of housing costs and NEMCA will have the budget for transport, I think we will need to be attentive to these areas so we can organise people to make a difference as effectively as our young people did with the Fair Fares campaign. Politicians will want our vote so we will have their attention and some leverage. Tyne and Wear Citizens will be very active specially as we prepare for the Mayoral Assembly on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. I will make you aware of the 'asks' of the Campaigning Action Teams as we seek a strong turnout that night

On a personal level a big thank-you for your support and encouragement. I am told that many clergy feel that they are not appreciated. I can assure you that this is certainly not the case for your parish priest Your support and help is very much appreciated especially as my own mother, now 92, is showing increasing signs fragility. Thank-you.

It is also appropriate to ask for forgiveness when my failings impact on the quality of my ministry and on relationships with those in the parish. Your prayers are appreciated, with a promise of my own prayers as a New Year dawns

Wishing you and your families every joy, peace and blessing for 2024

Fr Chris

### **Mercy Associates**

The Mercy Associates and St Joseph's School would like to say a very big thankyou to everyone who contributed to the Mercy Christmas Parcel Appeal. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you and we wish you a happy and peaceful New Year

### **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."

### **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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam). Online booking will apply booking fees.

### **DHN Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council AGM**

Saturday January 13th 2024 11am to 3.30 pm (welcome and refreshments from 10.30am)

At St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle

In the conference room (formerly the Mercy Hub)

Theme: Integrity in Church and Public Life.

Keynote speaker: Sir John Battle, former Labour MP and chair of the Leeds RC diocese commission for Justice and Peace.

A light vegetarian lunch will be provided.

All are welcome!

Book your place by email to

[lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com) by January 5th.

Please let them know of any sensory, physical or communication access needs which we need to take into consideration to allow your full participation.

Sir John Battle, is a former seminarian, founder of Church Action on Poverty, an MP from 1987 to 2010 and was a minister in the Blair Government. I genuinely cannot think of anyone else in this country who has the depth of understanding and experience of applying Catholic Social Teaching than he has. Worth listening to

### **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: Buy Fairtrade where you can. Traidcraft stock a wide range of Fairtrade products from coffee and biscuits to cleaning products and homeware. Available from <https://www.wearefairtrade.com>. Supermarkets also stock a wide range of Fairtrade goods.

### **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