

## MASS READINGS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – A

#### FIRST READING

*Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Exodus 17:3-7

#### Responsorial Psalm

Response: *O that today you would listen to him voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'*

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;<br>hail the rock who saves us.<br>Let us come before him, giving thanks,<br>with songs let us hail the Lord. | 2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;<br>let us kneel before that God who made us<br>for he is our God and we<br>the people who belong to his pasture,<br>the flock that is led by his hand. | 3. O that today you would listen to his voice!<br>'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,<br>as on that day at Massah in the desert<br>when your fathers put me to the test;<br>when they tried me, though they saw my<br>work.' |
|---|---|---|

Psalm 94

#### SECOND READING

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

#### Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;  
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

#### GOSPEL (Short version in bold)

*A spring welling up to eternal life.*

John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there: 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' **Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'**

## 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 Safeguarding Officer:  
Clare Harvey - 07507 297779**

**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

## 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent - A

### Masses, Devotions and Services

|   | St Cuthbert's Church                                    | St Joseph's Church                                      |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>  | 9.30: Stations of the Cross<br>10.00am Mass             | 5:30pm: Mass: Deceased Members of the Redpath Family    |
| <b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b><br><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent – A</b>  | 11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish<br>Live stream      |   |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>  |   |   |
| <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>   |   | 9.30am: Mass:<br>Deceased Members of the Redpath Family |
| <b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | 9:00am Exposition<br>9:30am: Mass: Private Intention    |   |
| <b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>  |   | 9.30am: Mass: Requiem Mass for Peter More               |
| <b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | 6.15pm: Exposition<br>7:00pm: Word and Communion:       |   |
| <b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | 9.30: Stations of the Cross<br>10.00am Word & Communion | 5:30pm: Mass: People of the Parish                      |
| <b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – A</b> | 11:00am: Mass: Martin How<br>Live stream                |   |

#### 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 Ordinary Time -Winter: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and those who care for them, Victims of human trafficking and those who combat it; the Unemployed

We pray for all who are sick, including Ros McGann Sarah Harrison, Scott Oakley, Jean Slater, Barbara & Tony Hicks, Richard Sutherland, Irene Keenaghan, Eileen Stevens, Paula More, Mary Quinn, Eleanor Robson, Paul Atkinson, Francis McSherry, Mary Kidd, Mary Rowley, Stan Llewellyn and Antoni Kulik.

Please pray for Peter More, Fr John McElhone and all those who have died recently.

### Third Sunday of Lent

As stated last week-end, we as a parish are going to take the option given to us over the next three weeks to use the Year A readings. The ancient Church would use these readings to help those preparing to be baptised at Easter to deepen their knowledge, understanding and love of Christ. Today we have Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. The Samaritan woman not only rejected by the Jewish people but due to her behaviour by own her own people. Her sense of loneliness and isolation is brought home by the fact that she comes out to collect water at the hottest part of the day since she will not encounter anyone. Yet as she seeks water during the hottest part of the day Christ presents himself as living water. He meets the thirst and longing of this woman, who is liberated to proclaim her messianic encounter.

What thirsts do we have. What thirsts do we face in our communities and our world. My Christ our living water of love, compassion, renewal and self-giving love, satisfy our thirsts, for that divine creative power and holy intimacy.

### Pope Francis Teaching on Prayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now consider the prayer of Moses. The book of Exodus portrays Moses – from a human point of view – as a failure. Yet at a certain point in his life, he encounters God in the wilderness. From a burning bush, the Lord calls Moses to return to Egypt in order to lead his people to freedom. But Moses, faced with the majesty of Almighty God and his demands, resists the call, protesting his unsuitability for such a great task.

Nevertheless, God entrusts him with the responsibility of conveying the divine law to the people of Israel, and Moses becomes their great intercessor, especially when they are tempted or have sinned.

With hands outstretched to God, Moses makes of himself a kind of bridge between earth and heaven, pleading for the people when they are most in need. In this way he prefigures Jesus, our great intercessor and high priest. We Christians are also called to share in this type of prayer, interceding for those who need God's help, and for the redemption of the whole world.

### Requiem Mass

The Reception of Peter More will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm at St Joseph's. His requiem Mass will also be at St Joseph's on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 am.

May these two long and faithful servants of St Joseph's community rest in peace.

### Live Simply Award.

As announced last week, CAFOD have informed us that our parish will receive the Live Simply Award. We are the third parish in the diocese to receive the award, following on from St Bede's Denton Burn and St. Joseph's Birtley.

Their assessor Paul Kelly stated in his e-mail to Anne Greaves and I "Congratulations to the parish on achieving the Live Simply Award which you richly deserve. Well done! It was great to meet so many key people last night and hear more about everything the parish is doing. Please do thank everyone for giving up their evening to share their experience, especially including Sara from the T&W Citizens hub.

As we said at the end you are remarkable for the emphasis you lay not only on your charitable works but on the collaboration with the Tyne & Wear Citizens Hub to seek social justice and bring about local change through grassroots empowerment. Truly inspiring and a model for others. We highlighted also the hands-on involvement with the refugee family in the redundant presbytery, partnership working such as the support for Nite Bite and MumSpace, and the improvements to biodiversity in the neighbourhood and the church grounds including the creation of a reflective prayer space surrounded by nature. In fact, everything in your plan contributes fully towards the award but these are highlights that merit particular commendation. The effectiveness of your Proclaimers Team was self-evident and very innovative".

A big thank you from me as your parish priest to all who contribute to all those aspects of parish life that Paul referred to and what was stated in our plan. We have won this award due to the collaboration, partnership and willingness to work together with groups within and beyond the parish. Well done to all! We will soon announce plans for an event where we will receive and celebrate winning the award.

### 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: Following up on the suggestion by our Live Simply assessor Paul Kelly, here is the link to the Big Plastic Count. Take part by recording your plastic waste for one week between March 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be distributing tally sheets next week so parishioners who don't 'do' the internet can also do their own count. Maybe do another in a month's time and see if you have managed to reduce your plastic waste? <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>.

### CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day

This appeal will be kept open till next week-end.

### Partnership Lenten Penitential Service

This will be at St Aidan's Wallsend on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

### Parish Council

Nominations are open for the parish council. There are five vacancies. You will be need to be nominated. I ask you all to reflect to consider if you or someone else in the parish would be suitable for the parish council. If someone comes to mind, please ask them if they would like to be nominated. Nominations will close next week-end on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

### New Energy Contract

The parish has just signed a new energy contract for the parish as part of the Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management Scheme (IFMS). We will be making a slight saving of 2% if consumption is similar. The gas will be carbon neutral. This means a great reduction in our carbon footprint and also that we will not be paying VAT for our energy, hence the small saving. We have yet to finalise an agreement for electricity but we hope that this will also be through IFMS and will totally sources from renewable sources.

### Proclaimers

The next meeting of our parish outreach group, the Proclaimers, will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at St Cuthbert's at 7pm. The main points of the agenda will be encouraging turn out for the Mayoral Assembly on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and discussing an event to celebrate and receive the Live Simply award. All are welcome.

### Summary of Listening Exercises, Result of Questionnaire and Bishop Stephen's Response

On our diocesan website <https://diocesehn.org.uk/> you will find all the summaries from the various listening exercises that have been running since the summer of 2023, and the results of the Questionnaire for the Dicastery of Bishops Report from March 2023. These are together with Bishop Stephen's response to what has been presented to him. He reflects on the past, present and our future together. The documentation is necessarily lengthy. Too lengthy for a pastoral letter. If you wish to have hard copies of all or parts of the suite of documents, then please contact the parish office.

### Praying and Supporting Victims of Church Abuse

LOUDfence. St. Mary's Cathedral and Newcastle Cathedral 3rd-6th March. Welcome to All. Together with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, our diocesan family is privileged to be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Marys' Cathedral and at Newcastle Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30 Sunday Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral on the 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church

communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be people available for pastoral accompaniment if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

### Lenten Day for Families

Catholic Mothers and the Carmelite Friars invite you to a Lenten Family Day at St John Vianney's, West Denton on Saturday 9th March, beginning with 10am Mass and followed by a short talk, opportunity for Confession, a soup lunch, children's activities and social time. All ages and families welcome. For more information email [catholicmothersne@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmothersne@gmail.com)

### Nite Bite

"Nite Bite is looking for a volunteer driver to pick up food donations on Tuesday mornings. If interested please see Peter Quinn or Anne Greaves",

### Tyne and Wear Citizens

The Mayoral Assembly will be your opportunity to listen all the candidates for the new North East Regional Mayor who will be looking for your vote. All the candidates who have successfully been able to stand as a candidate have agreed to take part. You can sign up for the assembly at:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/tyne-wear-citizens-north-east-devolution-mayoral-assembly>

### Rosary Group

"When two or three are gathered in my name..." All welcome to join a small group of parishioners praying the Rosary each week over Zoom. Day: Thursday - Time: 7:30pm  
For more information contact Ruth Corless at: [ruthcorless@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthcorless@btinternet.com)

### 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