

MASS READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – A

FIRST READING *{David is anointed king of Israel.}*

Samuel 16:1.6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm *{Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.}*

Psalm 22

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| <p>1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.</p> <p>3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.</p> | <p>2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.</p> <p>4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.</p> |
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SECOND READING *{Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.}*

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL *{The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.}*

John 9: 1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.' So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.

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

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

9th/10th March 2024 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert's Church	St Joseph's Church
Saturday 9th March	9.30: Stations of the Cross 10.00am Word & Communion	5:30pm: Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 10th March 4th Sunday of Lent – A	11:00am: Mass: Martin Howe Live stream	
Monday 11th March		
Tuesday 12th March		9.30am: Mass: Ellen Hughes
Wednesday 13th March	9:00am Exposition 9:30am: Mass:	
Thursday 14th March		9.30am: Mass:
Friday 15th March	6.15pm: Exposition 7:00pm: Mass: Fr John McElhone	
Saturday 16th March		9.30am: Stations of the Cross 10.00am Mass: 5:30pm: Mass: Kathleen & John Whitley
Sunday 17th March 5th Sunday of Lent – A	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish Live stream	

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

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, Fr Pat Kennedy and all those who have died recently.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

In the story of the man born blind, the focus is on being able to see, seeing in terms of using our eyes but also coming to a deeper understanding. Linked to this is the ability to be self-aware. Christ who is revealed as the Light of the world call us to acknowledge our own blindness and our need for a deeper wisdom. May we deepen our own self-awareness, our understanding of Christ and his relevance and significance for us today as we face the challenges and opportunities of the present time.

Pope Francis on Prayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now reflect on how constant prayer was the driving force of the missionary activity of the first Christians. Saint Luke tells us that they "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Today too the Church's life is centred on prayer, which unites us to Christ, and inspires our witness to the Gospel and our charitable service to those in need. In prayer, we experience the life of the risen Jesus who, in the power of the Spirit, continues to be present to our world, especially in the Church's teaching and sacraments, and our efforts to advance his kingdom of reconciliation, justice and peace. The Catechism teaches that the Holy Spirit "keeps the memory of Christ alive in his Church" (n. 2625), and grants courage and conviction to all those missionaries, who, in our day too, face arduous journeys, dangers and persecution for the sake of the Gospel. Like the early Christians, may we learn, through the cultivation of personal and communal prayer, to be ever more closely united to the Triune God of love, and to bring that same love to the world around us.

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally also Mothering Sunday. So to all mums in our community a very happy Mother's Day. I hope you have a great day. I especially remember all the mum's in our community who have experienced the loss of a child. Special prayers and best wishes to you.

Fr John McElhone

As mentioned last week, Fr John McElhone who was for a number of years the parish priest of St Aidan's and St Bernadette's, Wallsend died on February 28th. May he rest in peace. The Mass of Reception will be at St Aidan's on Thursday 21st March at 6pm. His Requiem Mass will be on Friday 22nd March at 12 noon, presided by Bishop Stephen Wright

Easter Triduum Services

Thursday 28th March St Joseph's
7:30pm: Mass of the Last Supper

Friday 29th March St Cuthbert's 3:00pm:
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday 30th March St Joseph's
5:30pm: Easter Vigil

Sunday 31st March 11:00am: St
Cuthbert's Mass of Easter Sunday

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: Just a reminder that The Big Plastic Count starts tomorrow for seven days. You can still register at <https://thebigplasticcount.com/> to record and submit your week's plastic waste on tally sheets which can be downloaded. These sheets have also been provided with the bulletin in case you don't have a printer or are not an internet user and want to do your own count.

CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day

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

Partnership Lenten Penitential Service

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

Parish Council

Nominations for the parish council close this week-end. So far I have had two nominations 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.

New Energy Contract

We have now signed new contracts for Gas and Electricity. The gas is 'carbon neutral' and all the electricity is from renewable sources. We will be significantly reducing our parish carbon footprint.

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

On our diocesan website:

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/bishop-stephens-response-to-the-listening-exercises/>

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.

Gateshead SPUC

This group have organized a Holy Hour at St Joseph's, Gateshead. Wednesday, 13th March from 7-8. All welcome. For more information please go to: www.veronicawhitty.co.uk

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",

Church Action on Poverty North East AGM

This will take place on Mar 21st 5.30pm (registration & refreshments from 5pm) at St Joseph's Centre, Gateshead.

The Theme is An Economy that works for the Common Good - a vote for Tax Justice

The keynote speaker is Sue Richardson. She will talk about Money and Justice, the nature of an economy that works for the common good and the role that tax can play here.

She chairs the Tax Justice group for the ecumenical organisation Just Money and is a member of CAP's Theology Collective. She has had close links with CAP for decades through her Justice and Peace Commission experience and her work with Christian Aid.

Tyne and Wear Citizens

There will be a meeting of the institutions in North Shields who belong to Tyne and Wear Citizens on Wednesday 13 March at St Cuthbert's at 7pm. All are welcome. Our main item of discussion will be learning about the 'asks' for the Mayoral Assembly and to encourage a good turnout from our institutions. All our welcome 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>

Proud Catholics - Stations of the Cross

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th March, at 7.30pm. We will pray the Stations of the Cross in St Andrew's RC Church, followed by refreshments in the Chaplaincy room. Zoom link available, get in touch if interested.

For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit our website <https://www.proud Catholics.co.uk/>

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

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

Dates for Diary

March 22nd 7.30pm Parish Social to celebrate the feasts of St Cuthbert and St Joseph. There will be a shared table.

May 19th Pentecost Sunday. Shared table after 11am Mass.

The food and singing to reflect the rich cultural diversity in the parish. We will also celebrate being awarded the Live Simply

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