

MASS READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent - C

First reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

‘The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.’

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: ‘Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.’

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R3

The rejoicing of a redeemed people

Response: Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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| <p>1. Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD is my strength and my praise,
and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation.</p> | <p>2. Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.</p> |
| <p>3. Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.</p> | |

Second reading

Philippians 4:4-7

‘The Lord is at hand.’

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

‘And we, what shall we do?’

At that time: The crowds asked John, ‘What, then, shall we do?’ And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’ Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than you are authorized to do.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, ‘I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

No.7732977 | Registered Charity Number 1143450

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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

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Tel: 0191 2573408

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Parish Safeguarding Officer: Clare Harvey - 07507 297779

Parish website information at: <http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk>

Parish Schools

St Thomas More High School: <https://stmacademy.org.uk/>

St Cuthbert’s Primary School: <https://www.stcuthbertsrcprimary.co.uk/>

St Joseph’s Primary School: <https://www.stjosephsrc-primary.co.uk/>

Partnership Telephone Numbers

Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021

St Mary’s Cullercoats ☎ 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: ☎ 07768 387393

14th/15th December 2024 - Third Sunday of Advent – C

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert’s	St Joseph’s	Our Lady & St Oswin’s
Saturday 14th December		5:30pm: Vigil Mass: People of the Parish	
Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent - C	11:00am: Mass: Bob & Iren Wallis Live stream		9:30am: Mass: People of the Parish
Monday 16th December			
Tuesday 17th December			10:00am: Mass: Jenny Cawood (TC)
Wednesday 18th December	9:30am: Mass: James Hughes	:	
Thursday 19th December		9:30am: Mass: Valerie Tait	
Friday 20th December	7:00pm: Mass: Ada & George Storey		
Saturday 21st December		5:30pm: Vigil Mass: Betty & Jack Bell	
Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent – C	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish Live stream		9:30am: Mass: Isabella & William Mason (MC)

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

Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

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Holy Communion for Sick and Housebound: Doreen Hull Email:
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Buildings & Grounds:

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St Joseph's: Allan Badenhope
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Health and Safety

St Cuthbert's Charlie Tynan
St Joseph's Jim McLearn
Email: Hs.stcutbertstjoseph.northshields@diocesehn.org.uk

Prayer Intentions for Advent Expectant Mothers, Refugees and Migrants, those with Mental Health Issues. Peace in the Holy Land 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, Paul Atkinson, Francis McSherry, Mary Kidd, Tom Wright, Mary Rowley, Antoni Kulik.
Please pray for Terry Lewis, Grace Turnbull, Ronnie Armstrong, Val Durkin, Edward Smith and for all those who have died recently.

Third Sunday of Advent

On this 'Rejoice Sunday', the central figure is John the Baptist. These are the key points that strike me from the Gospel:

- He outlines what it means to repent- Be just! If you have excess, share with those in need. He calls for clothing and food to be shared
- Supporters of Roman rule, such as tax collectors and soldiers turn to John the Baptist. Like Christ, he welcomes the foreign enemy but challenges them to act justly
- He is not the Christ, but he looks towards the coming of Christ, a Christ who will judge.

So, we have a John the Baptist calling for justice, promising judgment. He offers his perspective of God. Jesus will pass on many aspects of John's message, though as we will see with Luke's Gospel, justice and judgement will be balanced with mercy and compassion. This is the hope that is our source of rejoicing as we prepare for Christ's coming

Some Advent Reflections

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.

Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium [1], November 2013

Be Filled With Joy

Dear Child of God, you are loved with a love that nothing can shake, a love that loved you long before you were created, a love that will be there long after everything has disappeared. You are precious, with a preciousness that is totally quite immeasurable. And God wants you to be like God. Filled with life and goodness and laughter—and joy.

God, who is forever pouring out God's whole being from all eternity, wants you to flourish. God wants you to be filled with joy and excitement and ever ongoing to be able to find what is so beautiful in God's creation: the compassion of so many, the caring, the sharing. And God says, Please, my child, help me. Help me to spread love and laughter and joy and compassion. And you know what, my child? As you do this—hey, presto—you discover joy. Joy, which you had not sought, comes as the gift, as almost the reward for this non-self-regarding caring for others.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, from The Book of Joy

Warning.....Warning: Advent Virus

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is

possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment
- A loss of interest in judging other people
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others
- A loss of interest in conflict
- A loss of the ability to worry (this is a very serious symptom)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it

Making Time For Joy

So often we treat what is most life-giving as the least consequential, somehow less deserving than our "real" work. Song, art, poetry, dance, community, the sheer pleasure of being together — all the ways we celebrate, all the ways we embody hope, all the ways we bear witness to the God who is still creating in and through us: how frequently do we treat these as luxuries, turning to them only if we have time enough, energy enough, resources enough after everything else has been done?

How often do we wait until we have joy enough, light enough, inclination enough?

It can naturally become difficult to celebrate when we are too tired, too busy, too overwhelmed by the state of the world or the circumstances of our own lives. But this is when it becomes

especially important to be with those who will stoke our hope and remind us that our lives are bound together. If this season teaches us anything, it is that even in the dark there is cause to celebrate. Even in sorrow. Even in lack. Even when there is too much to do. Even when we don't feel like it. These days assure us that if we have lost hope, there are those who are hoping for us. If we are in darkness, Christ seeks us even there. If we are aching for light, it is on its way. If we are weary, there is a fiesta waiting for us, and friends to rejoice with, both far and near.

Adapted from Jan Richardson Curious about Joy
A Women's Christmas Retreat 2024 www.janrichardson.com

Advent and Christmas

Advent Carol Service at St Joseph's on Sunday December 22nd at 6pm

For Christmas Day, the pattern will be that of a weekend:

Tuesday	24 th December St Joseph's at 5.30pm with Carols and readings at 5pm
Wednesday	25 th December St Oswin's at 9.30am
Wednesday	25 th December St Cuthbert's at 11.00am

At St Mary's and Our Lady Star of the Sea Churches

24 th December	5.30pm Carols & 6.00pm Mass, St Mary's Church
24 th December	5.30pm Carols & 6.00pm Mass, St Edward's Church
24 th December	7.30pm Carols & 8.00pm Mass, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
25 th December	9.30am Mass, St Edward's Church
25 th December	11.00am Mass, St Mary's Church

Jubilee 2025:

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we'll be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Proud Catholics - Mass with Advent carols and festive refreshments

Their next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th December, at 7.30pm. We will celebrate Mass in St Andrew's RC Church, during which we will sing a selection of Advent carols. This will be followed by festive refreshments in the Chaplaincy Room. Zoom link available. For more information, phone us on 07858 934457, email info@proud Catholics.co.uk or visit our Facebook and Instagram pages @proud Catholicsuk

DEC Appeal for the Middle East

The Disaster Emergency Committee, which CAFOD is a partner, is running an appeal to help those impacted by the upheaval in the Middle East For more information please go to: <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/middle-east-humanitarian-appeal>.

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 9 1146513

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: Committing to living simply, sustainably with creation and in solidarity with those in poverty can help us deepen our relationship with God, ourselves and one another

Nite Bite Christmas Dinner

Via Churches together our Parish participates in the provision of a small Christmas celebration for some of our town's residents in need of help.. A festive meal will be provided prior to Christmas when (if they are available) guests are given gifts. Volunteers start sorting/wrapping gifts early in December hence this advert. So an appeal: If you can donate something suitable (guests are both male and female), e.g. toiletries, socks - please leave them at the back of either church. Generally, there is a donation of selection boxes but confectionary is always popular.

Thank-you on behalf of Nite Bite

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

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