

MASS READINGS

4th Sunday of Advent – C

First reading

‘From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.’

Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R4

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| <p>1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse up your might and come to save us.</p> | <p>2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the stock your right hand has planted, the son you have claimed for yourself.</p> |
| <p>3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have confirmed as your own. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.</p> | |

Second reading

‘Behold, I have come to do your will.’

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.” ’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings’ (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will’. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia.

Luke 1:38

Gospel

‘Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.’

Luke 1:39-45

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

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| <p>Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church <i>Albion Road West North Shields</i></p> | <p>Tynemouth Priory Partnership </p> | <p>Saint Joseph Catholic Church <i>Wallsend Road North Shields</i></p> |
|--|---|---|

Father Christopher Hughes, St Joseph’s Church, Wallsend Road, Chirton, North Shields, NE29 7AA

☎ (Tel) 0191 257 5801 / ✉ (Email) chris.hughes@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Mrs Katherine Main - Tuesday-Friday 8.45am-12.45pm

Tel: 0191 2573408

Email: stcuthbert.northshields@diocesehn.org.uk

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

21st/22nd December 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - C

Masses, Devotions and Services

| | St Cuthbert’s | St Joseph’s | Our Lady & St Oswin’s |
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| 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) |
| Monday 23rd December | 1:00pm The Requiem Mass for Valerie Durkin | | |
| Tuesday 24th December | | 5.00pm Carols 5:30pm: Vigil Mass | 10:00am: Mass: Syvia Reay (KJ) |
| Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day | 11:00am: Mass: McAloon Family Live Stream | | 9:30am: Mass: Priests Intention |
| Thursday 26th December | | 11:00am: Mass: Paul & Dereck Casson | |
| Friday 27th December | 7:00pm: Mass: Ellen & Alf Hezelgrave | | |
| Saturday 28th December | | 5:30pm: Vigil Mass: People of the Parish | |
| Sunday 29th December Feast of the Holy Family | 11:00am: Mass: Maureen Knight Live stream | | 9:30am: Mass: Maureen Cairns (AC) |

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

Parish office: 0191 257 3408

Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

Clare Harvey: Email:
Psr.stcutbertstjoseph.northshields@diocesehn.org.uk
07507 297779

Holy Communion for Sick and Housebound: Doreen Hull

Email: pastoral.stcuthertstjoseph.northshields@diocesehn.org.uk

Buildings & Grounds:

St Cuthbert's -Linda Shotton
St Joseph's: Allan Badenhope
Email: Buildings.stcutbertstjoseph.northshields.
@diocesehn.org.uk

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, Maria Mason and for all those who have died recently.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

From Tuesday 17th December the focus totally changes. We are not a people looking forward in hope but now journeying with a people who were waiting for the One to Come. We look at those events that took place just before the birth of Christ. Although the Christ is yet to be born, the dawn of our salvation has begun. From 17th December we have been going through Matthew's and Luke's version of events that took place, with Matthew focusing on Joseph and Luke on Mary. Our Gospel for this Sunday is the famous story of the Visitation. Even before his arrival the messianic age is being proclaimed- 'Why should I be honoured by the mother of our Lord' I love this Gospel. It tell us about our faith is about the ultimate encounter of God and humanity. It also informs us the potential of all encounters, that the divine can be revealed. We can all be Mary's, Christ invisible within, we can all be 'Christ bearers'. We can also be Elizabeth, having that ability to recognise Christ within the other. In these final days of Advent may we ready for the ultimate encounter of God and humanity in the birth of Christ Our Lord and open to his presence in all our encounters

Some Advent Reflections

The Womb Of Silence

Not in the whirlwind, not in the lightning,
not in the strife of tongues is God to be found,
but in the still small voice speaking in the womb of silence.
Therefore be silent.
Let the past be silent.

Let there be no vain regrets,
no brooding on past failures, no bitterness,
no judgement of oneself or of others.

Let all be silent.

Be still and know. Be still and look.

Let the eyes of the mind be closed
that you may hear what otherwise you would not hear,
that you may know what otherwise you would not know.

Abandon yourself to God in longing love,
simply, holding on to nothing but God.
So you may enter the silence of eternity
and know the union of yourself with God.

And if in the silence God does not answer, God is still there.

God's silence is the silence of love.

Wait then in patience and in submission.

It is good to wait in silence for God's coming.

Author unknown

From Nazareth to Newcastle: An Annunciation for 2024

It's early evening. You are walking in down Northumberland. It's a few weeks before Christmas, and the streets are filled with people shopping. The pavements are so crowded that it's hard to walk without bumping into someone. Your life has been so busy lately that you haven't had time to think about Christmas or shopping or anything related to the season. As you walk, you wonder why you even decided to go into the town tonight. You knew it would be crowded. You knew it would be difficult just crossing the street, but something drew you here, something that you felt deep inside.

You decide to sit in a café for a few minutes to let your mind settle. You take your coffee, but even this place is so full there aren't any seats available. You notice someone sitting at a table alone. "Do you mind if I sit here?" you ask him.

He looks up. You've seen his face before, but you can't remember where. "Not at all," he says with a smile.

You take off your coat and sit down. The man continues to look at you. At first it makes you feel uncomfortable but as you look into his deep brown eyes, you see an unusual depth and brightness there. Then he asks, "What are you looking for tonight?"

The question strikes you as odd, but there is something about his face and voice that make you want to open up and speak freely. "I'm not shopping, that's for sure," you say laughing. "Why do you ask?" He smiles and says, "I think you know me." You look at him and again that feeling that you do know him comes over you. "Your face seems familiar. Perhaps we've met before. Are you from around here?"

His eyes seem to look deep inside of you. His smile is warm and inviting. "I am the one you've been searching for. I am he." His words penetrate deep inside you. You feel a sense of peace and calm, a feeling that he knows all about you and sits there without judgment. "All you need to do is open your eyes. I am here. I am everywhere. Just look."

It is then you know. It is then you understand. You look down at your coffee unable to speak but feeling more alive than you have in years. When you look up, he is gone. You look around the café, but you don't see him. You look out the window, and

there he is, smiling at you. He points to his heart and says, "Just look. I am here." And then he disappears into the crowd.

Original author unknown with some small adaption from Fr Chris

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:

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| 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

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|---------------------------|--|
| 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 |

Requiem Masses

In the final days of the year, we have the Requiem Masses for two much loved and respected parishioners.

The Requiem Mass for **Valerie Durkin** will be at St Cuthbert's on Monday 23rd December at 1.00 pm followed by burial at Preston Cemetery.

The Requiem Mass for **Maria Mason** will be on Tuesday 31st December at 10.00am followed by committal at Preston Crematorium.

May they rest in peace

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>.

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: Aware of the suffering in the land where Jesus was born, perhaps you could donate to a Charity that is helping.

One is the Aid to the Church in Need: <https://acnuk.org/>

Another is Medical Aid for Palestinians:

<https://www.map.org.uk/>

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