

MASS READINGS

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

FIRST READING

'Samuel, as long as he lives, is lent to the Lord.'

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.'

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. Rcf. 5a

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.</p> | <p>2. Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.</p> |
| <p>3. LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed.</p> | |

SECOND READING

'We are called children of God; and so we are.'

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers.

Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

No.7732977 | Registered Charity Number 1143450

Scripture Readings © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, and Doubleday and Co. Inc., Psalm © The Grail, and all used by permission

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

<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>
<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</p>		
<p>Parish website information at: http://www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk</p>		
<p>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/</p>		
<p>Partnership Telephone Numbers Monsignor Andrew Faley ☎ 0191 252 8021 St Mary's Cullercoats ☎ 0191 251 3770 St Cuthbert's Church ☎ 0191 257 3408</p>	<p>Partnership Telephone Numbers Father David Smith ☎ 0191 262 3882 Hospital Chaplaincy: ☎ 01670 712476 Deacon: Rev Stephen Boulter: ☎ 07768 387393</p>	

28th/29th December 2024 – Feast of the Holy Family

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St Cuthbert's	St Joseph's	Our Lady & St Oswin's
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)
Monday 30th December			
Tuesday 31st December	10:00am: Requiem Mass Maria Mason		No Mass
Wednesday 1st January	11:00am: Mass: Stan Llewellyn		
Thursday 2nd January		9:30am: Mass:	
Friday 3rd January	7:00pm: Mass: Margaret Theresa Lewis		
Saturday 4th January		5:30pm: Mass: Elizabeth Jones	
Sunday 5th January The Epiphany	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish Live stream		9:30am: Mass: People of the Parish

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.stcuthbertstjoseph.northshields@diocesehn.org.uk
07507 297779

Holy Communion for Sick and Housebound: Doreen Hull

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

Buildings & Grounds:

St Cuthbert's -Linda Shotton

St Joseph's: Allan Badenhope

Email: Buildings.stcuthbertstjoseph.northshields@diocesehn.org.uk

Health and Safety

St Cuthbert's Charlie Tynan

St Joseph's Jim McLearn

Email: Hs.stcuthbertstjoseph.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.

Feast of the Holy Family

For this first Sunday of the Christmas period, we always celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We are asked to explore the unique relationship between Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In the office of Readings for today St Pope Paul VI gives us a profound reflection on the Holy Family. The family is the bedrock of society. It is also the school of faith and love. But this feast day also challenges to widen our notion of family. Through grace our relations are called to transcend blood. We are all part of the family of God.

St Pope Paul VI also sees the Holy Family as a place of silence. Silence can quieten our souls and create the space for an encounter with God in our own homes. In our day of social media and technology, a house of silence may seem hard to imagine but in the simple life of Nazareth, with a strong pattern of Jewish prayer, silence would have been a key part of life. Can our homes become more silent?

Finally, St Pope Paul, reflects on the dignity of work. Focusing on St Joseph, traditionally seen as a carpenter, from the requirement of household chores to earning a wage to pay the bills, work is an inescapable part of what it means to be human. However, work is supposed to aid us in our development of what it means to be human but not ensnare, harm or demean us. Sadly, this is the case for millions, for whom work is demanding, dangerous and poorly paid. We

pray for all those for whom work is more likely to be destructive rather than creative for them and their families. May our families be a place of love, faith and hope. We also pray for all those for whom family life has been destructive instead of the creative, loving life giving space that it is meant to be. May their membership of the wider family of God be a source of grace and healing.

Requiem Mass

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

May she rest in peace

Looking back at 2024

For the last Sunday of 2024 I would like to offer some reflections. First of all, a huge thank-you to you, our parish community. For your faith, service and making our parish a welcoming and loving community. Your commitment is bearing fruit. The parish count in September and October showed a 12% increase. Parish income increased by just under 50%. There are a number of factors for these increases but the warmth of welcome and depth of faith that is manifested by you, the parish is an overriding factor for this growth. Thank-you.

In February we had our assessment for the Live Simply Award, which we were awarded and received at a wonderful celebration in May. We were just the third parish in the diocese to receive this award. We seek to consolidate the aims of the award by now having renewable sources for our energy supply; we are seeking to transform the back garden at St Joseph's and through our work with Nite bite, New to the UK, the SVP and our membership of Tyne and Wear Citizens. We cannot underestimate the witness we give as a parish through our social and prophetic outreach.

In July I informed the parish that Canon Martin Stempczyk was moving to Felling, Mgr Faley and I had been asked to look after the Parish of St Mary's, Cullercoats and Our Lady's and St Oswin's, Tynemouth, with me focusing on St Oswin's. I have very much appreciated the support of the parish and also the warm welcome that has been given to me at St Oswin's. Having an extra Church does have its demands, but people are very supportive. On reflection, there has been some positive aspects to having an extra Church, since I need now to delegate more responsibilities to parishioners. I am grateful for those parishioners who are helping with administration and building maintenance. I am also delighted with the establishment of a Funeral and Bereavement ministry group this year, who are helping me in this important area of ministry.

It is also good to know that other parish groups such as the Social Group, SVP, Christian Mediation, Proclaimers, church

cleaners, flower arrangers, sacristans and those all involved in the Liturgy in some way, are carrying out such a diverse set of activities but all as part of the one community in Christ. The witness that you all give does make an impact on our parish and beyond. This is much appreciated.

The request from Bishop Stephen on December 16th to be the Dean of the Newcastle and North Tyneside Parishes was a surprise. One of the reasons I agreed is that I know the parish will be supportive and willing to help in the ministries of the parish. The work of delegating will need to continue in 2025.

On a sad note, many much loved and valued parishioners died in 2024. They are greatly missed, though I give thanks for their contribution to the parish and the wonderful example and inspiration of faith and discipleship they gave to me and others. May they rest in peace.

Although there has been little attention and leadership from the Bishops' Conference regarding the Synod in October, I still believe it was the most important gathering of the Church since the end of Vatican II in 1965. I hope that we will discover more about the implications of the synod in 2025. I myself am very interested in the relationship between the Synod Process, Catholic Social Teaching and Community Organising. Exploring the relationship between these three areas will be an important focus of parish life this year. Looking ahead 2025 is a year of Jubilee and celebration, at a universal level with the Jubilee year and at a local level as we celebrate the 70 anniversary of St Joseph's and the 50th anniversary of St Cuthbert's. I hope these celebrations will deepen the bonds of relationships between you all, so that you, like me, can be inspired by the lives of so many people in our community.

Your generosity to me at Christmas with cards and gifts is much appreciated. Thank-you.

A final Thank-you for all you do for the parish and your support and prayers. Your generosity and kindness are much appreciated.

With respect, gratitude, love and prayers for you all this Christmas and for 2025

Fr Chris

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>.

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>.

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/>

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