

Mass Readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent – A

FIRST READING: David is anointed king of Israel. **1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**
In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.’ And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, ‘Arise, anoint him, for this is he.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.* **Psalm 23(22)**

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; he revives my soul.

2. He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.
3. You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.


4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD’s own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

SECOND READING: ‘Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’ **Ephesians 5:8-14**
Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 8:12**
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

GOSPEL **John 9:1-41**
‘He went and washed and received his sight.’
At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.
The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘It is he.’ Others said, ‘No, but he is like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ So they said to him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” So I went and washed and received my sight.’ They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?’ And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’
The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, ‘Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ And they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?’ And they cast him out.
Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, ‘Are we also blind?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, “We see”, your guilt remains.’

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields		
Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church <i>Albion Road West North Shields</i>	Tynemouth Priory Partnership 	Saint Joseph Catholic Church <i>Wallsend Road North Shields</i>
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	

29 th /30 th March 2025 – 4 th Sunday of Lent			
Masses, Devotions and Services			
	St Cuthbert’s	St Joseph’s	Our Lady & St Oswin’s
Saturday 29 th March	9.30am Stations 10.00am Mass	5:30pm: Mass: Shelagh Goodwin	
Sunday 30 th March 4 th Sunday of Lent – C	11:00am: Mass: People of the Parish Live stream		9:30am: Mass: Mary & Francis Wrightson (KJ)
Monday 31 st March			
Tuesday 1 st April			10:00am: Mass: Brendan Nolan (SD)
Wednesday 2 nd April	9.30am: Mass: David McManus		
Thursday 3 rd April		9:30am: Mass	
Friday 4 th April	7:00pm: Mass: Maria Mason		
Saturday 5 th April		9.30am Stations 10.00am Mass: 5:30pm: Mass: Parish	
Sunday 6 th April 5 th Sunday of Lent – C	11:00am: Mass: Bob Dunn 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 <i>StCuthStJosNshields</i> 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

Tel. 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 Lent: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; the Sick and those who care for them; Victims of Trafficking and those who combat it; the Unemployed; Elderly in Poverty.

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, Tommy Campion.

Please pray for Luke McAndrew, Brendan Nolan and for all those who have died recently.

4th Sunday of Lent

Happy Mothering Sunday!

Hope all the mums have a blessed and joyful day. We pray for all our mums.

The Gospel we have this week-end is the story of the man born blind. The whole story turns on how the word 'see' can have two meanings. It can of course mean the actual physical action of seeing something. But this word can also mean to understand. The man born blind was seen as sinner, his disability is seen as a punishment but what does that mean if he can see now? The physical act of seeing progresses to become one of understanding when he tells Christ at the end of Gospel 'I believe' and he worships him. The Pharisees can physically see but they are blind in their understanding of Jesus.

Lent is a time for deepening our understanding of Jesus. What is the significance of his life, death and resurrection for you now? What aspect of his life is relevant to yours at this time? May the light of Christ deepen our perception of him so that we can truly see and understand.

Lent 2025

Lent is a space to take refuge in God, to create an ecology for grace. Whatever your Lenten practices are going to be, they are means so that our Love of God and others is deepened and sustained.

Stations and Mass:

This Saturday Stations and Mass will be at St Joseph's, starting at 9.30am.

The Lenten Programme at St Cuthbert's continues this Thursday at St Cuthbert's.

The programme is called **Listening with the Heart**. It features personal stories of both Israeli and Palestinian parents who lost children during the conflict and how their shared pain is a means to peace, understanding and reconciliation. The programme has been created by the Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF) – a joint Israeli and Palestinian organization made up of more than 700 bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families, all of whom have lost a loved one to the ongoing violence in the region.

Motivated by the profound depth of their pain, the PCFF members have committed to do everything they can to work towards reconciliation and peace. They recognize that the grief they experience is shared across humanity. The willingness to transform feelings of anger, revenge, despair, and helplessness is expressed in the choice to act for hope and reconciliation. The stories are moving though not easy to hear but reconciliation is a sign of hope that is worth sharing and reflecting on.

Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday Liturgies

The Easter Triduum will take place in the following churches:

April 17th Maundy Thursday 7.30pm at St Oswin's, Tynemouth

April 18th Good Friday 3.00pm St Cuthbert's, North Shields

April 19th Easter Vigil 5.30pm St Joseph's, North Shields

Masses on Easter Sunday:

9.30am St Oswin's, Tynemouth

11.00am St Cuthbert's, North Shields

Parish Council

Just a reminder of who the full list parish councillors now are:

Allan Badenhop Vice-chair, Caroline Collings-Backhouse, Louisa Connolly, Barbara Davies, Suzanna Foley, Paul Laidler Co-chair, Gary Leece, Conrad Masiwa Co-chair, Anne-Marie McCann Secretary, Amede Nnorom, Annabelle Office, Tim O'Grady, Cameron Quinn and Ben Tarelli-Senior. My thanks to you all for being willing to serve our parish by being part of the Parish Council.

A Note of Thanks

"Dear Father and all parishioners of the Parish, We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the decision to kindly grant us the permission to visit Your parish. We heartily thank the Lord for Your and Your parishioners' hospitality and precious help during the visit of our sisters. We do appreciate all your efforts, concern, assistance and kind heartedness greatly.

Our sisters are incredibly grateful for the donation collected in your parish which will allow us to continue our outreach services and programs for orphanage children with psychophysical deficiencies, for people who were led astray by the rough and tumble of life (the homeless, drug and alcohol addicts, ex-prisoners and the less able) including food, shelter and clothing distribution. Let us assure you that You are always welcome here at St Elisabeth Convent. We wish all of you Blessings of Joy and Peace throughout the Year! With deep gratitude and love in Christ, Sister Olga and sisters of St Elisabeth Convent.

Tyne and Wear Citizens

There will be a hub meeting on Tuesday April 1st at St Cuthbert's at 7pm. The main item of agenda will be preparing for the podcast with the Mayoral candidates.

Confirmations July 16th

Bishop Stephen will be Confirming our candidates for Confirmation on July 16th. There are letters for possible candidates at the back of Church. You need to be a Year 9 pupil or older to be on the programme. The programme starts on April 30th. If you or your child is not at St Thomas More School please contact Fr Chris. Pupils at St Thomas More will receive information from the school about the programme

Retiring Collection April 5th & 6th

Next week-end, there is a retiring collection for sick and retired priests in the diocese.

Christian Meditation Group

This group will not be meeting on 8th April.

CAFOD Lent Appeal & Campaign against Overseas Aid Cuts

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

Family Fast Envelopes are available at the back of church.

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

On 25th February the Prime Minister announced that the aid budget will be cut again, meaning that it will be at its lowest level since 1999. The result will be that in some of the most vulnerable places on earth, more people will die and many more will lose their livelihoods. At a time when we are seeing other decreases of aid to support the world's most vulnerable communities, our government should be redoubling its efforts to enable people to emerge from poverty. Please contact your MP urgently and ask them to take action to ensure that the UK does not turn its back on those most in need. Please go to the following site to write to your MP:

<https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/166896/action/1>

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp – Volunteering is a Work of the Heart

Holy Island Children's Camp is looking for new volunteers to help in their Holiday Centre on Holy Island. They are in need of young adults to help the children have a great week's holiday on the island in Summer 2025. Full training and support will be given and would suit someone wanting to give back to the Community by helping 9-12-year-olds have fun for a week. They are also keen to attract people who would like to help by volunteering in the Kitchen/Dining room and with caretaking. Term Time Camps need lots of volunteers if they are to survive. If you could find a few days in term time to help out with serving meals, prepping salads and washing dishes they would be truly grateful. By running term time camps, Summer Vinnies Holidays for children can be sustained. Further information can be found at <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or if you'd like to chat about the role please email BarbaraT@svp.org.uk

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: In this year of Jubilee we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope. What is about creation that gives you hope?

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: 91146513

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