

Mass Readings
1st Sunday of Advent – A

First reading

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Sion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm

Response: *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.*

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| <p>1. I rejoiced when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.</p> | <p>2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD.
As it is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
There were set the thrones for judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.</p> |
| <p>3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray,
'May they prosper, those who love you.'
May peace abide in your walls,
and security be in your towers.</p> | <p>4. For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, 'Peace upon you.'
For the sake of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will seek good things for you.</p> |

Psalm 122 (121)

Second reading

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 13:11-14a

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

Gospel

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Matthew 24:37-44

The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields

Saint Cuthbert Catholic Church <i>Albion Road West</i> <i>North Shields</i>	Tynemouth Priory Partnership 	Saint Joseph Catholic Church <i>Wallsend Road</i> <i>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: Katherine.Main@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	

29th/30th November 2025 – 1st Sunday of Advent – A

Masses, Devotions and Services			
	St Cuthbert's	St Joseph's	Our Lady & St Oswin's
Saturday 29th November		5:30pm: Vigil Mass: People of the Parish	
Sunday 30th November 1st Sunday of Advent – A	11.00am: Mass: Irene and Bob Wallis		9:30am: Mass: Maurice Cairns
Monday 1st December			
Tuesday 2nd December			10:00am: Mass: Tony Laggan (LL)
Wednesday 3rd December		9:30am: Mass: Vic Connerty	
Thursday 4th December	9:30am: Mass: Private Intention (TW)		
Friday 5th December	9.30am: Requiem Mass for Thomas Smith 7.00pm: Mass: Private Intention (CH)		
Saturday 6th December		5:30pm: Vigil Mass: Maurice Black	
Sunday 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent – A	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

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:

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Holy Communion for Sick and Housebound: Doreen Hull

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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 McLearie

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Prayer Intentions for Advent and Christmas: Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

We pray for all who are sick, including Ros McGann, Sarah Harrison, Jean Slater, Irene Keenaghan, Mary Quinn, Patricia Thompson, Paul Atkinson, Francis McSherry, Mary Kidd, Mary Rowley, Antoni Kulik, Peter Chester, Rebecca Cummings, Thomas Smith, Dorothy Falla, Bridget Geddes, Sr Zita Stephen Davies.

Please pray for Ann Gemmel, Maurice Cairns, Thomas Smith, Sheila Wheatcroft, Sheilas Chaplin, Malcolm Boyle, and for all those who have died recently.

First Sunday of Advent

Happy New Year! We begin a new Liturgical Cycle as we enter the season of Advent, the God of arrivals! The God who did arrive, who is still arriving each day and the God who will arrive again. Advent is in two parts. For over two weeks till December 16, our focus on the God who will be arriving. We wait in joyful expectation.

As we start the new Liturgical Year, we acknowledge that we are waiting for God's plan to be fulfilled. The readings for this Sunday have two themes. First, we get a sense of what we are waiting for. The first reading gives a vision of peace and unity. The prophet Isaiah tells that all nations will stream to the temple of the Lord. The dwelling place of God is the focus that draws us close to God and to each other. This unity will bring peace, 'Swords will be beaten into ploughshares, spears into pruning hooks nation will not lift sword against nation'.

Faced with this vision we are not to wait passively but to be faithful of the task for preparing for that vision to be fulfilled by ourselves seeking peace and unity.

The call of the Gospel is to stay awake, we do not know when God's plan will be fulfilled. We are called to be patient and hopeful. God's vision of peace, love and justice is worth waiting for and worth working for.

Pastoral Letter

This week-end we have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Stephen. He will be addressing the challenges faced with fewer priests in the diocese.

Thank-You for Your Generosity

You are a generous parish. A number of people want to thank-you for your support and generosity

- o Patricia Thompson is very grateful to all who purchased her poems. Over £600 was raised for CAFOD.
- o Gerry Beldon and Nitebite are also grateful for your support of the Ceilidh on November 21st. Over £800 was raised.
- o Caroline Luke wants to all express her thanks for your support of her cake and snack stall last week-end. Her mother told me she was overwhelmed by the great support of the parish for her daughter.

Change of Mass Times

Please note change of Mass Schedule. Mass on Wednesday will be at St Joseph's. On Thursday at St Cuthbert's. This due to the White Line being re-painted at St Cuthbert's Car Park. The car park must be empty for the 2nd and 3rd of December.

Christmas Crib Festival

As part of the celebrations for St Cuthbert's Church being 50 years old, we are hoping to have Christmas Crib festival for Advent and Christmas. If you have any cribs, you are welcome to display them at St Cuthbert's. The festival will be officially opened at the 11am Mass on November 29th.

Ministry of Welcome

I am grateful to the parish welcomers that came for the training. It was clear that is a very important ministry. It was agreed that it would be good practice that there were two welcomers for each church and to be at the back of church at the end of Mass not just to collect books but if there is queue for Fr Chris to inquire if you could help. More parishioners are needed for this important ministry. Please consider if you would like to take up this role.

Christmas Gifts

Via Churches Together we support the provision of small gifts to local homeless and asylum seekers – both sexes, all ages. If you can help – child's book/toy, confectionary, toiletries – please leave at back of church. Donations by w/e 6/7 December to allow volunteers time to sort, wrap & distribute. Thank You.

Missio Boxes

If you have a Missio red box, can you please bring them in as soon as possible. If you would like your box counted at

home, please contact Pauline Rogers on 0191 2581456 or 07443653380

CAFOD World Gifts

Copies of CAFOD's Catalogue for their Christmas World Gifts scheme are available at the back of Church if you would like to buy a gift for loved ones that helps some of the poorest and vulnerable in our world.

Holy Island Term Time Volunteer Opportunity

Are you retired, semi-retired or just enjoying life and would like to give something back to the children of the North East? If so, this could be for you. Holy Island SVP Vinnie's Camp are looking for volunteers to help in their Kitchen or with caretaking at our centre on Holy Island. Commitment time would vary from a weekend, to half a week, a full week or maybe more if you would like to, and you get to stay in our very comfortable Lindisfarne House accommodation. Without more term time volunteers our Summer SVP Vinnies Camps would not be possible and many schools in the North East would not have access to reasonably priced residential holidays for their children.

Applications open in December on our website: <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

If you are interested or want more information please email barbart@svp.org.uk

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camps Summer 2026 Volunteering Opportunities

We would love to have more volunteers help out at our weekly SVP Summer Camps on Lindisfarne. Helping is a really great thing to do and you will need to be prepared to give a week of your time over the Summer holidays, have high levels of energy, patience, a sense of humour, be a team player, flexible and good at communicating with adults and children. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would be great please look at our website – applications for volunteering in 2026, open in December. <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

From Diocesan Faith and Formation Department

As we are nearing the end of the Church calendar and enter Advent, we are once again offering a Sycamore course for Advent, a chance to explore God's invitation for you this Advent season. We invite you to share this information and booking link with those you feel would be interested.

What gives me some respite from the concerns of life? What is God's invitation for me this Advent season? Why not join us this Advent to explore these questions further through "Sycamore"? We will be using the following Sycamore sessions;

The Search for Happiness. The impossibility of sitting still. What is happiness? How to press the pause button.

A God who Speaks. The hiddenness of God. When God broke the silence. Discovering the face of God.

The Power of Prayer. What is prayer? Does prayer make a difference? How to pray.

The Meaning of Love. What is love? How to love your neighbour. Knowing the love of God.

The sessions will take place online using Zoom. They will be weekly on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.15pm on 27th November, 4th, 11th and 18th December. Join us for as many sessions as you can, and why not bring a friend?

Please register your interest using the link below to receive the Zoom link.

<https://bit.ly/DHNSycamoreAdvent2025>

Thank You From Significance

The Trustees of Significance thank everyone in our parishes and schools who supported the Grand Draw and all those who donated prizes. 1,005 tickets were sold which realised £5,025. The funds raised will help Significance to continue to support YMT and the Emmaus Village.

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: Choose sustainable transport by carpooling, using public transport, walking, or cycling.

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

Dates for Diary

December 20th and 21st – Celebrations for the 50th anniversary of St Cuthbert's 'new' Church

Bishop Stephen to preside at the 11am Mass on Dec 21st

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