

Mass Readings
The Feast of the Holy Family – A

First reading

The Lord honoured the father above the children,
and he confirmed the judgement of the mother over her sons.
Whoever honours his father atones for sins,
and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure.
Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children,
and when he prays he will be heard.
Whoever glorifies his father will have long life,
and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.
O son, help your father in his old age
and do not grieve him as long as he lives;
even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence;
in all your strength do not despise him.
For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
and against your sins it will be credited to you.

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.

1.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper.
2.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table.
3.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life!

Psalm 128(127)

Second reading

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17


Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia.

Gospel

When the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’
But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.’ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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: 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	

27 th /28 th December 2025 – Feast of the Holy Family – A			
Masses, Devotions and Services			
	St Cuthbert’s	St Joseph’s	Our Lady & St Oswin’s
Saturday 27 th December		5:30pm: Vigil Mass: People of the Parish	
Sunday 28 th December The Holy Family – A	11.00am: Mass: Thanksgiving – The Nobout Family		9:30am: Mass: People of the Parish
Monday 29 th December			
Tuesday 30 th December			10:00am: Mass:
Wednesday 31 st December	9.30am: Mass: Mary Stott		
Thursday 1 st January Mary, the Holy Mother of God		11.00am: Mass: Private Intention	
Friday 2 nd January	7.00pm: Mass: Thanksgiving – Solange Kouadis		
Saturday 3 rd January		5:30pm: Vigil Mass:	
Sunday 4 th January 2nd Sunday of Christmas – A	11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish		9:30am: Mass: People of the Parish

Facebook: Website: Parish office:	The Parish of St Cuthbert’s and St Joseph’s, North Shields search - - The Parish of Saint Cuthbert and Saint Joseph, North Shields. www.northtynesidecatholic.org.uk 0191 257 3408
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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.stcuthertstjoseph.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 and Christmas: Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

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

Please pray for Thomas Smith, Sheila Wheatcroft, Mary Stott, Sarah Harrison, Joyce Rogers and for all those who have died recently.

Feast of the Holy Family

The Sunday after Christmas finds our attention still at the manger at Bethlehem, where we focus on the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Both Mary and Joseph had a vital role in the birth of our saviour. For the drama of our salvation to unfold God cooperates with humanity. As we give thanks for their role in this unique family, we also have a role to play as members of God's family. It is an opportunity to reflect on our own families, that can be a source of great love and flourishing and yet for some family has been so destructive. Is our role in our own family creative or destructive?

As we reflect on the Holy Family of Nazareth, we also remember that the wonderful manifestation of divine love in the person of Christ, takes down the walls that separate us. We belong to the one family of God, that calls us to deep solidarity with each other, especially those who are poor or afflicted and a profound call to work not just for the interests of one particular group but for the common good. United in our God-given humanity and dignity is truth we are called to remember in a world that seems more divisive and violent. As we approach 2026, may our community be a light that is welcoming, diverse, united, radiating that light within and beyond our community.

Thank-you

As we come to the end of 2025, it is a time for me to reflect and to give thanks. It has been a year of jubilee and celebrations as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the opening of St Joseph's and the 50th anniversary of the opening of St Cuthbert's. We decided that the aim of this year was to deepen the relationships within and beyond our community. The great sense of diversity and unity at the social on December 20th manifested that we are achieving this goal though we continue to deepen these relationships. My thanks to all who contributed to the celebrations for both churches in August and December, and also with the inspiring mission in September.

In 2026 we will be reflecting on reshaping the parishes in the area, with the possibility of a new parish consisting of St Joseph's, St Cuthbert's and St Oswin's Tynemouth. Please pray for this process as we discern what is the right way forward.

As we come to the end of the year, I am very grateful for the support and contribution that you make to the parish. I cannot deny that for me personally that it has been a challenging year as I balance pastoral care and sacramental provision for 3 churches as well as being Dean for Newcastle and North Tyneside. I have survived ! I am constantly reviewing my commitments to ensure they are sustainable. My thanks to the parish council who are going to help me reflect on my commitments. I am acutely aware that without more of you being willing to share the ministry and mission of the parish, I could not sustain my current responsibilities, so a big thank you for your care and support.

Also a personal thanks for your generous cards and gifts. It is so kind of you. It is much appreciated.

Finally, I have to admit in being very proud of the article published by the Guardian on December 13th: https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/dec/13/people-listen-turning-anger-community-pride-north-shields-citizens-uk?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

The fact that a national paper in looking for a sign of hope in our nation that is becoming more divisive and fragmented, focused on community work that has been predominantly carried out by two catholic schools and our parish in North Shields was incredibly affirming of our life and mission. What a great witness it gave! Well done!

There is still plenty to do. The division and fragmentation will take a long time to heal. People are rightly angry and understandably frightened that public services are withering and bills are increasing. But our community has shown that in being willing to be attentive to each other and build relationship within and beyond our church walls unity and peace can be developed. For me this is a constant sign of the grace of the 'God with us' working through us. What a great sign of hope!

So, I end this reflection with a big thank-you for the witness of your faith, hope and love. I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and grace-filled New Year, Prayers and gratitude for and to you all, Fr Chris

Northern Catholic Calendars

The 2026 Northern Catholic Calendar is now available. The cost is £4.

Trinity Charity Shop

The Trinity Shop is a useful source of income for the parish. I am very grateful to parishioners who help out on a Thursday. More volunteers would be appreciated. Please contact Fr Chris if you would like to volunteer.

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

Diocesan Job Vacancies:

o Administrator – YMT
Supporting the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and our small, dedicated team, we are looking for an Administrator to cover a period of Maternity Leave.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing efficient administrative and operational support to the YMT team.
- Managing correspondence, records, and calendars.
- Coordinating bookings, logistics, projects and event administration.
- Handling financial tasks including invoicing, payment tracking, and reporting.

Please note this role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check and YMT cannot accept CVs. You must complete our Application Form, available as part of the Applicant Pack.

If you are interested, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Annie Leaver, Head of Human Resources at annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Sunday 4th January 2026.

o Safeguarding Administrator

Supporting the Safeguarding team, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are looking for a consummate administrative professional who handles sensitive information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality. Similarly, you'll be a person who has an eye for detail recognising the need for accuracy and precision.

Salary scale - £26,000 to £27,768

If you would like to apply for this 12 month Fixed Term Contracted Safeguarding position, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Bernadette Aquino at Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk

Please note the Diocese cannot accept CV's and as such to be considered for the position you must request our Applicant Pack and then complete and return our Application Form. The closing date is 9am Friday 9th Jan 2026 (we reserve the right to close the position early.)

Tynemouth priory partnership meeting — the future of the Church and the role of the laity

On Saturday 24th January 2026, following Mass at 9.30am, the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea will host a meeting at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, West Monkseaton, to be led by Amy Cameron, the Director of Formation at the Diocese. The meeting, which will discuss the future of the Church is particularly relevant in the light of Bishop Stephen's Advent pastoral letter. It is open to all parishioners in the Partnership and will finish at 1.00pm.

St Joseph's Home

Will happily accept postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (any country or period & either notes or coins), broken or unwanted pieces of gold & silver jewellery & military medals.

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: Assist vulnerable populations by supporting Nite Bite or the Diocesan Refugee Project and the SVP

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

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