

## The week ahead...

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| <b>Saturday 16 December</b><br>Saturday of Advent 2   | 5:00pm  | Mass: <b>Kathleen Caisley, Teresa &amp; Walter Drane and pro populo</b> |
| <b>Sunday 17 December</b><br>Third Sunday of Advent   | NO MASS |   |
| <b>Monday 18 December</b><br>Monday of Advent 3       | NO MASS |   |
| <b>Tuesday 19 December</b><br>Tuesday of Advent 3     | 6:30pm  | Mass: <b>Kathleen Caisley</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 20 December</b><br>Wednesday of Advent 3 | 9:30am  | Mass: <b>Marie Carey</b>  |
| <b>Thursday 21 December</b><br>Thursday of Advent 3   | 9:30am  | Mass: <b>Bryan Cheeseey</b>   |
| <b>Friday 22 December</b><br>Friday of Advent 3       | 7:00am  | Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>  |
| <b>Saturday 23 December</b><br>Saturday of Advent 3   | 5:00pm  | Mass: <b>John Howarth and pro populo</b>                                |

### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 16 December

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Angela & Gordon Tosley  
Angela Harmston

#### Readers

Claire Lavery  
Margaret Purdom

#### Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths  
Helen Riddles

#### Welcomers

Pat Middleton  
Mary Kitching

#### MINISTRIES

##### Saturday 23 December

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Teresa & Malcolm Wass  
Andrew Aberdeen

#### Readers

Greg Mearman  
Pat Middleton

#### Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths  
Michelle Dennis

#### Welcomers

Halina Holman  
Janet Harrigan

Third Sunday of Advent

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin.

#### We pray for our beloved deceased, including....



*"We remember those who have gone before us"*

Kathleen CAISLEY  
Teresa & Walter DRANE  
John KERWIN  
Catherine DOWDLE  
Hannah CARROLL  
Joseph MAWSON

*Please remember in your prayers people who are sick and housebound in the parish....*

*Maureen McCrann, Doreen Carroll, Margaret Pouton, Pat Harrison, Olwyn Morris, Jim Patterson, Linda Carter, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Mary Spears and Rose Crick.*



### St Patrick's R.C. Church

*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*

Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ

Priest in Charge: Fr Robert Riedling Ph: (0191) 378 4486  
Mob: 07904 833 785

Email: langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk

St Patrick's R.C. Primary School: Ph: (0191) 378 0552

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully Ph: (0191) 526 5131

## Third Sunday of Advent

## 17 December, 2017

### "I am not the Christ."

WE SAW "centre stage" occupied by John the Baptist last weekend and we have the same situation before us on this "Rejoice Sunday", traditionally known by its Latin name "Gaudete Sunday". In our First Reading, Psalm and Second Reading we hear the words "rejoice", "joy", and "happy" which reflect the nature of this Third Sunday of Advent, marking the mid-point of the Advent season.

Last week, John the Baptist was pointing to Jesus, declaring that he, John, was not the Messiah but that his role was rather to prepare the way for the one who is to come, Jesus. John is at pains to point out that the relationship between he and Jesus is not an equal one: "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals."

We have much the same scenario presented to us this weekend, though we hear it from the perspective of John the Evangelist. Though we are focusing on Mark's Gospel throughout this Church year, we hear from the Gospel of John this Sunday because we exhausted most of Mark's account of the first appearance of John the Baptist last weekend.

And what we hear from the writer of John's Gospel is a beautiful characterisation of the Baptist as a part of the Prologue, those famous and beautiful words which begin the Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God." The first three verses of the Gospel text we hear today follow on soon after these famous words open John's Gospel and the remainder is taken from a later section of Chapter One.

The key message we hear today about John the Baptist underlines what we heard last weekend: John is not the Christ. We hear that John is a witness for the light (Christ) and hear him emphatically deny being Elijah or the Prophet. When asked to identify himself he does so by saying not who he is, but rather who he is not: "I am not the Christ." Once again, John points away from himself and directs people's attention to Christ. John the Baptist knows who he is and refuses to fall prey to the temptation for adulation and praise of which he is unworthy.

What about us? Do we truly know who we are? To what extent are we willing to be manipulated by others into believing (and acting accordingly) to be something we are not? Where do we believe true happiness lies as a human being?

As we reach this Third Sunday of Advent characterised by a lighter tone and encouraging words, may we understand that true happiness and contentment lies in following the example of John the Baptist in pointing out Christ to others; this we do when we live and love as Jesus did. Living this way is where our true identity and dignity lies. When others ask us how we find the strength and courage to do this we can say simply that it comes from the one who is greater than us but nonetheless loves us unconditionally and knows us intimately: Jesus.

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*

*Fr Robert*

## Third Sunday of Advent



#### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £219 Loose Plate: £187

**TOTAL: £406**

Mass Attendance: 143

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



## What's going on...?

**Advent: Be Prepared!** As always there are opportunities to make Advent a truly meaningful season. Why not consult the diocesan website for the **Advent: Be Prepared!** resources which you can utilise at your leisure. Go to the diocesan homepage to download at [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk). It's never too late!

**Advent Alms:** A retiring collection will take place **this weekend** for Advent Alms. Proceeds from this collection go to St Cuthbert's Care, a very worthy cause.

**Thank You!** A big thank you to our Social Committee (Irene, Judith and Angela) for all their hard work in organising the Christmas Party at the British Legion last Sunday. Thank you to John and Rebecca who helped serving the meals on the day, too. A positive response from all those who attended. Well done and thank you again! There are some unclaimed raffle prizes including the first prize, a Christmas hamper! Check the noticeboard for the winning ticket numbers.

**Reconciliation Service:** There will be a Joint Penitential Service for our Partnership this **Tuesday, 19 December** beginning at **7:00pm** at **St Joseph's, Gilesgate**. As you know, opportunities for individual reconciliation are available after all Masses here or by appointment, but it is a good experience to gather with others as we acknowledge our failure at times to live out our Christian faith as we wish and ask for forgiveness. All are welcome!

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement to Live By

Our statement this week was, 'I notice that we are the same and that we are different'. We shared some scripture and differences in our school community, including our different personalities, gifts and cultures.

### Staff News

Mrs Heslington, one of our lunchtime supervisors, leaves us at the end of this term, in order to begin her maternity leave. We wish her a safe delivery of her baby boy, due to be born in January.

Mrs Turnbull also leaves us at the end of this term. We thank her for her dedicated service, over the past six years. Miss Finkle will be teaching Class 3 during the Spring Term, as we continue to recruit for a permanent teacher for this class.

Two teaching assistants join us in January. Miss Somers will be providing teaching support each morning and Mrs McGillivray each afternoon.

### Christmas Party

Our children enjoyed a Christmas party on Friday afternoon. They enjoyed party games and a party tea.

### Christmas Performances

Our junior pupils performed 'Five Gold Rings' and our infants acted out 'The Nativity', on both Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening of this week. Thank you children, for all your hard work!

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

This weekend, Vanessa will lead us in the reflection and Takuilau will light the candle on the Advent wreath.

### Diary Dates

**School Choir** visits nursing homes on Monday 18 December (am)

**Whole School Carol Service** (in church) on Monday 18 December @ 2:30pm (refreshments)

**School Choir** sings at Tesco on Tuesday 19 December (am)

**Carols by Candlelight** (in school) on Friday 22 December @ 2:30pm



**Christmas Flowers:** A plate is at the back of the church for donations towards the Christmas altar flowers. All donations, however small, will be appreciated. Thank you!

**Advent service for the Finchale Partnership:** Our Advent service will be based on the theme of the Jesse tree, and every church in the partnership will be preparing some of the leaves for the tree. We will bring all the leaves together at a service tomorrow, **Sunday 17 December at 4.00pm**, at St. Cuthbert's, Durham.

**Fr Ejaz Appeal:** Judith Bulmer will speak briefly after Mass this evening about continuing our support for Fr Ejaz's mission in Pakistan.

**Partnership Matters:** The latest edition of the bi-monthly *Partnership Matters* news update is now available on the front page of the diocesan website ([www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)). It includes items on engaging young people in partnerships, being a welcoming community and feedback from a recent meeting of partnership chairs and much more. Contributions of news items from Partnerships are always welcome.

**Do you know these people?** For the past twelve to eighteen months we have had two names on our sick list, Olwyn MORRIS and Linda CARTER, who are unknown to me. If you know either of these people and can inform me of their state of health, please do so. If I don't hear anything before the end of December, I will remove their names from the sick list for prayers. Thank you.

**Christmas Crib:** Our Christmas crib is now up on display in front of the altar. Next to it is a bowl for donations. All donations will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land as directed by Bishop Séamus.

## The Kids' Bulletin

The Messenger of Peace  
Word-find

V Y E A R P O O R B  
I C S P I R I T R O  
N A A N N O U N C E  
D P K G F C E S L N  
I T G O A L H E I T  
C I L D V A E N B I  
A V A N O I N T E D  
T E D A U M R T R I  
I S L O R D E D T N  
O R E L E A S E Y G  
N P R I S O N E R S

See if you can find the words in CAPITALS from today's first reading in the puzzle. Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks in the reading.

The SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has ANOINTED me; he has SENT me to bring GLAD TIDINGS to the POOR, to heal the \_\_\_\_\_,



and RELEASE to the PRISONERS, to ANNOUNCE a YEAR of FAVOUR from the Lord and a day of VINDICATION by our GOD.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St John Cantius (Kanty) - 23 December

John was born in Kęty, a small town just south of Oswiecim (Auschwitz), in the diocese of Kraków, Poland, on 23 June, 1390. He became a priest and for many years taught at the University of Kraków; later he became parish priest of Olkusz. He taught and researched in both physics and theology, some of his work in physics anticipating the more famous work of Galileo and Newton. John also excelled in holiness and in charity towards his neighbour, in which he was an example to his colleagues and pupils.

John made one pilgrimage to Jerusalem and four pilgrimages on foot to Rome.

He died on 24 December, 1473.



(Information taken from *Universalis* and *Wikipedia*)

## Christmas Mass Times

**Saturday, 23 December - 5:00pm**  
(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

**Sunday, 24 December - 5:00pm**  
(Christmas Vigil)

**Monday, 25 December - 10:00am**  
(Christmas Day)

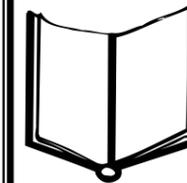
**Tuesday, 26 December - 9:30am**  
(St Stephen's Day)



## ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

### BIBLE STUDIES

The Churches Together prayer group will meet on the **Tuesday of every third week** in the winter months in St Patrick's Presbytery, **9:30am to 10:00am**. Next meeting: **19 December**.



All are welcome!

## DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the third candle to be lit on the Advent wreath is often referred to as the **Shepherds' Candle?**

The third rose-coloured candle symbolises joy and invites us to reflect on the intense

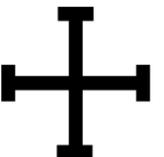


happiness which comes with the birth of the Saviour into the world. We ponder too the joy we feel at the presence of Christ as he enters our lives each day.

## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Seeking God in all things is an ongoing practice. It requires desire. It requires attentiveness. But because God's constant desire is to show himself to us, the presumption is that God can indeed be found if we do seek. God can be encountered not only in spiritual, religious and 'churchy' experiences but also in all kinds of other ways, including the most mundane and when things are kind of a mess."

**Christopher Collins SJ** (1923-1999)  
*Moments of the Day* (2014)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR...** the family and godparents of Maddison HURST who was baptised here at St Patrick's last Sunday. Please pray too for Andrew BARRON and Jessica COAD who were married here this weekend. May these celebrations of new life know God's abundant blessing!

