

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 17 December</b> Weekday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Anne Keenan and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 18 December</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent		
<b>Monday 19 December</b> Weekday of Advent		
<b>Tuesday 20 December</b> Weekday of Advent	6:30pm	Mass: <b>Mark Wilson</b>
<b>Wednesday 21 December</b> Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Mass: <b>Maria Cristina Di Lella</b>
<b>Thursday 22 December</b> Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Mass: <b>Marie Wilson</b>
<b>Friday 23 December</b> Weekday of Advent	7:00am	Mass: <b>Payne Family</b>
<b>Saturday 24 December</b> Weekday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Eileen Atkinson and pro populo</b>



## St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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### Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 December, 2016

#### Emmanuel: 'God-is-with-us'

EARLY IN HIS pontificate Pope Francis made a minor change to the Eucharistic Prayers used during Mass, inserting a reference to Joseph between the references to Mary and the Apostles. In doing this he did more than merely add a few short words to the Eucharistic Prayer. He made a statement about the role of the foster father of Jesus in our salvation which has for a long time been overlooked or minimised by many Catholics. We are known, quite rightly, as a church which venerates Mary for her role in being open to God's will, demonstrated most clearly by her acceptance of the invitation to be the mother of Jesus at the Annunciation, but in doing so have often downplayed the part played by Joseph. Joseph has always been there in the wings, yet uttering not one word in the scriptures, depicted as a passive spectator to the drama dominated by Jesus and Mary. We read nothing of him after the incident, related only in Luke's Gospel, of the twelve-year old Jesus being left behind in Jerusalem as Joseph and Mary leave the city with the caravan.

This weekend's Gospel presents us with the opportunity to orchestrate a shift in our thinking regarding Joseph. In Matthew's account of the infancy of Jesus, the only one we have besides the more famous account found in Luke's Gospel, Mary has a much more subdued role than is found in Luke, with Joseph conversely getting more prominence. Joseph had every right to divorce Mary, his betrothed, but chose instead to stay with her, no doubt out of compassion and decency as well as in response to the message of the angel. I like to think of Joseph's unquestioning trust and faith in God as being Matthew's counterpart to Mary's great 'yes' to God in Luke's Gospel on the occasion of the Annunciation. In a way these two incidents complement each other and show how God's plans often come to fruition through people's co-operation with both God and one another.

Both Joseph and Mary show total openness to God's will for them and so facilitate the birth of our Saviour. Their faith and trust in God and their co-operative efforts raise a challenge for us regarding our own response to the presence of God among us, Emmanuel. Do we really believe that God is with us at all times? Do we search for him and acknowledge his presence, even in the most unlikely of people, places and circumstances? In Matthew's Gospel, the very last words Jesus speaks on earth before his ascension into heaven are, "...know that I am with you always: yes, to the end of time." (Mt 28:20)

As people of faith we know this to be true but naturally seek empirical evidence of this truth as a means of bolstering our faith. Christmas is as good an opportunity as any to search out the God we know as Emmanuel. The gathering of families and friends can, sadly at times, challenge our notion of a God who seeks us out through those around us but let us pray for an opportunity to instead make the effort to show the God-who-is-with-us to others this Christmas and welcome the response it brings: we may be pleasantly surprised!

I look forward to celebrating Christmas Mass with all of you next weekend. Come, Lord Jesus!

*Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,*

*Fr Robert*



#### Ministries for this week

Saturday 17 December

##### Eucharistic Ministers

Angela & Gordon Tosley  
Angela Harmston

##### Readers

Judith Bulmer  
Marie Pailey

##### Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths  
Michelle Dennis

##### Welcomers

Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

#### Ministries for next week

Saturday 24 December

##### Eucharistic Ministers

Malcolm & Teresa Wass  
Andrew Aberdeen

##### Readers

Angela Tosley  
Ann Canavan

##### Children's Liturgy

(In recess till school resumes)

##### Welcomers

Pat Middleton  
Mary Kitching

#### LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £238 Loose Plate: £221

**Total: £459**

**Mass Attendance: 155**

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

Have you an item for the parish bulletin? Please contact Judith Bulmer on (0191) 378 3544 or 07980 481 858 or send an email to her at [judithbulmer@rocketmail.com](mailto:judithbulmer@rocketmail.com).

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

*Pat Curran, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Dorothy Dowdle, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Betty Allison, Michael Kane, Pat Harrison, Ohwyn Morris, Tom Tracey and Bede Anderson.*

**A REMINDER.....** that Mass will be celebrated here at St Patrick's **every day at 9:30am** from Monday 26 December through to Friday 30 December. As well as Mass at 5:00pm on Saturday 31 December a Mass will also be celebrated at **10:00am on Sunday 01 January.**

**Emailed Bulletin** – If you would like to have the parish bulletin emailed to you each week please email Judith (details opposite) and you will be added to the mailing list. Parish Council minutes are also available electronically.

# What's going on...?

**Friday Mass Intentions:** Please don't forget that each Friday there is a 7:00am Mass for which there is rarely an intention requested. Whilst I understand that many people wish to be present when a Mass intention they are offering is being celebrated, this is not essential. If it is not important for you to be present at a Mass for which you are asking an intention, consider asking for it to be celebrated on Friday morning. The intention will be printed on the back page of the bulletin and the Mass announced and faithfully offered.

**Christmas Week Masses:** The Mass times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are printed opposite. With regard to the weekdays following, Mass will be offered **once each day** from Monday through to Friday at 9:30am. This means, of course, that the 6:30pm Tuesday Mass and 7:00am Friday Mass are cancelled for that week only.

**New Year's Day Mass:** The first day of January has for a long time been dedicated to Mary, Mother of God. Since this major feast day falls on a Sunday, this means that the usual Saturday evening Mass on 31 December will be for the feast day. I know however, that many people like to attend Mass on New Year's Day and so there will be a Mass on **Sunday, 01 January, at 10:00am**. This will be a Mass with the same readings and so on as Saturday evening 5:00pm. You are welcome to come to one or the other, or both!

**Christmas Crib donations:** You will notice that there is a collection plate adjacent to the Christmas crib at the base of the altar. All donations will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land, an organisation which helps the poorest Christians in the Holy Land, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. This is with the approval of Bishop Séamus.

**CAFOD Yemen Crisis Appeal:** CAFOD have launched an appeal to bring relief to those currently suffering in Yemen as a result of the civil war. They state that over 7 million people do not know where their next meal will come from. You can contribute to this emergency appeal online at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk) or contact CAFOD directly.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Advent Wreath

Tonight Emily will read the prayer and Matthew will light the candle to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

### Sleeping Beauty - Empire Theatre, Consett

All classes visited the theatre on Monday of this week to see the pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty'.

### Christmas Performances

Our junior children performed 'The Little Match Girl' and our infants performed 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings' this week. The children sang beautifully and their performances were well received. Thank you, children.

### Unclaimed Raffle Prizes

Following the sale of raffle tickets during our Christmas performances, please find listed below details of unclaimed prizes:

- Yellow 36-40 Rio Verde Voucher
- Blue 176-180 Strawberry Treat Bag
- Green 186-190 Faye's Beauty Room Voucher
- Green 481-485 Monty Tyson Butcher's Voucher

### Christmas Party

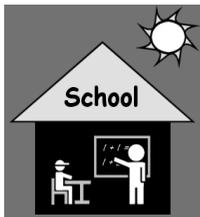
The children enjoyed games and a party tea on Friday afternoon.

### Carol Service - Monday 19th December in St. Patrick's Church

The school will lead a Carol Service in St. Patrick's Church on Monday afternoon from 2:45 pm until 3:30pm. Refreshments will follow in the school hall. Everyone is welcome.

### Carols by Candlelight - Thursday 22nd December at 2.45pm in school

Our School Choir will be singing carols in the school hall from 2:45pm on Thursday 22nd December. Everyone is welcome to join us and refreshments will be served afterwards.



## The Kids' Bulletin

### Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

HOUSE	1	2	3										
VIRGIN													
HIGH													
SHEOL	6												
CHILD													
THE													
DAVID													
HEAVEN													
NAME	8	9											
DEEP													
IMMANUEL													
GOD													
MAN													

8A LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your 11D; let it be 7A as 2A or 9D as 5D." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O 3D of 7D! Is it too little for you to weary 4D, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the 10A shall be with 12A, and bear a son, and shall 1D him 6A.



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Peter Canisius - 21 December

Peter was born in Nijmegen (modern-day Netherlands) in 1521. He studied at Cologne and joined the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). He was ordained a priest in 1546. He was sent to Germany where for many years he worked hard to defend and strengthen the Catholic faith both by writing and by preaching. Peter wrote many books, of which *The Catechism* is particularly noteworthy.

Peter was a strong and influential figure of the Counter Reformation, attending several sessions of the famous Council of Trent, and in 1562 established what was to become the University of Innsbruck.

He died at Fribourg in Switzerland on 21 November 1597.

(Information taken from [Universalis](http://Universalis) and [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia))



St Peter Canisius (1521-1597)

### ~ Christmas Mass Times ~

There will be two Christmas Masses:

Saturday, 24 December @ 5:00pm

(Carols from 4:30pm)

Sunday, 25 December @ 10:00am



### ~ Reconciliation Times ~

Though the season of Advent is not as strictly penitential as Lent, many people still want to celebrate this sacrament. To that end, over the next week be reminded of the regular offer of Reconciliation after each Mass, including Saturday evening. If this is not convenient, please feel free to contact me (details on the front page) to make an appointment.



### DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the fourth candle to be lit on the Advent wreath, the final one before the lighting of the white Christmas candle, is often referred to as the Angels' Candle?

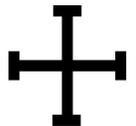
The fourth candle symbolises peace and invites us to reflect on the peace which the angel of the Lord brought to an anxious Joseph in a dream. May we too be agents of God's peace in a troubled world, beset as it is by the violence of war and other manifestations of misused power.



### "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Christ is the truth that all people need in order to find the right way to live in this world's darkness, night, twilight, and fog... This light of truth isn't like a floodlight on an airport's runway. Instead, it is like a lantern that throws light out further ahead as we go forward. This truth about Christ gives us sufficient light to take the next step."

Cardinal Walter Kasper  
*Spiritual Writings*



**PRAY FOR...** those for whom Christmas is a burden. Pray for those who have lost a loved one this year and who will be experiencing the emptiness of their first Christmas without the presence of this person. Pray for those who have experienced a separation this year and for whom this Christmas will be significantly different. Pray for all those who will spend Christmas alone and will experience mental turmoil, anguish and tears.