

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 08 December</b> Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Ben McQueen and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 09 December</b> Second Sunday of Advent	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 10 December</b> Weekday of Advent 2	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 11 December</b> Weekday of Advent 2	6:30pm	Mass: <b>David Anderson (Rec. Dec.)</b>
<b>Wednesday 12 December</b> Weekday of Advent 2	9:30am	Mass: <b>Thanksgiving (Diamond Wedding Anniversary)</b>
<b>Thursday 13 December</b> <i>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>	9:30am	Mass: <b>Agnes &amp; Billy Keenan</b>
<b>Friday 14 December</b> <i>St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor</i>	7:00am	Mass: <b>Private intention</b>
<b>Saturday 15 December</b> Vigil Mass for Third Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Anne Keenan and pro populo</b>



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*  
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## Second Sunday of Advent 09 December, 2018

**“And all shall see the salvation of God.”**

"PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD!" John the Baptist, who enters the scene this weekend, fulfilled his role in this regard by preaching a baptism of repentance and forgiveness. It was not enough merely to be washed in the cleansing waters of the Jordan River; there needed to be a genuine inner conversion to accompany this outward sign.

An ideal opportunity is given to us this weekend to reflect on our own baptism and the ongoing conversion to which we are called. For most people baptism takes place in infancy and so there is no memory of the event and the only proof baptism took place is through evidence provided by photographs, a white garment that perhaps lurks in a drawer somewhere, a baptismal candle tucked away with other paraphernalia from a long-distant childhood, including perhaps a creased and dog-eared baptismal certificate.

Though baptism is not something infants consciously choose, it is something chosen by the parents who make a promise to raise their children in the Christian faith. Though most people won't remember their baptism, they will hopefully be conscious of its effect in their lives through the witness of parents, godparents and a supportive parish community. At an infant or child's baptism the celebrant reminds the parents that they have accepted the responsibility of raising their child in the Christian faith and then asks the parents if they fully understand this responsibility. He then asks the godparents about their willingness to assist the parents in these duties. Like marriage, it is an awesome undertaking and not to be entered into lightly.

An infant or very small child has no understanding of sin, repentance or forgiveness, but this develops over time. Though baptism might not be remembered its effects are manifest in an adult as he or she acknowledges the harmful effects of sin, is truly sorry for that sin and seeks forgiveness for it. Being repentant and seeking forgiveness (or being forgiving when one is wronged) is possible only through the gift of the Holy Spirit given in baptism and through the witness given by others.

There is no magic in the waters of baptism. Baptism marks the beginning of a life of mission which will be marked by periods and instances of doubt, sin and frustration but also by grace, love and peace. The latter will only be evident when we make an effort to recommit ourselves to our baptismal calling and open ourselves to an ever-deeper conversion and change of heart and seek to listen to, and respond to, the voice of God. It is for this that Christ came into the world, that God became flesh. He became one like us in all things but sin so that he could lead us into a deeper relationship with our God and each other. When we are attentive to the voice of God in our lives and seek repentance and forgiveness for the times we have failed in our discipleship, then we shall indeed "see the salvation of God."

May we heed the call of repentance and forgiveness as we continue to wait in anticipation to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child in the coming days. To this end, you might like to consider the Partnership Reconciliation Service happening on Tuesday, 18 December, details of which are on page two.

*Wishing you a blessed Advent season,*  
**Fr Robert**



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 08 December**

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

**Readers**  
 Brendan Payne  
 Greg Mearman

**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Helen Riddles

**Welcomers**  
 Angela Harmston  
 Christine Tracey

**Music**  
 Greg Mearman & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 15 December**

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

**Readers**  
 Rowan Payne  
 Pat Middleton

**Children's Liturgy**  
 Carol Bainbridge  
 Angela Harmston

**Welcomers**  
 Pat Middleton  
 Mary Kitching

**Music**  
 Greg Mearman & Choir

Second 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. Items for publication need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday.**

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

Ben McQUEEN  
 Robin KIRKPATRICK  
 Fr Michael CORBETT  
 Thomas FAWCETT  
 Agnes MARTIN  
 Michael McGARRY  
 Isabella MURTER

*Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....*

*Tom Taylorson, Margaret Pouton, Vera Lumsden, Pat Harrison, Frances Harland, Sylvia Kelly, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Doreen Carroll and Jack Tobin*



**£ LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**

**Gift Aid: £219    Loose Plate: £224**

**TOTAL: £443**

**Mass Attendance: 160**

**DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE**  
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

# What's going on...?

**Advent Alms:** We will take up a leaving collection after Mass next weekend for Advent Alms, which help support the great work of St Cuthbert's Care.

**Christmas Masses:** You will have received a bulletin insert advertising Christmas Masses and carol services across the partnership. Our Masses here will be the usual 5:00pm on Christmas Eve, preceded by carols from 4:30pm, and a 10:00am Mass (without full choir) on Christmas Day.

**Partnership Reconciliation Service:** The Reconciliation service will take place at St Joseph's, Gilesgate on Tuesday, 18 December from 7:00pm. Please consider coming along to experience the amazing grace and mercy of God.

**Year Six Children:** Last weekend we welcomed back to Mass some of last year's Year Six children who have since moved on to high school. Thank you to all those who came along and thank you especially to Carol, Joanne and Michelle who did a terrific job in organising and serving at the gathering after Mass.

**Children's Liturgy Leader:** Our children's liturgy volunteers do a marvellous job each week in helping our youngest members of the faith connect with the Gospel. Whilst we have a few volunteers only one feels confident in leading the group as opposed to assisting, putting a lot of pressure on her in this important ministry. Can you help? Please see Fr Robert for more details.

**Christmas Bauble Fundraiser:** As in previous years, we are once again having a fundraiser through the sale of Christmas baubles for £1.00 each which can label in memory of a loved one and have it placed on the sanctuary Christmas tree.

**Piety Stall:** There is a tremendous collection of Christmas-themed goods now available for sale at competitive prices at the pious goods stall at the rear of the church. Feel free to check it out!

**Missio (APF Mill Hill Missionaries):** Sponsors will collect donations from contributors to the 'Red Boxes/Brown Envelopes' during the first two weeks in December. If anyone wishes to help in the spreading of the Good News of Jesus and would like a box, please see one of the sponsors. Also, if you want a gift aid envelope, please let one of us know. Thank you, Michael & Stella Foody.

**2019 Northern Catholic Calendars:** On sale now for £3.00.

**Ushaw Carols:** Always a memorable event. The Tuesday performance is sold out but the Wednesday, 12 December @ 7:30pm performance was not sold out at the time of writing this notice. Book through [www.ushaw.org](http://www.ushaw.org). Free event!

**Flower Donations:** There is a small basket at the rear of the church for donations for the Christmas flowers. Please contribute to ensure that our beautiful church looks its best at Christmas!

**CAFOD Advent Calendar:** Check the website [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) for some great Advent faith development ideas during the remainder of the season.

**Finchale Partnership:** Thank you to everyone who came along to the Partnership Advent Service at Ushaw last weekend, and to those from all our parishes who were involved in preparing the service. Please take a copy of 'The Finchale Partnership at Christmas' and join us for Advent and Christmas services over the next few weeks. If you'd like to find out more about what is happening in the Partnership, the minutes of the November meeting of the Partnership Development Group are now available on the noticeboard, and on the partnership webpages hosted at <http://www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk/>

## The Kids' Bulletin

### Saint John the Baptist Word Puzzle

Here is a prophesy about Saint John the Baptist. Use the words from the list below to fill in the blanks. The letters that are in circles fit into the matching spots at the bottom.

A voice of one <sup>3</sup> out in the desert:  
 " <sup>5</sup> the way of the Lord,  
 make straight his <sup>2</sup>.  
 Every valley shall be <sup>7</sup>  
 and every <sup>8</sup> and hill  
 shall be made low.  
 The winding roads  
 shall be made <sup>1</sup>  
 and the <sup>6</sup> ways made smooth,  
 and all flesh shall see  
 the salvation of <sup>4</sup>."

GOD MOUNTAIN  
 PATHS STRAIGHT  
 ROUGH PREPARE  
 FILLED CRYING



What was St. John the Baptist?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'Simple things make me happy.' We heard a reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes on the things that make us truly happy. We reflected on the fact that it is often the most simple things that bring us the greatest joy, such as a meal with friends and family, a walk, or a time of quietness. It was an important reflection, particularly for this time of the year.

### Foodbank Donations

Thank you to all those who made donations to Durham Foodbank's Christmas Appeal, this year. There was an outstanding response and seven boxes of festive goodies were donated to the foodbank.

### School Choir

Thank you to the School Choir and to Mrs Griffiths, for the good support they provided at the lighting of the local Christmas tree on Sunday (02 December). Attendance at the event was very good and the choir represented our school well. The choir will be singing at Tesco in Langley Moor at 2:00pm, on Wednesday 19 December and at Brandon Lodge, Rushyfields and The Orchards, Residential Care Homes, on the morning of Thursday 20 December.

### Christmas Performance

The children will be performing 'Bah, Humbug' and 'It's a Baby', at 1:30pm, on Tuesday 11 December. Parishioners are most welcome to come along to this performance.



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Maria Maravillas - 11 December

Maria Maravillas was born at Madrid in 1891. She entered the El Escorial Carmel, Madrid, on 12 October 1919. In 1924 she was inspired to found a Carmel at Cerro de los Angeles, alongside the monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From this foundation followed nine others in Spain and one in India. She always gave first place to prayer and self-sacrifice. She had a true, passionate zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Even while living a life of poverty in the cloister she helped those who were in need, initiating apostolic, social and charitable works. In a particular way she helped those of her own order, priests, and other religious congregations. She died in the monastery of La Aldehuela, Madrid, on 11 December 1974. She was canonised on 04 May 2003 in Madrid.



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

### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for December

**That in their dialogue with culture, people involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find a language that is appropriate to the present time.**

*"The presence of Jesus can be communicated through our lives and the language of unconditional and concrete love."*



### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### *Prayer Group & Bible Study*

The Advent Study Group will next meet on Friday, 14 December, 2:00pm - 3:00pm. This group will meet weekly at the Parish Hall at Brancepeth. The York course "Life to the Full" will be used at a cost of £3.50. All are welcome!

The monthly Prayer Group is held in the presbytery here at St Patrick's. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 18 December, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments are served before the meeting. Again, all are welcome!



### DID YOU KNOW...?

**...that next Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is marked by a different mood, reflected in the lighting of a rose coloured candle rather than a violet one?**

During the seasons of Lent and Advent, both penitential (though Advent less so than Lent), we take a bit of a "breather" for the sake of encouragement and as a realisation that though we focusing on our discipleship in a deeper way during these seasons we are nonetheless a redeemed people.



### "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"It was necessary that holiness be conferred on man through the humanity God took to himself. In this way, conquering the tyrant by force, he freed us and led us back to himself through his Son, the mediator. The Son brought this about to the honour of the Father to whom, in all things, he is seen to defer."

**St Gregory Nazianzen** (c.329—390)  
 Bishop, theologian, Doctor of the Church



**PLEASE PRAY...** for the following intentions throughout Advent and Christmas as requested by Bishop Séamus: **Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

