

The week ahead...

Saturday 15 December Vigil Mass for Third Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: Anne Keenan and pro populo
Sunday 16 December Third Sunday of Advent	NO MASS	
Monday 17 December Weekday of Advent	NO MASS	
Tuesday 18 December Weekday of Advent	6:30pm	Mass: Lizzabella and Margaret Jane Morris
Wednesday 19 December Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Mass: Kathleen Caisley
Thursday 20 December Weekday of Advent	NO MASS	
Friday 21 December Weekday of Advent	7:00am	Mass: Bill Burn
Saturday 22 December Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: Betty, Arnold and Jeffrey Allison and pro populo



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Third Sunday of Advent 16 December, 2018

“Master, what must we do?”

ON THIS THIRD SUNDAY in Advent we acknowledge a change in pace and mood in our Advent journey, made clear to us by the lighting of a rose-coloured candle in addition to the violet ones lit over the first two Sundays in Advent. The Church anticipates the great celebration for which we are preparing – the Nativity, the beginning of our salvation – and our readings reflect this lift in mood with the reading from the prophet Zephaniah trumpeting a fanfare of joy: “Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.”

The Gospel is less obvious in expressing this uplifted, anticipatory mood but does acknowledge that there was, among the people gathered around John the Baptist “a feeling of expectancy.” They understand that John has come to prepare the way for Jesus the Anointed One, and so they ask him a very pointed question: “What must we do?” Each of the groups gathered around John, the crowd in general, the tax collectors and the soldiers, asks the very same question. They were all keen to know what needed to be done to prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

And fair enough too. Imagine if you were told that you were to be entertaining someone of great importance or fame in your home in a couple of days. Surely you would do your utmost to clean your home, make certain you had plenty of provisions in stock, do some research to ensure you could hold a conversation with this person, and so on? Each person in such a situation would surely adopt the same approach.

John the Baptist does not outline a generic routine for preparing the way for the coming of Jesus. Note how he gives a different answer to each of the groups who approach him. He urges the general crowd to share with the less fortunate, the tax collectors to be just and the soldiers to be gentle and content with their pay. Each person therefore, is called to examine their behaviour and eliminate anything that is contrary to charity. The aim is *general*, to be more Christlike, but the manner in which this achieved is *specific* to each individual depending on circumstances, personality and so on.

There is no “tick-a-box” way of living as a Christian unless you consider there to be just one box to be ticked, labelled “living like Jesus”. A formulaic approach to faith only induces unnecessary anxiety and possibly smugness on the part of those with the disposition and inner strength which enables them to adhere to rules and regulations, even at the expense of true happiness and fulfilment. But Jesus didn't come to save people with certain characteristics or abilities, he came to save all.

And this salvation begins with recognition of our shortcomings as Christian disciples, repentance for our sins and a desire to change and start anew, living lives of loving response to a merciful God. This is called conversion and it is what John the Baptist preached to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah.

In essence, conversion is “what we must do” and we must commit to it daily to experience life to the full, the very reason that Jesus came into our world.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season,
 Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 15 December

Eucharistic Ministers
 Teresa & Malcolm Wass
 Andrew Aberdeen

Readers
 Greg Mearman
 Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy
 Carol Bainbridge
 Angela Harmston

Welcomers
 Pat Middleton
 Mary Kitching

Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 22 December

Eucharistic Ministers
 John & Irene Carey
 Kevin Boyle

Readers
 Angela Harmston
 Maria Griffiths

Children's Liturgy
 Maria Griffiths
 Joanne Lidster

Welcomers
 Halina Holman
 Janet Harrigan

Music
 Greg Mearman & Choir

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

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

Anne KEENAN
 Peter FENWICK
 Ellen CAIRNS
 Sarah Louise TRACEY
 John Matthew KERWIN
 Mary Catherine GILLESPIE

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

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



£ LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £219 Loose Plate: £197

TOTAL: £416

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 this weekend for Advent Alms, which help support the great work of St Cuthbert's Care. Please be as generous as you can.

Christmas Masses: Our Masses here at St Patrick's 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.

RIP Peter FENWICK: We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Peter FENWICK who died on 06 December. Peter's funeral service will be celebrated at Durham Crematorium on Thursday, 20 December at 9:00am.

Change in Mass schedule: Please note because of the clash of times with Peter Fenwick's funeral, there will be no Mass this Thursday at 9:30am.

Thank You: A big thank you to our Social Committee and their assistants who put on a wonderful Christmas lunch for our seniors at the British Legion last Saturday. It was terrific to see such a good turnout to share a delicious meal together with some great entertainment to follow.

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.

Carols Service: As is noted in the school news below, there will be a carols service here in the church this coming Tuesday, 18 December at 2:15pm. The schoolchildren will lead us in carols and commentary on the Christmas story. All are welcome to come, whether or not you have children or grandchildren at the school. All are welcome to join us too, in the school hall for refreshments at the end of the service.

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.

2019 Northern Catholic Calendars: Still a few copies on sale for £3.00 at the rear of the church.

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 for some great Advent faith development ideas during the remainder of the season.

Recent Collections: This week we will be sending off donations to the diocese for the Clergy Training Fund (£245.30) and for the Youth Ministry Team (£196.50). Thank you again for your contributions to these important causes within our diocese.

Organ Update: You may have noticed that the old organ has been removed from the choir loft now in readiness for the installation of a new digital organ which we hope will happen soon. There is some more work to be done in the choir loft to prepare the space. I will continue to update you as work progresses.

Nativity Scene Donations: There is a basket adjacent to our nativity scene in front of the altar for any donations you may wish to make to support the work of the Friends of the Holy Land. To quote from their website (www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk): "...we focus on encouraging Christians to remain in the land of their birth by supporting them to build resilient and self-sufficient communities, in what can often be a challenging environment." Please support this very worthy cause to ensure that Christians do not abandon the very place where the Christian faith was born.

The Kids' Bulletin

Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle.
a=across
d=down

Brothers and _____ (13a): Rejoice in the _____ (12d) always. I _____ (3a) say _____ (14d) _____ (2d): rejoice! Your _____ (6d) should be known _____ (15d) all. The Lord is _____ (9a). _____ (4d) no anxiety at _____ (11a), but in everything, by prayer and _____ (1d), with _____ (5a), make _____ (10d) requests known to _____ (8d). Then the _____ (1a) of God that surpasses all understanding will _____ (7d) your hearts and minds in _____ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR
CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS
THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION
NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Bl Jean-Bernard Rousseau ("Scubillon") - 20 December

Born in France in 1797, Jean-Bernard Rousseau felt the call to share his faith and his knowledge with others. He joined the Brothers of Christian Instruction (the de la Salle brothers) and was given the name Scubillon. In 1833 he was sent to the Isle of Réunion, where he remained until his death in 1867. In Réunion he was named "catechist of the slaves" on account of his ministry among them. His memorial is celebrated today, the anniversary of the abolition of slavery on the island.



(Information taken from 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 monthly Prayer Group is being 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 from 9:15am.

All are welcome!



SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I try to love others, as I love myself.' We shared a reading from St. Mark's Gospel and heard how Jesus summed up the ten commandments into the two most important rules – love God and love your neighbour. We then discussed the importance of liking ourselves, to enable us to share our love with others.

Advent Wreath

Aimee will read the reflection and Jenson will light the third candle on the Advent wreath this week. Thank you to Tiana and Talia, who supported the lighting of the second candle last weekend.

Carol Service - Tuesday 18 December

There will be a Carol Service in St. Patrick's Church at 2:15pm on Tuesday 18 December, followed by refreshments in the school hall. Everyone is welcome!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the word "Gaudete" means "Rejoice" and is the first word in Latin of the entrance antiphon for this, the Third Sunday in Advent, Gaudete Sunday?

As mentioned last week, this Sunday affords us the opportunity to temporarily refocus during this Advent Season in anticipation of the joy we will experience on the upcoming feast of the Nativity. Rejoice!

GAUDETE

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Advent is the period of waiting: of Christian waiting and perseverance in faith and in struggle, by virtue of Christ's grace in us. Advent opens a new chapter every year in that book of salvation which God writes in the Church through the story of humankind."

Pope St John Paul II
(1920—2005)



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...

