

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 30 November</b> Vigil Mass for First Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Sarah &amp; Tom Tracey and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 01 December</b> First Sunday of Advent	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 02 December</b> Weekday of Advent	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 03 December</b> <i>St Francis Xavier, Priest</i>	6:30pm	Mass: <b>Bryan Cheesey</b>
<b>Wednesday 04 December</b> Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Mass: <b>Arthur &amp; Camilla Crooks</b>
<b>Thursday 05 December</b> Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Mass: <b>Christine McMonagle</b>
<b>Friday 06 December</b> Weekday of Advent	7:00am	Mass: <b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Saturday 07 December</b> Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	Mass: <b>Bill Dickinson and pro populo</b>



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*

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

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## First Sunday of Advent 01 December 2019

### "The God Who Speaks"

AS HAS BEEN ADVERTISED over the past few weeks in the bulletin, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have dedicated this liturgical year to a focus on the Bible and "The God Who Speaks". The year 2020 has been deliberately chosen as it marks the tenth anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's landmark document "Verbum Domini" (The Word of the Lord) and also the 1600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, known primarily for his monumental effort in translating most of the Bible into Latin, a work which is known as the Vulgate.

I think this is a terrific initiative. It is often noted that the Second Vatican Council gave the scriptures back to the faithful. This is not to say that people were formerly forbidden from reading the Bible but for the most part it was not encouraged, and this was undoubtedly detrimental to people's faith development. After all, it was the same St Jerome, whose death anniversary marks the declaration of this year of focus on the scriptures, who stated that "ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ." The Bishops Conference of England and Wales underlines the importance of scripture thus: "Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other."

Of course, these days there is no need to even open an "old-fashioned" book in order to access the Word of God. A plethora of alternative sources exists thanks to digital technology. If you have a computer and an internet connection you have access not only to the scriptures but also many commentaries on the scriptures, videos of lectures, talks and documentaries on the scriptures and so on. Not all that one comes across on the web is good, but there is more than enough good material to satisfy most people's curiosity and thirst for scripture and all that flows from it.

I would encourage everyone to grasp the various opportunities that will present themselves in the year ahead here in the Finchale partnership and beyond. Some opportunities to develop a love of scripture already exist here in the parish with the Tuesday evening prayer group and the regular Churches Together gatherings. Throughout the year, the Bishops of England and Wales will ask us to focus on three themes: celebrating, living and sharing God's word. In terms of scripture, the emphasis will be on the Gospel of Matthew, since we begin focusing on Matthew in the liturgical year just begun. To that end, if you go to the website of the Bishops of England and Wales (cbcew.org.uk), you will see a link to "God Who Speaks" and a challenge to read right through the Gospel of Matthew in 2020. Some pocket-sized editions of Matthew are available for you to take home today to assist you in that invitation and challenge. Other resources are available on the website, so please check it out for yourself.

Let us not waste this wonderful opportunity to deepen our knowledge and love of scripture and the fruits that flow from such an endeavour.

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*  
Fr Robert



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 30 November**

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Ambrose & Pauline Burnside  
Harry Curran

**Readers**  
Ann Canavan  
Claire Lavery

**Children's Liturgy**  
Carol Bainbridge  
Helen Riddles

**Welcomers**  
Paul & Anne Kelly

**Music**  
Greg Mearman & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 07 December**

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

**Readers**  
Margaret Purdom  
Angela Tosley

**Children's Liturgy**  
No Children's Liturgy  
this week

**Welcomers**  
Angela Harmston  
Christine Tracey

**Music**  
Bill Wilkinson & Choir

First 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....*



Sarah & Tom TRACEY  
John McGOUGH (Rec. Dec.)  
John RICHARDSON (Rec. Dec.)  
George NYLAND  
William CUMMINGS  
Rosemary CLEASEBY  
Arthur CROOKS  
Joan MORAN

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

*Rose Crick, Frank Moran,  
Doreen Carroll, Tom Taylorson,  
John Byrne, Jack Tobin,  
Margaret Pouton, Mary Spears,  
Frances Harland and  
Sylvia Kelly*



**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**

Gift Aid: £189    Loose Plate: £154

**TOTAL: £343**

Mass Attendance: 102

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**Youth Collection:** Thank you for your donations to the Youth Collection last weekend. A total of £111.40 was raised. There is still a chance to donate if you use one of the envelopes from the rear of the church. Please place it in the normal collection basket.

**Gathering after Mass next week:** As always on the first weekend Mass of the month, we will be gathering in the school hall after Mass **next Saturday evening** for fellowship over some drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome!

**Partnership Reconciliation Service:** This year's Advent Partnership Reconciliation Service will be **here** at St Patrick's at **7:00pm** on **Tuesday 10 December**. There will be several priests from across the partnership here and the evening will involve a short liturgy with individual confession. A great way to prepare for the Christmas season and I hope to see a lot of parishioners here on the evening, including some to welcome others to our church.

**Christmas Baubles for Sale:** As we have been doing for some years now, there will be baubles for sale at £1.00 each which you can purchase in memory of a loved one for placement on the Christmas tree on the sanctuary. Available for purchase after Mass until sold out.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The minutes of the latest meeting are on the noticeboard for those who wish to read them. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 04 December** at **7:00pm**. Sign-up sheet at the back of church along with a draft agenda on the noticeboard.

**Evening Prayer (Solemn Vespers):** To mark the First Sunday of Advent, Solemn Vespers will be celebrated at 4:30pm on **Sunday 01 December** in St. Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw College. The Finchale Partnership will be co-ordinating the celebration of this service, which also marks the launch of 'The God Who Speaks', a Year of the Word, proclaimed by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Vespers will be celebrated simultaneously at four other locations across the diocese. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available afterwards and everyone is welcome.

**Advent Course:** For four weeks on Fridays (22, 29 November, 06, 13 December) 2:00pm - 3:00pm. Meetings will be in St. John's Church, Meadowfield. Booklets to enable you to follow the course will be available at the first meeting for a small charge. All welcome!

**Advent at Ushaw:** An opportunity to reflect on the Advent scriptures. There are two alternative sessions each week, each for 1½ hours. Free of charge. See flyer on noticeboard or go to [www.ushaw.org](http://www.ushaw.org).

**My Favourite Hymn:** It's back! Your chance to nominate hymns for our choir. Forms are at the back of the church.

**Senior Citizens' Christmas Party:** Taking place on **Saturday 07 December** at the **British Legion**, commencing at 12:00 noon. This is an attendance sheet at the back of church. Raffle tickets on sale this weekend and next weekend.

**Concert:** The Crook & Weardale Choral Singers will be performing a Christmas concert at **St John's, Meadowfield** on **Tuesday 03 December** from 7:00pm. All welcome!

**Missio - Quarterly Collection for December:** For Red Box and Brown Envelope Holders Sponsors will distribute the Foreign Mission Yearly Calendar to you and collect any contributions you wish to give towards the work of spreading Christ's Gospel. Please keep our missionaries in your prayers. Grateful thanks.

## The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent  
December 1st, 2019

Sort the letters to fill in the blanks at the bottom



In today's second reading  
Saint Paul tells the Romans to throw off the  
works of darkness and put on the

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

**Blessed Marie-Clémentine Anuarite – 01 December**

Nengepeta Anuarite was born in North Zaire on 29 November 1939. In 1955 she joined the Religious Institute of the Holy Family (Jamaa Takatifu) where she became known as Clementine. She trained as a primary school teacher and for a few years was the matron of a boarding school. In 1964 she, and the whole community, were kidnapped by the Simba rebels. Anuarite was killed on 01 December 1964, having resisted the rape attempts of a Colonel.



(Text taken from [Universalis](#) and [Wikipedia](#))

## Pope Francis' Mission Statement for December

**That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.**

*“Those who protect children are on God’s side and triumph over those who oppress them. Let us free every child from every form of exploitation.”*



## ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~ Prayer Group & Bible Study

The next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held here at **St Patrick's** on **Tuesday 17 December**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments from 9:15am.

The next **Bible Study Group** will meet on **Monday 09 December** at **St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon** from 3:30pm - 4:45pm.

All are welcome at these events and all events organised by Churches Together!



## Next Week's Readings

### Second Sunday of Advent

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Romans 15:4-9**

**Matthew 3:1-12**



*“Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.”*

## “QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

“Sacred Scripture is the word of God set down in writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In this way one recognizes the full importance of the human author who wrote the inspired texts and, at the same time, God himself as the true author.”

**Pope Benedict XVI**  
(b.1927)  
*Verbum Domini* (19)



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement to Live by

This week's Statement to Live by was, 'I can work, play, rest and pray each day'. We shared the letter of St Paul, to the people of Thessalonica, encouraging them to work hard, get along with one another, be happy and pray every day. We reflected on the importance of praying and talked about offering everything we say and do to God, in prayer.

### Year 3 and 4 Liturgy

Many thanks to all those who joined us in the school chapel for liturgy this week. The celebration was very well attended.

### Advent Books

Thank you to Father Robert, for kindly organising the 'Day-by-Day' Advent booklets that were given to pupils this week. The readings and activities in these lovely booklets remind the children, throughout the Advent season, of the true meaning of Christmas.

### Advent Wreath

A big thank you to Joanna, Cassidy and Blanka for their support during the lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath this evening.

### The Lighting of the Christmas Tree

At 4:30pm this Sunday (01 December), the Christmas tree opposite Lidl in Langley Moor will be lit. Our School Choir will be supporting the event, along with the choir from Langley Moor Primary School. Everyone is welcome to attend this community event.

### Forthcoming Masses

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will attend Mass in church on **Wednesday 04 December**, at 9:30am. Years 5 and 6 will attend Mass in church on **Thursday 05 December** at 9:30am and this celebration will be followed by a Penitential Service, during which pupils may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or a blessing.



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

