

Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic 9th August 2020

Joint Parishes of St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Gateshead

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Today is an Answer to Our Prayers

We will always remember the 9th August 2020 as the day our prayers were answered as St Joseph's opens its doors once again to celebrate public Mass, and St Wilfrid's hears that her doors are to be opened for public Mass in Phase 6 of the re-opening process, so hopefully before the end of August.

A joyful day indeed, a day to rejoice and give thanks that once again we can join in Communion united through the Holy Eucharist and in prayer with all those who for one reason or another are yet able to join us in body, we know they are in our hearts and prayers and we in theirs.

Welcome back all those who usually attend St Joseph's for Mass, and a big heartfelt welcome to all those joining us from St Wilfrid's parish and those who are visiting for the first time.

It is difficult to extend the sort of welcome we would like, but under the present restrictions we all need to remain patient and understanding of one another and the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

We continue to pray for the demise of Covid-19, a full recovery for all those affected by it and a return to normality for us all.

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



Edith Stein 1891-1942

Today we remember St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, also known as St. Edith Stein. St. Teresa converted from Judaism to Catholicism in the course of her work as a philosopher, and later entered the Carmelite Order. She died in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz in 1942.

Edith Stein was born on October 12, 1891 - a date that coincided with her family's celebration of Yom Kippur, the Jewish "day of atonement." Edith's father died when she was just two years old, and she gave up the practice of her Jewish faith as an adolescent.

As a young woman with profound intellectual gifts, Edith gravitated toward the study of philosophy and became a pupil of the renowned professor Edmund Husserl in 1913. Through her studies, the non-religious Edith met several Christians whose intellectual and spiritual lives she admired.

After earning her degree with the highest honours from Gottingen University in 1915, she served as a nurse in an Austrian field hospital during World War I. She returned to academic work in 1916, earning her doctorate after writing a highly regarded thesis on the phenomenon of empathy. She remained interested in the idea of religious commitment but had not yet made such a commitment herself.

In 1921, while visiting friends, Edith spent an entire night reading the autobiography of the 16th century Carmelite nun St. Teresa of Avila. "When I had finished the book," she later recalled, "I said to myself: This is the truth." She was baptized into the Catholic Church on the first day of January 1922.

Edith intended to join the Carmelites immediately after her conversion but would ultimately have to wait another 11 years before taking this step. Instead, she taught at a Dominican school, and gave numerous public lectures on women's issues. She spent 1931 writing a study of St. Thomas Aquinas, and took a university teaching position in 1932.

In 1933, the rise of Nazism, combined with Edith's Jewish ethnicity, put an end to her teaching career. After a painful parting with her mother, who did not understand her Christian conversion, she entered a Carmelite convent in 1934, taking the name "Teresa Benedicta of the Cross" as a symbol of her acceptance of suffering.

"I felt," she wrote, "that those who understood the Cross of Christ should take upon themselves on everybody's behalf." She saw it as her vocation "to intercede with God for everyone," but she prayed especially for the Jews of Germany whose tragic fate was becoming clear.

"I ask the Lord to accept my life and my death," she wrote in 1939, "so that the Lord will be accepted by his people and that his kingdom may come in glory, for the salvation of Germany and the peace of the world."

After completing her final work, a study of St. John of the Cross entitled "The Science of the Cross," Teresa Benedicta was arrested along with her sister Rosa (who had also become a Catholic), and the members of her religious community, on August 7, 1942. The arrests came in retaliation against a protest letter by the Dutch Bishops, decrying the Nazi treatment of Jews.

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross died in the concentration camp at Auschwitz on August 9, 1942. Blessed John Paul II canonized her in 1998 and proclaimed her a co-patroness of Europe the next year.

Today is the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(OF) Readings for today are: -

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>First Book of Kings 19, 9a. 11-13a</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalm 85(84), 9ab-10.11-12.13-14</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Romans 9:1-5</i>
<i>Alleluia</i>	
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 14:22-33</i>

"Man, of little faith! Why did you doubt?"

Before the age of Science, the ocean, the seas were a very deep mystery to the ancient world. The sea appeared to be alive, constantly moving, and unpredictable. It was the home of dark and evil spirits. These evil spirits were easily roused to anger and became very destructive. The powerful sea god was the evil spirit Leviathan. Whoever controlled the sea controlled all nature and the cosmos. He is God indeed.

Today we have one of Our lord's great creation miracles. Even the wind and the seas obey him. The disciples were so much in awe with his power, their fear was transformed into worship, "Truly you are the Son of God." The Gospel is the good news that all the powers of darkness stand no chance at all face to face with Jesus and his friends: provided we trust in him, and truly believe in his presence, "It is I, fear not". He is present and active in our lives and will calm our troubled waters.

"Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water." Peter was the first to recognize Jesus walking on the waters, master of the universe. "Come", says Jesus, and Peter steps over the side of the boat. He does not count the cost and has no fear. Our Saviour's invitation is enough. "Come" a voice he knows and trusts, calling him across the waters and the darkness.

For a time, all goes well. Peter rides the storm, he is buoyant. Then reality dawns: "What have I taken on?" He sees the problems and the danger. He forgets the one who called him. Self-doubt takes over and that is when he begins to sink: up to the neck in a sea of troubles. Aren't we all sometimes.? Fortunately, he knows only one way out and calls his God for help.

We often meet Peter acting on impulse. He was a gut person, ruled by his heart. He acted first and thought afterwards. He was always volunteering, ready to have a go. He took risks and therefore made mistakes.

A saint is not someone who never sins. A saint is a sinner who repents ready to start afresh and try again and keeps on trying, getting up again and again. Heaven is not a reward for success. It is a gift for those who try and fail and try again.

Jesus points out the cause of Peter's failure: self-doubt. I cannot make it. "Man, of little faith, little trust, why did you doubt?" Fear and self-doubt are very destructive forces: they cripple us. "I've taken on too much."

If we say, "I can't", then we never will. Say "I'll have a go" and we have more chance of success.

Life is stormy, and unfair. The environment can be unpleasant: the workplace unfriendly. Life is not plane sailing. When things go wrong, we blame the situation. But Jesus was telling Peter: it was not the environment that caused him to sink, but his own self-doubt. The problem is not out there but inside.

In place of fear and doubt we must substitute confidence and trust: that even in the storm I can find God calling me to come to him across the waters, for he gives me the power to ride the storm with him.

Christ is risen and therefore he is present. Time and space do not confine the risen body. He is always present as Saviour. He is present in fair weather and foul. If we recognize his presence in happy times, and thank him for his blessings, then we are more likely to recognize him in the storm.

Faith is our surfboard. Whether we are on the crest of a wave or down in the trough, life can be exciting, because God, who knows all things, and who cares and loves us, will see us safely through. Faith keeps us buoyant. "Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid" The Risen Christ is present to the whole of his creation: present in the gentle breeze of Isaiah and present in the storm as well. Never loose heart.

Keep close to the Lord in his church and in the Sacraments. We are in Peter's boat. It is unsinkable. "My God I believe in you and all your church teaches because you have said it and your word is true."

May the Lord increase our little faith so that in all the storms of life we shall have our eyes and our trust constantly fixed on Jesus and his power and not on ourselves and our weaknesses.



Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

(E) Readings for today are: -

Introit	Psalm 54,17,18,20,7,23
Epistle 1	1 Corinthians 12, 2-11
Gradual	Psalm 16: 8,2
Gospel	Luke 18: 9-14

Humility

The Gospel today gives us the well-known parable of the Pharisee and the publican. The former is full of conceit even though he thanks God for the gifts he has received he nonetheless sees these as his due somehow and rejoices in them because they set him apart from hopeless cases like the publican who by his very existence is an affront to those who seek to be virtuous. The Pharisee does good things but has closed his heart to his fallen neighbour the publican. The publican knows he is rejected by decent people as he works for the occupying forces, collecting taxes. He is called an extortioner by the Pharisee and unjust as well as an adulterer. Yet the publican has come to pray. There is still a hunger for God in him. His prayer is from the heart and acknowledges that he has nothing to boast about as he implores God's mercy. The publican is the one who goes home in God's favour Christ tells us. The Pharisee leaves God unimpressed. As always hearing this parable brings us up sharp. We strive to fulfil our religious duties but in doing so do we become so caught up in ourselves we close our hearts to those in distress, those who have nowhere to turn. The Pharisee sinned in thought. Uncharitable thoughts, as we say in confession. We may think that as long as our outward behaviour is beyond reproach what we think is our business but thinking like this corrupts the soul and influences the way we act. Let us pray today that we may examine our conscience and see others as God sees them. We do not know the internal struggles of those around us as they journey through life. May this parable keep us alert to the need for mercy and compassion even towards those we find repellent and offensive. There but for the grace of God goes I.

Opening St Joseph's

Thank you very much to all the volunteers who have made the opening of St Joseph's possible today, without their dedication, sacrifice and commitment it would not have been possible.

In order to comply with the social distancing measures in place to protect us all against Covid 19, the numbers allowed at any Mass is limited to 37 units/family groups.

As well as the social distancing measures, which requires us to remain 2 metres apart at all times, the wearing of facemasks is compulsory for those aged over 11 years, unless exempted on medical grounds (there will be a limited stock of facemasks available for a small donation at the back of church).

There are also other changes to the way we can enter and exit church and new rules and regulations to follow, such as sanitising hands on entry and exit and prior to receiving Holy Communion.

No statue is to be touched at all, there will be no water in the stoops and there is to be no singing.

There will not be a collection during Mass and so we ask that if you can, you continue to give generously through bank transfer, standing order or direct debit, if you want to continue with weekly cash or cheque donations there will be a receptacle at the back of church in which you may place your donation at the END of Mass.

All the new rules will be clearly displayed and we will have stewards and ushers to assist you at every step, please ensure you comply with their instructions, this is for your own good and the good of others.

To begin with we have decided not to have a pre-booking system in place, this may have to be reviewed depending upon the numbers coming to Mass when we first open. It is essential you arrive early and queue outside, maintaining 2mtre distance whilst the stewards show you to your seats.

We have been asked to comply with the government's 'Track and Trace' system, this means that we have been requested to take names and contact details for each person at Mass in order that they may be contacted should there be an outbreak of Covid at one of our services. Your details would be treated with the utmost discretion, in compliance with DATA protection and all information destroyed after 21 days. We STRESS that this is merely a REQUEST and if you would rather not supply this information that is your right to withhold it.

In order to speed up entry to church and to assure you of the utmost confidentiality of any information you are happy to give to 'Track and Trace' we ask that at home you write down your name and a telephone contact number along with the date and the Mass you are attending, place this information in a sealed envelope and put it in the box provided at the back of church. No-one will need to access these envelopes at ALL unless there is an outbreak of the virus at the Mass you have attended. This process will have to be completed at each Mass you attend, completing the information once will not suffice as envelopes will be destroyed after 21 days and will be kept sealed unless they are needed. Again, we STRESS giving this information is entirely VOLUNTARY.

It has been no easy task to get to the moment of celebrating Mass inside our church once again and we owe a great deal of thanks to everyone who has worked to get everything in place for this momentous occasion, without our volunteers for cleaning, (both before and after each Mass), our Stewards and ushers, committing to being here at each Mass, we would not have been able to open our doors again.

With the above paragraph in mind I ask for volunteers to help open St Wilfrid's Church. You need to be fit and healthy with no underlying health conditions which may make you more prone to catching the virus. Please send your name and the role for which you are volunteering to shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk

We continue to pray for the success of our open churches and the demise of the virus that soon ALL will be open, and Mass will be said once again everywhere.

Thank you everyone for your patience and prayers, understanding and continued support of our two united parishes

Mass intentions this week

Monday: Veronica, Catherine and John Wall

Tuesday: Veronica, Catherine and John Wall

Wednesday: Veronica, Catherine and John Wall

Thursday: Bernard McGuigan

Friday: Veronica, Catherine and John Wall

Saturday: Veronica, Catherine and John Wall

Sunday: 10.00 People of the Parish

12.00 Fr Michael Hickey

Mass is said at approximately 10am each weekday.

Of your charity please remember in your prayers the soul of Mary Donnelly who died on August 7th. May she rest in peace

Just in Case You Didn't See it Last Week, A Little Bit of Fun!!

Can you unscramble the following letters and come up with the names of Biblical Characters found in either Old or New Testament?

- | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. A. Rash | 2. Minus Code | 3. Is On Me | 4. Bead Gone | 5. Hip Lip |
| 6. So I Heard | 7. Vile | 8. Bar A Ham | 9. Lead In | 10. Men in Jab |

Answers next week

TRIVIA

Did you know that this weekend we are equidistant between beginning of lockdown and Christmas Day!!

The following Churches are preparing to open for private prayer and/or Mass

Amble, Sacred Heart and St. Cuthbert
Annitsford , St John the Baptist
Bell's Close, St George
Berwick, St. Cuthbert
Birtley, St Joseph's
Blyth, Our Lady and St Wilfrid's
Blackhall, St. Joseph
Brooms, Our Blessed lady and St Joseph's
Coundon, St Joseph's
Cowpen, St Cuthbert's
Crawcrook, St. Agnes
Crook, Our Lady Immaculate & St. Cuthbert
Cullercoats, St Mary's
Darlington, St Teresa
Darlington, St. Thomas Aquinas
Durham, St. Cuthbert
Esh laud, St Michael's
Felling, St Augustine
Gainford, St. Osmund
Gateshead, St Joseph's

Gateshead, St. Peter
Gateshead, The Holy Rosary
Hordon, Our Lady Star of the Sea
Houghton-le Spring, St. Michael
Jarrow, St. Bede
Jarrow, St Matthew
Lanchester, All Saints
Langley Park, St Joseph's
Minsteracres, St. Elizabeth
Murton, St Joseph's
Newcastle, English Martyrs
Newcastle St Dominic's
Newcastle, St Michael's
Newcastle, St John Vianney
Newhouse, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs
New Seaham, St Cuthbert
Peterlee, Our Lady of the Rosary Prudhoe,
Our Lady and St Cuthbert
Sacriston, St. Bede
Seahouses, St. Aidan
Stockton, English Martyrs & SS Peter & Paul
Stockton, St. Patrick
Sunderland, St Anne and Holy Family
Sunderland, St Hilda
Tudhoe, St Charles
Tynemouth, Our Lady and St Oswin
Wallsend, Our Lady and St Aidan
Whittingham, St Mary immaculate
Willington, Our Lady and St Thomas
Whitley Bay, St. Edward
Wooler, St. Ninian

Churches Open for Mass (M) and Private Prayer (P)

Please note that each individual parish priest can choose how to offer Holy Communion during Mass.

You may find you are not able to receive Communion *at all*, or only on the tongue, or only in the hand, please respect the decision of each Priest, he is acting in everyone's best interests as he sees it and it is not fair nor helpful to anyone to judge.

(please note no young person under age 16 may attend unaccompanied)

It is essential that you consult individual parishes, via websites or phone, for regulations to attend Mass at any specific church as each has its own conditions. Please DO NOT just turn up for Mass, without checking websites first as you may be disappointed. Many churches are operating a pre-booking system.

- Cathedral Church of St. Mary, Newcastle upon Tyne (M & P) –
- Alnwick, St. Paul's Church (M)
- Ashington, St. Aidan (M)
- Bedlington, St. Bede (M)
- Billingham, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary (P)(M from 3 August)
- Bishop Auckland, St. Mary (P)
- Consett, St. Patrick (M & P)
- Coxhoe, SS Joseph, Patrick and Cuthbert (P),(M from 1 August)
- Cramlington, St. Paul (M)
- Darlington, St. Augustine (P)
- Durham, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Godric (P, M)
- Durham, St. Joseph (P from 28 July, M from 29 July)
- Forest Hall, St. Mary (M)
- Gateshead, Immaculate Heart of Mary (P)
- Hartlepool, St. Joseph (P)
- Hebburn, St. Aloysius (M from 29 July)
- Hexham, St. Mary (M & P)
- Longhorsley, St. Thomas of Canterbury (M)
- Newcastle, St. Andrew (M)
- Newcastle, St. Bede (P)
- Newcastle, St. Charles' Church (M & P)
- Newcastle, St. Robert (P)
- Newcastle, St. Teresa (M & P)
- Newton Aycliffe, St. Mary (P)
- North Gosforth, Sacred Heart (M & P)
- North Shields, St. Cuthbert (M)
- South Shields, St. Bede (M)
- Stella, SS Mary and Thomas Aquinas (M)
- Sunderland, St. Joseph (M)
- Sunderland, St. Mary (P)
- Ushaw Moor, St. Joseph (P)
- Wallsend, Our Lady and St. Columba (M)
- Washington, St. John Boste (M & P)
- Winlaton, St. Anne (M & P)

Your continued patience, support and understanding are very much appreciated, and we ask that you continue to pray for the absolute best decisions to be made.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

When we are unable to receive Holy Communion, it has long been the catholic tradition to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. St. Thomas Aquinas defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent

desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace Him as if we had actually received Him. One composed by St Alphonsus Ligouri in 1870 is: -

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen."

Act of Perfect Contrition

When we cannot get to confession the Catholic Church has made provision for our reconciliation with the Father through an Act of Perfect Contrition, Cardinal Vincent Nichols recently spoke these words, "What the Church teaches us, is that God in His mercy, forgives our sins when we are truly sorry for them. And when we turn to Him and express our sorrow in an Act of Contrition, it's called an Act of Perfect Contrition when its focus is on the mercy and the love of God rather than on the burden of our guilt. So to make an act of Perfect Contrition, we simply need to turn to God and be, as it were, overwhelmed by God's mercy, and then express in our own words or in the words of the traditional Act of Contrition, the sorrow we feel for our offences against the goodness of God. When we do that in all sincerity of heart, we may rest assured that God forgives our sins and that we come away from that Act of Perfect Contrition freed from those sins And, as I say, the only thing we have to remember is, when it is possible to make a Confession again, that we mention the grievous sins which were forgiven by this Perfect Act of Contrition.



Our Lady of Lourdes Garden

We are hoping to improve this peaceful, prayerful area of our church grounds and are therefore appealing for donations large and small. If you could mark your donation 'Lourdes Garden' it would be helpful.

Donations may be made in the same way as weekly/monthly offerings as set out below.

Thank You

To all those who have continued to make donations to Our Churches throughout the pandemic, your generosity is invaluable.

To donate via bank transfer:

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Wilfrid's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Gateshead St Joseph's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 31164066

Please use reference: - Weekly Income

OR

Donate using a cheque made out to either parish

'DHN St Joseph's Gateshead' or 'DHN St Wilfrid's Gateshead'

St Wilfrid's

Ford House

Sunderland Road

Gateshead NE8 3QR

St Joseph's

Presbytery

High West Street

Gateshead NE8 1LX

KEEP YOURSELF UPDATED AND INFORMED

- Parish Website and Facebook pages are updated regularly
- Parish Newsletter is available on our website each week
- Diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk
- Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk

Access to the Newsletter

If you know of anyone from either Parish who cannot access this newsletter via the website and would like to receive it by email, please ask them to give their email address to Canon Michael Brown email michaelbrown6@btconnect.com or Shauna Devitt at shaunadevitt@tiscali.co.uk

Diocesan News

Please see individual websites for information about Live Streaming of Masses

live streaming may be in effect during Mass. If you do not wish to be at risk of being filmed, please inform your parish priest or designated person on visiting the church.

Pope Video

monthly thepopevideo.org

Community Support

Gateshead Council have a dedicated page on their website offering a network of support for those who need help: -

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15181/coronavirus-COVID-19-Community-support>

Or phone 01914333000

Alcoholics Anonymous Call free on 08009177650 or email help@aamail.org

Pastoral Care

As part of the pastoral care of parishioners and others during this time several qualified counsellors and listeners have generously made themselves available to anyone who may be troubled by the negative effect of the situation. These councillors and listeners can be contacted through St Mary's Cathedral Listening Service on 01912326953

EU Citizens

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK MUST apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working, and accessing services here. The deadline is **30 June 2021**. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettdstatus Assistance is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlementscheme

Justice and Peace

Please visit the Parish and Diocesan websites for updated information about the Refugee Project helping those who need it most.