

Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic 06/12/ 2020

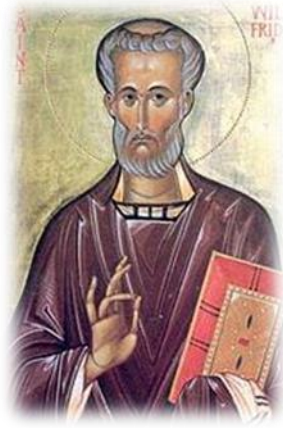
Joint Parishes of St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's Gateshead Parish

Priest Canon Michael Brown, resident at St Joseph's Presbytery High

West Street Gateshead NE8 1LX

Telephone 01914771631

Email:- gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk



Second Sunday of Advent



"Prepare a Way for the Lord"

The second candle on our Advent wreath which is lit today represents *PREPARATION*, we light it alongside the first candle of Hope

First, hope blooms as we realize the prophecies about the Messiah are true. Then we begin to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord Jesus.

As we rush through the season of buying gifts and attending parties, may we pause and reflect on the words of Isaiah:

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken" ([Isaiah 40:3-5](#)).

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent

(OF) Readings for today are: -

First Reading	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 84
Second Reading	2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8

(EF) readings for today are: -

Introit	Isaiah 30: 30
Epistle	Romans 15:4-13
Gradual	Psalm 49: 2-3, 5
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-10

Mass this week

5pm Saturday evening at St Wilfrid's.

10am, and Mid-day Sunday at St Joseph's.

Tuesday lunchtime Mass is returning from the 8th December - "the Feast of the Immaculate Conception"

Mass Intentions

Mass is offered Daily at approximately 10.00am in private, if you have any intentions please put these in an envelope and pop through the letter box, or place them on the collection plate.

Intentions this week:-

Saturday 5pm: Private Intention

Sunday: 10am: Margaret Duffy, **12 Noon:** People of the Parish

Monday: Frederick & Kathleen Butler

Tuesday: Intentions of Anna Barnes

Wednesday: Valerie, Catherine and John Wall

Thursday: Valerie, Catherine and John Wall

Friday: Holy Souls

Saturday: Joseph Hunt,

5pm: Deceased members of Cantwell and Bell Families

Sunday 10 am: Priest's Intentions **Noon:** People of the Parish

Please keep in your prayers the sick of the parish, all those who have recently died, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

franciscanmedia.org

Christmas Masses

Mass will be said on Christmas Eve at 5pm in English by Fr Paul Douthwaite at St Wilfrid's and at the same time in English at St Joseph's by Canon Michael.

Mass on Christmas morning will be in Latin at 10am in St Joseph's church

There will be no congregational singing of carols before or during any Mass due to the restrictions re COVID.

As numbers remain limited for attendance at Mass we are operating a Phone booking system, **you must reserve a place, do not just turn up!**

Telephone 07856943705

The information we will require is:-

Name, contact number, Mass you wish to attend, number of people in your family/bubble group accompanying you.

"We have to keep doors fully open during Mass, in order to maintain proper ventilation. We advise that you wear extra layers of clothing or bring a shawl/blanket with you to Mass.

Donations

If you would like to continue giving through direct debit, standing order or bank transfer, the details are below.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
St Wilfrid's
Sort Code 40-34-18
Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
St Joseph's
Sort Code 40-34-18
Account Number 31164066

To donate via cheque please make out to
'DHN St Wilfrid's Gateshead' or 'DHN St Joseph's Gateshead'
These can be posted to the parish address

Please use the reference "Weekly Contribution" for collection money
"Loft Fund" for donations to improving choir loft
"Lourdes Garden" for contributions to the garden
"Parish Poor" for donations to help feed our homeless and hungry

Keeping Up to Date

Please keep our records up to date by ensuring Canon Michael holds your most recent contact information on file

If you are reading this and realise that you have not updated a recent change of address, telephone number or email address, please send an email to the parish with your updated information.

If you have recently moved into the parish and have not yet given us your details, please let us know your details by email.

You can keep yourself informed about Parish activities and more by following us on Social Media:
Face Book and Twitter
And by logging into the parish website and/or Blog

<https://stjosephstwilfridsgatesheadnewsblog.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk>

Please forward this newsletter to anybody you think may enjoy reading it.

If you know of someone who is not on the mailing list but would like to be please ask them to contact us via one of the above emails.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a slimmed down, edited paper version of the newsletter please let me know.

SENT ON BEHALF OF THE VICARIATE FOR FAITH AND MISSION

Advent is when the Church re-sets the calendar of our remembering and celebrating the saving work of Christ. This Advent is more challenging due to the pandemic. A set of resources have been created by Clergy and Laity from across the diocese and are offered as a life-buoy, remedy and prayer book for the days ahead. It is hoped that as Parishes and Partnerships you may be able to print these resources out for those who do not have access to the internet.

Included in the resources are:

- **Daily video prayer reflections** compiled by the Youth Ministry Team and entitled 'Wait a minute it's Advent'. This resource is aimed at young people but I am sure will also appeal to a wider audience.
- **Weekly Advent packs** designed for those with and without the internet. With the hope that those with emails and internet might print them out and deliver them to their neighbours in paper form. These weekly packs include daily reflections on the readings alongside themed quotes from the Bible and Saints and an element of creativity for people stuck indoors. They will run through Advent and the Christmas Octave.
- **Weekly Advent videos** entitled "Advent in a Pandemic!" These four short Advent reflections are written with this year of disruption and fatigue in mind. They are aimed at parish volunteers, catechists and people looking for light in a darkened sky.
- **Additional Advent resources:** A document that signposts people to the many rich resources that are available online for Advent this year.

These resources are

available: <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/faithandmission/prayeradventresources.php>

Are you thinking about running a prayer group during Advent? This is a sharing site that includes a folder of resources available online. It consists of poetry, prayers and liturgies that have been shared by experienced members of our Diocesan community. It also contains some training documents and safe-guarding documents for leading prayer groups via zoom. (A Microsoft Account is required and can be created at: <https://signup.live.com/signup>.)

To register for access to these resources: <https://mailchi.mp/31eaefdd5842/gaqf83ko8o>. (Complete the registration form and include your Microsoft Account).

Compass in Advent ...preparing for Christmas

Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to Covid-19. You are invited to join this online conference to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed and to contemplate on "How is God speaking to us through these stories today?" Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion.

Who? - Young adults 18-35

When? Fridays - 11th, 18th Dec Time? 7pm for one hour

To obtain the Zoom link: please email CompassInAd-vent@gmail.com for the link and for any other information. Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent> [Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.]

Young Adult Essay Writing Competition

An essay competition on the theme 'The Future of Interreligious Dialogue' has been announced and is timed to mark the 50th anniversary of the WCC's Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation. The competition aims to encourage people under the age of 30 with interests in the field of interreligious relations and engagement to develop and share their ideas. The five best essays will be published in the 2021 issue of *Current Dialogue*, the WCC's journal for interreligious encounter. The deadline is 15th January 2021. For a list of subject themes, rules and word length visit www.ctbi.org.uk/essay-competition-future-of-interreligious-dialogue/

Masses Online

Two online services stream Masses throughout the day - www.churchservices.tv and www.mcnmedia.tv Other parishes stream live on YouTube - you just need to search for the parish name on YouTube to find them. You can also go to <https://mass-online.org> unfortunately, we have no live stream facilities at either St Wilfrid's or St Joseph's Churches.