

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church
High West Street
Gateshead
NE8 11X



Our Lady & Saint Wilfrid's Catholic Church
Sunderland Road
NE8 3QR

Parishes of the John Ingram Partnership Gateshead

Parish Priest: Canon Michael Peter Brown

St Joseph's Presbytery, High West Street, Gateshead, NE81LX

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Parish website: - www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk

Hall Bookings contact: - Joanne Tonothy - joanne.tonothy@yahoo.co.uk or 07894149160

Gaudete Sunday Third of Advent 11th December 2022 (OF - Year A)

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Saturday	Dec 10 th	Margaret Curry	5.00pm		
Sunday	Dec 11 th			People of the Parish Special Intention (BD)	10.00am Midday (EF)
Monday	Dec 12 th	NO MASS	10.00am		
Tuesday	Dec 13 th			Dorothy Devitt	12.05pm
Wed	Dec 14 th			NO MASS	12.05pm
Thursday	Dec 15 th			Holy Souls	12.05pm
Friday	Dec 16 th	Priest's Intention	10.00am	REQUIEM Hilda Cushley	12.05pm
Saturday	Dec 17 th	People of the parish	5.00pm	Roy Hammond 80 th Birthday	11.00am (EF)
Sunday	Dec 18 th			Special Intention (BD) Henry & Peggy Eglington	10.00am Midday (EF)

"E F" = EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS IN LATIN ACCORDING TO 1962 ROMAN MISSAL

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday 11-11.55am & Saturday 7.00am

Confessions: - St Joseph's: Saturday 12-12.30 and Wednesday after Mass

St Wilfrid's - before Mass on Saturday

No Benediction or Vespers until FEBRUARY

African Mass 2.00pm Sunday 18th December

**PLEASE NOTE -
WEEKDAY MASS @ ST JOSEPH'S WILL TAKE
PLACE IN the DOWNSTAIRS ROOM OF the
PRESBYTERY -
ENTRY THROUGH MAIN BLACK FRONT DOOR FROM
HIGH WEST STREET**

**Mexican Fun Afternoon TODAY in St Joseph's Church
Hall 1.00pm - 4.00pm
ALL are welcome**

Christmas Mass Times

St Joseph's

Christmas Eve Holy Mass 5.00pm
Christmas Eve Sung Latin Mass (EF) 11.00pm
Christmas Day Holy Mass 10.00am

St Wilfrid's

Christmas Eve Holy Mass 5.00pm

Congratulations to and every blessing:-

for **Katie Ross** and **Leon Reimers** whose **wedding** takes place at St Cuthbert`s Durham on Monday 12th

December.

and for

Nathalie Morris who was **baptised** last Sunday at St Joseph`s

for

Endre Kormos who was **Ordained** to the **Diaconate** on 8th December

And for

Billy, Rory and Johnny James who made their **first Confession** on Wednesday

Please keep all the above in your prayers



St Wilfrid's

Christmas Raffle

Tickets on sale at the back of church

Parish magazine

Is available to collect from the piety stall; we have not set a sale price for the publication but hope you will make a donation towards its costs.

Donations

Thanks for the recent donations of £20 & £5 made towards cost of Christmas flowers.

Also thanks to all of you for continuing to donate towards the very beautiful flowers that have adorned our church.

Poinsettia Plants

These can now be brought into church which will be a lovely way to remember our loved ones at Christmas who have died.

School Carol Service

It has been a long time since this has taken place in church so we hope as many people as possible will come along to support the children and to celebrate our Saviour's birth. Everyone is welcome. **Friday 23rd December at 1.30pm.** There will be a collection for Church funds at the end of the service.

Income 4th December 2022

St Wilfrid's: - £151.50 Gift Aided- £50

Donation-£10 Piety - £70

St Joseph's - £652 of which £110 was Gift Aided
Many Thanks

Calling ALL current Young Altar Servers and any who wish to consider this role in the future

We are having a brief training session and a Christmas celebration on Wednesday 14th December from 4.15pm - 6.45pm

St Joseph's

Christmas Raffle

Raffle tickets on sale at the back of church £2 per strip of 5 tickets. First prize £100, second prize £50, and third prize £25 plus many other beautiful prizes. Draw will take place on Sunday 18th December after 10.00am Mass.

Piety Stall

Will be opening, selling Christmas cards and some gifts this Sunday, after which it will be closed until the New Year.

St Joseph's School Carol Service

16th December @ 1.30 in the church

Open-Door Event

Wednesday December 14th from 11.30 - 13.30

Parking for Mass

Please park with care and consideration, keep the centre free in order not to block access for emergency services if needed or trap other drivers in. If you arrive when the car-park is full please park in the public car-park a minute's walk from the church grounds. Please take your car away as soon as Mass finishes, do not leave it in the car park whilst you shop!! Be careful in these icy conditions as we can't always grit the surface of the whole car park.

Tuesday Club

Takes place in the hall straight after 12.05 Mass Join us for a light lunch, a warm welcome and friendly conversation as well as bingo and other activities All this for a small donation of £1 per person For further information speak to Bernadette Hirst

Church Cleaning

In the past we have asked for volunteers to give the church a 'spring clean' for Christmas, but this has not proved popular and only a few regular volunteers have turned up to undertake the mammoth task. This year we have hired cleaners to give the church a good clean, (they aren't magicians however), so hopefully you will all notice the difference. If you would like to donate towards the cost of the clean please put your money in an envelope marked 'Church Clean' and place on collection plate (there are some envelopes available at the back of church).

Repair/Refurbishment

The damage caused by our leaking roof is obvious for all to see. Once repairs to the roof have taken place we will need to repaint and possibly re-plaster the church, this will not be cheap, so any donations towards this will be most gratefully accepted.

Book Club

Next Meeting December 21st at 7.00pm

“Are you the one who is to come?”

It was while John was in prison that Jesus began his public ministry.

Now, one person we would never think would doubt, or should doubt, would be John the Baptist.

He had baptised Jesus and he knew Jesus as a child, he knew him and played with him and was close to him right up to the time that John left to go into the desert to prepare himself for the great role of the last and final prophet of the children of Israel, the one who was to prepare the way of the Messiah.

But when John heard in prison of the works and words of Jesus, he sent his disciples to Him with this question: “Are you the One who is to come or should we look for another?”

We really do not know whether John was sending his disciples to Jesus for his disciples' good or for his own. Perhaps he was really strong to the end and continued to believe in Jesus as the Messiah and he had no doubts about it at all, and that is what some commentators say.

But other commentators say that human beings often experience terrible times and John was a human being, alone and very vulnerable. He, too, was waiting for the appearance of the Messiah and the triumph of God over everybody and everything that had come before.

Then, too, the works and the words of Jesus were simple and not so dramatic. The blind he helped to see, the deaf to hear. He was preaching a quiet word of God to the poor.

Where was the grandeur? Where were the armies? Where was the 'Great War' that would be fought so that the Messiah would triumph over the whole world?

Instead, what he sees is Jesus humbly walking with ordinary and poor people, like a simple itinerant preacher, watching over and taking care of his little flock.

John must have had deep thoughts when he was in that dark prison all by himself, and he was in the dungeon of one of the worst prisons of the time.

Perhaps Jesus allowed John to have these doubts, because he wanted we ordinary people not to be afraid at times to doubt even the most beautiful of messages, not to be afraid at times to run away in fear from what Jesus might be asking of us.

Doubting is something that we all have to deal with, perhaps John was saying, “Tell my disciples you are the One sent by God, you are really and truly the Messiah.” John was reassuring them because the disciples certainly were having doubts that this was indeed the Messiah that they were waiting for.

And what does Jesus say to them?

Well, he quotes from Isaiah the prophet many centuries before, at a time when the children of Israel faced total destruction at the hands of their enemies.

Jesus said to them in reply,

“Go and tell John what you hear and see:

the blind regain their sight,

the lame walk,

lepers are cleansed,

the deaf hear,

the dead are raised,

and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

Now this ending might seem harsh and hard to take, unless you really understand what Jesus is saying.

The poor, who are the poor? They are the 'anawim' of God, those who believe, through thick and thin, with their whole hearts, that God is with them.

It is God who they believe in totally and completely. They don't believe in systems. They don't believe in money. They don't believe in power. They believe in God and that the presence of God is always with them. It's all a matter of love.

And what is the good news?

God Himself has come into the world in such a special way that the world will never be the same again.

And Jesus is saying, this is the way it will be done, not with power but with meekness, not with shouting but with soft voices of persuasion, not with any kind of magic, it will be done in the ordinariness of every man's life and every woman's life, in the ordinariness of life itself.

Because as Jesus says: “I have come to show you, if you follow me, how you too will see as I see, and you will hear what I hear, and you will dance as I dance, for God has come to stay, to make His home in our hearts.”

This then is Jesus' message and, of course, John understood.

It couldn't come by power, this kingdom. We've tried power. We keep trying power. It doesn't work. We try money: buying things, building things, having things. It doesn't work. We try perhaps to use our talents to create things and make them wonderful and impress everybody with our cleverness, but that doesn't work.

And what works?

Jesus would say: “To see the world as I see it, to hear what I hear, to do what I do.”

And what is the only word that makes this possible?

We are not here to command, we are not here to win, we are not here to triumph. We are here to love each other and care for each other, and that is the task and Jesus, Our Lord, shows us the way.

That is what Jesus says today in this gospel, not just to the *anawim* of his time, the poor of his time, but to all of us here and now. However, you must remember this: if you are going to see as Jesus sees and hear as he hears and do as he does, you're going to have to become one of the *anawim*.

Because the definition of the *anawim* is, “those who know their need for God.” And if you know your need for God, God will always be there, for Jesus has come to take up this life and give us his love every step of the way.

Fr Hanley

Poinsettias

It has become a tradition to decorate our churches for Christmas with poinsettias donated in memory of deceased loved ones. If you would like to continue with this tradition please bring your plant along to the office or sacristy where they will be looked after until we put up festive decorations.

Can You Spare an Hour?

On Wednesday December 14th from 11.30 - 13.30, we are holding an **Open-Door Event**.

This is a time for people, many of whom have never been inside our church before, to come in, to look around, to enjoy some quiet time, or to light a candle.

If you feel you could help to make sure this event runs smoothly please speak to Canon Michael, Bernadette Hirst

Book Club

Next Meeting

December 21st at 7.00pm

The book we are currently reading is the very seasonal '**A Christmas Carol**'
By Charles Dickens

We will be discussing this read in a very seasonal fashion with mince pies and brandy butter
Cheese and wine - possibly some mulled
And optional fancy dress to reflect the story and its times!

Join us if you can.



HALL RENTAL

Our Church Hall is available for anyone to hire subject to availability and adherence to hall policies

If you would like to book the hall for any event

please contact Joanne Tonothy

joanne.tonothy@yahoo.co.uk or 07894149160

Please keep in your prayers Bishop Robert



Please take this newsletter home with you or sign up to receive it via email - send your email address to

gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk or
shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Appeal for Joe's Place

Joe's Place continues to offer food and a warm, safe place where all are welcome every Wednesday morning. The number of visitors has increased since we fully opened again after Covid.

The kind donations of tinned and dried foods, and tea/coffee by parishioners throughout Gateshead, together with those from local schools and businesses have enabled us to serve over 80 people a meal every week. We will be serving a Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 21st December, and will be catering for approximately 100 people. Our guests will receive a traditional 3 course meal.

Can you help us by donating a box of Mince Pies? These can be left in a box which will be in the Lady Chapel. There is no need to wrap boxes, as we will use them on the day.

New Year Mass Times

Masses will remain as usual for the New Year weekend

St Wilfrid's:- New Year's Eve at 5.00pm

St Joseph's:- New Year's Day at 10.00am and 12.00 mid-day

PARISH BOUNDARIES

PLEASE read the letter and look at the map on the notice board at the back of church for information regarding the modification of our Parish Boundaries – both St Wilfrid's and St Joseph's
Thank You

Thank you to **ALL St Joseph's parishioners** for your patience, co-operation, understanding, support and help, without you the carols by candlelight event would not have been a success.

Newsletter by Email

It has been brought to my attention that some people are having difficulty in viewing the newsletter sent out to them by email. Please accept my apologies for this technical glitch.

I think the problem may only be if you try to open the newsletter on a phone – opening by computer doesn't appear to create a problem – unless someone knows otherwise? If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please send your details to
gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk

Advent reflections

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission have produced a series of reflections on the readings used throughout our Advent preparations. The reflections have been written by members of the Diocese and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect. The first and second week of Advent reflections can be downloaded from bit.ly/DHNAAdvent2022