

**+THE PARISHES OF SAINT JOSEPH AND SAINT WILFRID+
GATESHEAD**

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1143450

PARISH PRIEST: CANON MICHAEL BROWN

PRESBYTERY: ST JOSEPH'S HIGH WEST STREET GATESHEAD NE8 1LX

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MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

	DEC		SAINT WILFRID'S		SAINT JOSEPH'S
Saturday	16	5.00pm	Celebrant's Intention		
Sunday	17			10.00am	People of the Parish
			<i>Extraordinary Form (Latin)</i>	12 noon	Souls in Purgatory
Monday	18	10.00am	Rachel's Intentions		
Tuesday	19			12.05pm	Desmond Costello
Wednesday	20			10.00am	Tommy Matthews
Thursday	21			12..05pm	Mona Richardson
Friday	22	10..00am	Private Intention	12.05pm	James Hennessy & family
Saturday	23			11.00am EF	Sanctification of FSSP
		5.00pm			
Sunday	24			10.00am	People of the Parish
			<i>Extraordinary Form (Latin)</i>	12.00noon	Holy Souls
		5.00pm	Kathleen Derrick	5.00pm	

CONFESSIONS ST. JOSEPH'S Wed after 12.05pm Mass and Saturday 12noon-12.30pm.

ST WILFRID before 5.00pm Mass Saturday

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday 11am to 11.55am

COLLECTIONS: St Wilfrid's Collection £205.60. Gift Aid £52.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION Copy the instructions below into your notebook and follow their direction.

FIRST COMMUNICANT'S TASK FOR 16th 17th DECEMBER

- **Join in with the Creed**
- Listen for the bells at Mass and see what is happening on the altar.
- Join in with the Gloria
- After Mass has finished light a candle and pray for those you love.
- Listen carefully to and join in with the 'Penitential Rite'.
- Join in with the Lord's Prayer – the 'Our Father'
- Dip the middle finger of your right hand into the Holy Water Stoop as you enter and exit the church and make The Sign of The Cross with care and reverence.
 - Remember to always sit near enough to the front of the church so that you can see what is happening on and around the Altar.

ALTAR SERVERS` ENROLMENT INTO THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN at Mass on his Feast Day – 26th December.

CHRISTMAS MASSES. It is proposed that Mass for Christmas will be as follows: St Joseph's Christmas Eve 5pm; Christmas day 10.00am (Latin). St Wilfrid's Christmas Eve 5pm.

ST JOSEPH'S

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is kept burning day and night in our church to remind us that the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle. It is a symbol of Christ's everlasting love for us and a reminder to us to give loving adoration in return. It has been suggested that, beginning in the New Year, the Sanctuary Lamp may be sponsored and lit in memory of a loved one or for a particular intention. A new candle will be lit every Sunday and will burn for a week.

The minimum recommended donation is £5, and proceeds will go towards the cost of candles in church. The Sanctuary Lamp Intentions will be displayed in our Weekly Newsletter, and on the Notice Board at the back of church. A list of dates will be available in the Office, together with envelopes for donations. It may be that several intentions are given for particular dates.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION at St Joseph's on Saturday 6th January, 4pm to 7:15pm, organised jointly by the Parish, Holy Family Guild, Missionaries of Charity, and 1st Gateshead Scouts of Europe. All parishioners, family and friends are welcome to join us for this "12th Night" celebration. Starts with a Vigil Mass at 4pm, celebrated by the Capuchin Friars from Durham, followed by a party in the hall, including music, games, skits, jokes and a quiz. Cost £2.50 in advance (from the Hammond family) or £3 on the door, which includes refreshments. Please bring food for a shared table. See the flyers at the back of church for more info or contact Paul at "paul.hammond@gseuk.org", 07973 192 324.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to all who have donated flowers during the last year. During Advent there are no flowers on our altar, so kindly do not bring any more to church. We will, however, welcome Poinsettias in the last week of Advent which will be used to decorate our Sanctuary and the Crib for the feast of Christmas.

ST JOSEPH'S RAFFLE

We have some lovely hampers and other prizes which will be raffled during Advent. Tickets will be on sale for £1 for a strip. Please support this raffle to help our church funds. The raffle will be drawn after the 10am Mass on December 24th.

ST WILFRID'S

RAFFLE; Once again there are some great prizes to win this year so many thanks once more to those of you who have donated the raffle prizes and of course to those who have sold and bought raffle tickets. A tremendous effort from everyone, we are very grateful to you all!!! Raffle tickets are still available to buy at ALL Masses.

PIETY STALL Cards are now 70p unless priced. Christmas cards, 2024 diaries are now available in the kitchen. We also have Christmas grave candles on sale. There are also some reduced Christmas items on sale at the back of Church. Please see Rachel if you need any help

Parishes of Saint Joseph & Saint Wilfrid Gateshead

Third Sunday of Advent: Year A (OF)

Third Sunday of Advent (EF)

16th /17th December 2023

Third Week of Advent

A friend of mine refers to Advent as a season of “joyful expectation.” Older Catholics remember this Third Sunday as “Gaudete Sunday” from the Latin word for joy. In times past, rose-coloured vestments were worn in church today. Our first and second readings carry the theme of joy, but then the Gospel is all business. John the Baptist is dispensing advice to various groups who come to see him. The Gospel names two of them: tax collectors and soldiers. John advises them to carry out their daily duties with justice.

I suppose that if those two professions in Jesus’ time made a radical change in their way of doing business, it would be a cause for joy! Tax collectors were universally despised and soldiers represented the might of the Roman occupation. Luke wants to show us that change was in the air. The coming of Jesus would transform all of human life. That was good news indeed. What would bring us joy today? An end to terrorists’ threats? Conversion in the corporate world from greed and personal gain? A new spirit of generosity and service in people’s everyday lives?

Paul urges the Philippians to be joyful because “God is near.” That very presence of God ought to be our focus, because that would help us with the other things that need changing.

Father Greg Friedman, OFM www.franciscanmedia.org/