

**+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

TELEPHONE NOS.: ST JOSEPH'S 477 1631 ST WILFRID'S 477 1524

www.sjosephsgateshead.co.uk BOOKINGS FOR ST JOSEPH'S HALL: cnmichaelbrown@gmail.com

email: cnmichaelbrown@gmail.com

**MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES**

	DEC		SAINT WILFRID'S		SAINT JOSEPH'S
Saturday	23	5.00pm	Celebrant's Intention		
Sunday	24			10.00am	People of the Parish
			<i>Extraordinary Form (Latin)</i>	12 noon	Holy Souls
		5.00pm	Kathleen Derrick	5.00pm	Katia Majurek (cancer)
Monday	25			10.00am (EF)	People of the Parish
Tuesday	26			12.05pm	Lavinia Webster
Wednesday	27			10.00am	George and Janet Fawcett
Thursday	28			12..05pm	Joan & John Gunn
Friday	29	10..00am	Funeral service: Ken Donnelly	12.05pm	Terry & Irene (wedding anniversary)
Saturday	30			11.00am EF	Margaret & Bill Armstrong
		5.00pm	People of the Parish		
Sunday	31			10.00am	Hugh & Mary Elizabeth McErlane
			<i>Extraordinary Form (Latin)</i>	12.00noon	

**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.  
St Joseph's Collection £296.24

**A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS** to everyone in our two parishes. May the peace of Christ remain with you throughout the celebrations.

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

**FIRST COMMUNICANT'S TASK FOR 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

- Learn the words of your favourite Christmas carol, think about their meaning.
- 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'
- Always use the Holy Water Stoop to make The Sign of The Cross with care and reverence.
- Sit near the front so that you can see what happens on and around the Altar.

**ALTAR SERVERS' ENROLMENT INTO THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN** at Mass on his Feast Day – 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **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)**

**23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Fourth Week of Advent**

Christmas is often a time for different generations in a family to come together. Grandparents delight in sharing Christmas memories with the youngest family members. On our Christmas tree we hang both new and old ornaments. Our celebrations this year usually prompt us to remember Christmases long past.

Today's Liturgy of the Word offers us a meeting between old and new. In our *Gospel*, the Old Covenant—represented by Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist—meets the New Covenant, symbolized by Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Our Second Reading, from the *Letter to the Hebrews*, presents Jesus—whose sacrificial death on the cross replaces the sacrifices of the old law.

God's promise to shepherd his flock spans both the old and the new covenants, as our First Reading tells us. The birth of the shepherd-Messiah from the line of David will fulfill ancient promises and usher in an age of peace.

Such fulfillment, such peace, is what both old and young long for as we gather to celebrate Christmas this season. Perhaps the Christmas celebrations in our families might have room for some time of prayer and storytelling which would allow for those hopes to be voiced. For we celebrate the birth of the One who personifies peace: Jesus Christ, born into our world to fulfill the ancient longings of the human family.

Father Greg Friedman, OFM      [www.franciscanmedia.org/](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/)