

**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, NE8 1LX

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Parish website: - [www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk)

Hall Bookings contact: - Canon Michael or Shauna Devitt - [gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk) 01914771631 until Feb

## Christmas Day 2022

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Saturday	Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Kathleen Derrick	5.00pm	People of the Parish Intentions of LMS	5.00pm 11.00pm (EF)
Christmas Day	Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>			Rachel Birkbeck	10.00am
Monday Mass with Polish Community	Dec 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bell and Cantwell families	11.00am		
Tuesday	Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>			Michael & Margaret Lawson	10.00am
Wed	Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>			Patrick O'Neill	12.05pm
Thursday	Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>			Diamond Wedding of Terry & Irene Hall	12.05pm
Friday	Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	Priest's Intention	10.00am	Esme (a sick child)	12.05pm
Saturday	Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	People of the Parish	5.00pm	Intentions of Richard Phipps	11.00am (EF)
Sunday	January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023			Special Intention(BD) Intentions of Shirley & Cresswell Smith	10.00am 12.00 noon (EF)

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

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

Thank you very much to all those who have helped to prepare the church and the Masses for Christmas, your continued support is much appreciated.

Canon Michael would like to wish all parishioners a happy and holy Christmas day. Many thanks for all your good wishes, cards and presents. May the peace of Christ fill our homes this Christmas.

## Our Catholic Faith and Sacraments

### Baptism

If you have a child under the age of 5 whom you would like to be baptised please speak to Canon Michael and complete an application form in the office. There is an expectation that you are attending Mass regularly and that you will attend preparation classes.

If your child is aged over 5, it is expected that he/she is attending Mass regularly with you and that he/she will also attend some preparation classes.

### First Holy Communion and Confession

If you have a child over the age of 7, who doesn't attend a Catholic school, or who has missed the opportunity to be prepared within school, please speak to Canon Michael. The expectation is that you and your child are attending Mass regularly, that your child has a desire to make his/her first Holy Communion and that you are fully committed to support your child before, during and after first Holy Communion Day. There will be preparation classes for both child and parents.

### Confirmation

Young people over the age of 11, who have a personal desire to deepen their Faith and strengthen their commitment, and who partake regularly of the sacraments of Communion and Confession may apply to be confirmed. Please speak to Canon Michael and fill in an application form. There will be a series of preparation classes.

### Marriage

The sacrament of marriage is not one to be taken lightly and requires the full commitment of both parties. In requesting to be married in the Catholic Church you are agreeing to uphold, to the best of your abilities, the teachings of the Catholic Church within your marriage, including being open to having children and to bringing them up in the Faith. Please speak to Canon Michael, fill in an application form and attend the preparation classes on offer.

### Ordination

Are you being called to be a Priest? If you feel you may have a vocation, no matter how old or young you are, please speak to Canon Michael who will offer guidance and support as well as further information to help you discern your future.

### Anointing of the Sick/Last Rites

If you know of anyone who is ill and would like to be **anointed** please let Canon Michael know, a sick person can be anointed as often as a Priest is available to perform the Blessing.

If you know of somebody who is in the **last stages of life** contact Canon Michael who is always more than happy to attend at home, in hospital or in a hospice to minister the **Last Rites**, no matter the time of day or night, a Catholic must be given the chance to have a priest present as he/she leaves this mortal life, Canon Michael has always viewed this as one of his most important ministries as a Priest and views it as a great privilege.

## St Joseph's

### Christmas Raffle

This was drawn after the 10.00am Mass last week. Unclaimed prizes may be collected from church or the office.

The winning tickets are:

**470/516/544/405/481/424/569/393/404/488/554/545**

A list is displayed at the back of church.

### Piety Stall

This will re-open on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January before each Mass, and will be opened every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month.

### Parking for Mass

Please park with care and consideration, keep the centre free and take your car away as soon as Mass finishes. 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.

### 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

The next book is: - "God's Traitors: - Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England", by Jessie Childs. We will meet to discuss this on Wednesday February 8th at 7pm.

### Income 18<sup>th</sup> December

£622.80 of which £120 was Gift Aided

## St Wilfrid's

### Christmas Raffle

Please check your tickets as there are some prizes still to be claimed. A full list of winners is on the notice board.

The numbers are;

**528/ 981/ 2057/ 2105/ 2769.**

Thank you to everyone who donated and bought tickets, it is much appreciated, especially during the present financial difficulties. God Bless you all.

### November candles

Please collect them before the end of the year, if not collected they will be burnt off in 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.

### Income 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

£179.90 Gift Aided- £47 Donation-£10

Our call to worship in Psalm 96 praises God's righteousness, evident in the created world and our participation in it. Isaiah 9 promises that the Son given to us will free us from oppression and bring endless peace. In Titus 2, Paul writes of Jesus' willingness to give himself so we might pursue goodness, kindness, and mercy. And in Luke 2:1-14 we can identify with the shepherds who were the first recipients of the good news of Jesus' birth.

The first Christmas hymn authorized by the Anglican Church was "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks". Written around 1700, by Nahum Tate, the poet laureate of England, between 1692 and 1715. Until Tate wrote "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," the Anglican Church only allowed the Psalms of David to be sung in church. What makes Tate's hymn different is that it isn't based on a psalm; it's a metrically paraphrased version of Luke 2:8-1. Tate managed to work in the connection with King David in the third stanza:

**"To you, in David's town, this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign:"**

Luke 2: 1-20 focuses on Jesus' birth and the angelic visitation the shepherds experienced. In considering this nativity story which we've heard countless times, let's think about why God might have chosen shepherds to play an important role in the story of Jesus' birth.

- **The shepherds were in the dark.** These were people who were doing their job, guarding their sheep at night, and suddenly, light was everywhere. The contrast of dark vs. light would get their undivided attention, and the metaphor of light/dark is a common one throughout Scripture.
- **The shepherds were on the bottom rung of their socio-economic world.** They would have been the last people that anyone would have thought God would interact with, let alone share the special news about Emmanuel - God with us. They had done nothing extraordinary to deserve this divine touch and revelation. This is a recurring motif when God interacts with people. It's very often somebody who is considered a "nobody" in the culture.
- **Despite their low economic standing, the shepherds modeled the way God looked after God's chosen people.** Examples in the Old Testament, Isaiah 40:11, Psalm 23, and Ezekiel 34:11-24, show how God looked after Israel as a good shepherd watched out for his sheep.
- **The shepherds simply obeyed the angelic command to go see the baby.** They didn't try to dismiss what they'd seen or explain it away. They went right away, "with haste" (v. 16).
- **The shepherds told others about what they had seen.** They "made known what had been told them about this child" (v. 17). The divine touch and favour shown by God made the shepherds bold in sharing what they had witnessed.

*Heaven and earth meet in obscure places, not in the halls of power.* With this strategic choice to tell the good news of Jesus' birth to shepherds, God reveals the divine grace that cares not at all about class and power and position. Revealing the birth of the Son of God first to shepherds also foreshadows the way Jesus lived his life. Jesus chose to hang out with tax collectors and did not condemn sex workers. He touched and healed those considered unclean by the culture. He spoke to women and allowed them to support him and minister to him Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" Jesus lived the way of making those first who thought they should be last based on the culture they were a part of. God's revelation to the shepherds reminds us that God honors those who are often marginalized by the culture, and so should we.

- **The Christmas story shows us that God works through ordinary people and purposefully chooses those who might be considered "outsiders" to reveal God's grace and favor.** Just to make it clear that God's love and commitment to us cannot be earned, the example of the shepherds demonstrates God's willingness to validate those often dismissed by the culture.
- **Christmas reminds us that God has entered our world and our history by taking on our flesh.** Because of this, God is a part of our lives through Emmanuel - God with us - and this is what we proclaim at Christmas by singing the Christmas songs like "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," and by participating in other Christmas rituals. Because we are embodied, there is value in participating in rituals to celebrate the incarnation and embodiment of Jesus.
- **God came to us at Christmas so that we would possess courage and hope to face the difficulties of living in a world of uncertainty.** The promise of Emmanuel - God with us - means we do not navigate life's struggles without guidance or support. We are not alone.  
By considering God's choice to share the good news of Jesus' birth with the shepherds, we can understand more about how the Christ child was born to be "good news of great joy for all the people," not just those who were rich or powerful or esteemed by the culture. Through Christ's birth and the nativity story, God reveals God's plans for all humanity and confirms that indeed, God is love.

### Becoming a Catholic

If you or someone you know would like to be received into the Catholic Church please speak to canon Michael

### Become More Involved

If you would like to become more involved in church activities by:-

**Volunteering** to read, serve, clean, welcome, sing in the choir, arrange the flowers.

**Running a club, group or activity-** perhaps you have an idea for something you feel would bring parishioners together and benefit the life of our church!

Speak to Shauna Devitt, usually to be found in the office, or the piety stall, and contactable via email [shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk) , or to Canon Michael.

All volunteers must complete a volunteer's form and some roles require a DBS clearance before roles may be taken up.

### What's on in and Around the Diocese?

Visit the Diocesan website for information about courses and events

[What's On - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://diocesehn.org.uk)

### Catholic Schools

Find out about all the activities our young Catholics are involved in through school projects from sports achievements to beach clean-ups, supporting local charities to winning prestigious awards.

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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](mailto:gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk) or [shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk)

Please look at the Diocesan website for the latest news about events and courses in and around the Diocese

### Fund Raising

We always need more funds for the church, whether to cover daily rising costs of heating and lighting, providing the candles and other church consumables, or for larger expenses such as upgrading plumbing, security and electrical systems.

If you have a good idea for a fund raising activity and you have the time and energy to organise, (with help and support from others), and lead on such an activity, please speak to Canon Michael, or email the office with suggestions. Please don't make suggestions if you aren't prepared to get involved in the organisation and preparation - everybody is busy, don't put upon others something you aren't prepared to do yourself.

**PLEASE NOTE -  
WEEKDAY MASS @ ST JOSEPH'S NOW TAKES  
PLACE IN the DOWNSTAIRS ROOM OF the  
PRESBYTERY -  
ENTRY THROUGH MAIN BLACK FRONT DOOR  
FROM HIGH WEST STREET  
This is to save on heating costs**

### 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

### 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](mailto:gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk) or [shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk)



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL