

**Saint Joseph's Catholic Church**  
High West Street  
Gateshead  
NE8 1LX



**Saint Wilfrid's Catholic Church**  
Sunderland Road  
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NE8 3QR

Parishes of the John Ingram Partnership Gateshead

**Parish Priest: Canon Michael Peter Brown**

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

Hall Bookings contact Mr. Alan Telford Tel:-07989734644

*Today is Christmas Day 2021*

### **CHRIST OUR PEACE**

There is another verse from the Christmas story on which I should like to reflect with you – the angels' hymn of praise, which they sing out following the announcement of the new-born Saviour: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased." God is glorious. God is pure light, the radiance of truth and love. He is good. He is true goodness, goodness par excellence. The angels surrounding him begin by simply proclaiming the joy of seeing God's glory. Their song radiates the joy that fills them.

Linked to God's glory on high is peace on earth among men. Where God is not glorified, where he is forgotten or even denied, there is no peace either. Nowadays, though, widespread currents of thought assert the exact opposite: they say that religions, especially monotheism, are the cause of the violence and the wars in the world. If there is to be peace, humanity must first be liberated from them. Monotheism, belief in one God, is said to be arrogance, a cause of intolerance, because by its nature, with its claim to possess the sole truth, it seeks to impose itself on everyone. Now it is true that in the course of history, monotheism has served as a pretext for intolerance and violence. It is true that religion can become corrupted and hence opposed to its deepest essence, when people think they have to take God's cause into their own hands, making God into their private property. We must be on the lookout for these distortions of the sacred. While there is no denying a certain misuse of religion in history, yet it is not true that denial of God would lead to peace. If God's light is extinguished, man's divine dignity is also extinguished. Then the human creature would cease to be God's image, to which we must pay honour in every person, in the weak, in the stranger, in the poor. Then we would no longer all be brothers and sisters, children of the one Father, who belong to one another on account of that one Father. The kind of arrogant violence that then arises, the way man then despises and tramples upon man: we saw this in all its cruelty in the last century. Only if God's light shines over man and within him, only if every single person is desired, known and loved by God is his dignity inviolable, however wretched his situation may be. On this Holy Night, God himself became man; as Isaiah prophesied, the child born here is "Emmanuel", God with us (Is 7:14). And down the centuries, while there has been misuse of religion, it is also true that forces of reconciliation and goodness have constantly sprung up from faith in the God who became man. Into the darkness of sin and violence, this faith has shone a bright ray of peace and goodness, which continues to shine.

So Christ is our peace, and he proclaimed peace to those far away and to those near at hand (cf. Eph 2:14, 17). How could we now do other than pray to him: Yes, Lord, proclaim peace today to us too, whether we are far away or near at hand. Grant also to us today that swords may be turned into ploughshares (Is 2:4), that instead of weapons for warfare, practical aid may be given to the suffering. Enlighten those who think they have to practice violence in your name, so that they may see the senselessness of violence and learn to recognize your true face. Help us to become people "with whom you are pleased" – people according to your image and thus people of peace.  
*Pope Benedict XVI. Homily at Christmas Mass 2012*

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec			John and Frances Powell	10.00am
Boxing Day	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Mary and John Wilson People of the Parish	10.00am MidDay
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Deceased members of Cantwell and Bell families	10.00am		
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Ann Southern	12.05pm
Wednesday	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Adrian Barnes	12.05pm
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup> Dec			T.V. Joseph	7.45am
Friday	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Vincencia Uloma Ihejiere	10.00am	Priest's Intention	12.05
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2022	Priest's Intention	5.00pm	Intentions of Shirley and Creswell Smith	11.00am
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan			People of the Parish Intentions of LMS	10.00am Midday (EF)

*"EF" = EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS IN LATIN ACCORDING TO 1962 ROMAN MISSAL*

**Confessions:** - St Joseph's: Wednesday after Mass; Saturdays from 12-12.30  
St Wilfrid's - before Mass on Saturday

**Prayers for:** - anniversaries occurring at this time; the sick and recently deceased  
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament @ St Joseph's Wednesday 11.30  
Vespers and Benediction every First Sunday of the Month at 3pm  
African Mass last Sunday of the Month at 2pm

**Canon Michael wishes all our parishioners a very happy and holy Christmas . Many thanks for your good wishes, cards and gifts.**

Thank You to all who helped in cleaning and decorating the churches in readiness for our Christmas Masses.

**St Wilfrid's: Welcome back to Fr Paul McCourt who is celebrating the Christmas Eve vigil Mass this year.**

Baptism Certificates - if you require a replacement certificate these will cost 50p per certificate beginning in January.

**Christmas Raffle**  
Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Christmas raffles at St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's. The numbers of the winning tickets are on the church notice board.

### **"Honouring Sunday"**

"The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love. At this time, we recognize that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognize that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfill the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass. We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do ('be doing') on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass .... Full document available on [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)



### **Children's Books to Borrow**

Please feel free to borrow some of the children's books, available at the back of church, to look at with your child/ren during Mass, or take them home for a week.



Book Club resumes in January – date to be announced

### **Year of the Eucharist**

The aims of the Year of the Eucharist ...

- To celebrate the Eucharist at the heart of the life and mission of the Church and to gather people back.
- To grow as a Diocese in our love and appreciation of the Eucharist.
- To deepen our appreciation of the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist through the rites.
- To revitalise and renew our faith through a deepening prayer and devotion of the Eucharist.
- To go out and serve the world through the nourishment of the Eucharist.

Each one of us has the opportunity to achieve these aims in our daily lives.

During this Year of the Eucharist can you make the extra effort to attend daily Mass?

Can you travel to St Wilfrid's or to St Joseph's to get in an extra Mass?

Or come back to Sunday Mass and celebrate the Eucharist with your parish community.

On a Wednesday we also have Adoration before Mass at St Joseph's.

If we truly believe in the Real Presence of Our Lord here with us on the Altar how can we resist being in his company?

Think about the mountains many of us move to go to see our music or theatre idols in the flesh, because seeing them on screen, or hearing their music through the radio isn't enough. We want to be nearer to them, to be truly present with them, even if that is in amongst a crowd of thousands. Surely watching Mass on YouTube doesn't come anywhere close to being in the true presence of Our Lord!



The **Library** in the Church Porch at St Joseph's is now up and ready for use, please read and follow the guidelines as to usage.

If you have any suitable books at home with which you have finished but think somebody else may enjoy please consider donating them to our library, by placing them into the box available, do not put them directly onto the shelves.

Thank you



## FINANCIAL NEWS

**Thank you to the generous donations made by a few Parishioners this week, they have helped to maintain the bank balance in the black for the time being. We still need regular donations to ensure a healthy ongoing balance, please consider raising your weekly offering and gift aiding it.**

### DIOCESAN News

[Home - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://diocesehn.org.uk)

#### HOLY ISLAND VINNIE CAMP 2022

Holy Island Camp will be running holidays for children in 2022.  
<https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/about-camp>

#### Diocesan Vacancies

See Diocesan Website for further details

CMUK meets regularly at St Joseph's; the group is featured in an article on the Diocesan website read about it here

[Spotlight on the Hexham and Newcastle Chapter of "Catholic Man UK" - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://diocesehn.org.uk)

**Peace Sunday takes place on Sunday 16 January 2022, with the theme of Pope Francis' World Peace Day, 'Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace.'**

Remember the COVID virus is still a threat; the wearing of **MASKS** is **MANDATORY** in many enclosed spaces, including **CHURCHES**. Also all church halls and social spaces have been closed until further notice

So we:-

- Continue to wear a face mask covering nose and mouth
- Sanitise hands on entry to church, prior to receiving Communion and on exit from church
- Maintain social distancing from anyone outside your immediate social bubble

Thank you – together we will beat it!



**FACE SPACE HANDS**

### Pope's Intention for the Month of December - Catechists

"Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit."

