

# St Joseph and St Wilfrid Weekly Newsletter

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

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Week Commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019 ≈ (OF) ~ FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT ≈ (EF)



Feast Day 6<sup>th</sup> December

## Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to Saint Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honour him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colourful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

## Reflection

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding Saint Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season, and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

## Saint Nicholas is the Patron Saint of:

Bakers                      Greece  
Brides                        Pawnbrokers  
Grooms                       Travellers  
Children

## REMEMBER

Find us on Facebook

### **1<sup>st</sup> December**

Vespers 4.30 @ 4  
locations

### **8<sup>th</sup> December**

Bishop Byrne Says 12  
pm Mass  
Christmas tree  
blessing 3pm

### **14<sup>th</sup> December**

Pro-Life Holy Hour at  
St. Andrew's,  
Worswick Street,  
11am to 12 noon  
followed by Mass at  
12.15 pm

### **14<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Draw

### **24<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Vigil Mass  
5pm at both  
churches.

*Latin Midnight Mass  
at St Joseph's*

### **25<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Day Mass  
10am at St Joseph's

### **13<sup>th</sup> January**

Book Club 7pm

### **MAY 2020 ROME**

4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

*Please join us for this historic occasion when Bishop Robert Byrne will be saying the 12.00 O'clock Latin Mass, the first time a Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle has said EF Mass since 1969*

*Why not stay in the warmth of the John Ingram Room after Mass and enjoy your own sandwiches with a cup of tea and coffee before joining the celebration at the **Blessing of the Christmas Tree at 3pm**, when there will be Carols, music from the Community Choir and our Polish Community as well as Fr Michael on clarinet and Saxophone, mulled wine and mince pies!*

**GATESHEAD FOODBANK FESTIVE APPEAL**

**Thank you to everyone who picked up a gift tag to remind them of one item needed for the Christmas Parcels for Gateshead Foodbank.**

**Your kind donations can be placed in one of the Gift Bags we are aiming to fill. Please tick off the item on the list attached to the Gift Bag.**

**We need to complete these by next Sunday - 8<sup>th</sup> December, when they will be taken to the Gateshead Foodbank for distribution before Christmas.**

**Together we are all sharing in bringing Christ's love to those in need in our local community in this very practical way. Please pray for the volunteers, and for the people living in Gateshead who are being helped by the local Foodbank.**

**YOUTH CHOIR**

**Aged 7-17yrs? Enjoy singing? Like to join a choir? There will be a meeting for all interested parties in the New Year.**

**COMMUNITY CHOIR**

**We meet every Wednesday at 10am in the John Ingram room. For more information speak to Mrs. Teresa Dewhurst.**

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**Friday at 5pm**

**All children aged 3-6 are welcome  
For more information speak to Fr Michael or Peter Armstrong**

**BOOK CLUB**

**New members always welcome. We are reading 'The Day is Now Far Spent' by Cardinal Robert Sarah, books now available from the sacristy at discounted price of £14.85 courtesy of the cathedral bookshop - see Fr Michael. We will meet to discuss it on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm****

**BECOMING a CATHOLIC**

**Next Session Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 5pm**

**PILGRIMAGE to ROME 2020**

**4<sup>th</sup> - 8th May. Booking Forms will be given out this coming week.**

**Northern Catholic Calendar now available at the back of church. Ring bound £3.50/Flat £3.00**

**ST JOSEPH'S**

**Confessions: Wednesday after Mass & Saturday 12-12.30pm  
Exposition: Thursday 11.00 - 12.00**

**Photographs**

**Please would all those who have a prominent role within the parish, (choir leaders, organists, CMUK, HFG organisers etc) see Fr about displaying their portraits in order to be recognised by all parishioners and visitors. Thank you for all those sent.**

**Gift Aid**

**Forms and boxes are available now, please see Fr Michael or Alan Young**

**Piety Stall**

**Will be open EVERY Sunday from after 10am Mass until 11.45am**

**ST WILFRID'S**

**Confessions: Before Mass on Saturdays  
Exposition: Saturday 4.30 - 4.55 (NB NON on 14<sup>th</sup> December)**

**Piety Stall**

**Christmas cards, calendars and Diaries available.**

**2019 CHRISTMAS DRAW.**

**The draw will take place after Mass in the Presbytery on 14<sup>th</sup> December. As it is the Festive Season why not come in and spend time together as a Parish Community? And of course to exchange Christmas greetings. Please bring something along for a shared table. A big THANK YOU to all those people who have donated raffle prizes and to all of you who have bought and sold raffle tickets. They are still available at the back of Church.**

**PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESAN  
NEWS/EVENTS**

**The Year of the Word:**

"The God Who Speaks" devoted to raising the profile of Scripture amongst Catholics in England and Wales. For information please visit the special page on our Diocesan Website.

The year begins with a celebration of Vespers on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Five venues have been chosen and Evening Prayer will be celebrated at 4.30 pm in each place so that there is a real sense of praying together as a diocese. The five places are:

- St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle
- St Ninian's, Wooler
- St Mary's, Hexham
- Ushaw College, Durham
- English Martyrs & SS Peter and Paul, Stockton

**EUCCHARISTIC ASSOCIATION  
St ANDREW'S WORSWICK STREET**

Please note the change of venue for the Holy Hour formerly held at St Joseph's on the first Sunday of the month

**Advent Pro-Life Holy Hour at St. Andrew's, Worswick Street, Newcastle, on Saturday 14 December from 11am to 12 noon followed by Mass at 12.15**

*Admission Appeals Panel Members: The Diocesan Department for Education welcomes applications from Catholic persons willing to be considered as lay or non-lay members of appeal panels for school admissions. Suitable appeal panels for school admissions. Suitable persons will be appointed to serve on panels hearing appeals for Catholic schools within The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Please see poster for more details or the Diocesan vacancies website.*

**MISSION CHRISTMAS. 1 IN 3 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY** but you can help make sure they have presents to open on Christmas morning. St. Mary's Cathedral Mercy Hub is collecting gifts (not cash!) on behalf of the charity "Cash for Kids". Please bring any donations, new and unwrapped, to our main entrance on Neville Street, over the road from the railway station. We'll always be there weekdays from 8.30 till 10am and then from 4 to 6pm but may be there other times too - there'll be a sign outside if we are. If you'd prefer to collect gifts in your parish first, ring us on 07904881430 and we can arrange collection. Thank you for your support.

**MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2020:** 7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 020 3239 8662 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com).

**Department for Spirituality:**

Diocesan Advent resources available online and on CD from the Department. Daily Reflections in booklet form, Prayer Stations and more. To obtain a copy of the CD or for more information, please contact the Department by [email](mailto:email) or phone on 0191 243 3302.

## MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	DATE	St Wilfrid's	TIME	St Joseph's	TIME
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Priest`s Intention	5.00pm		
First Sunday of Advent	1 <sup>st</sup> Decem ber	Polish Mass	11.00am	Janet Fawcett People of the Parish	10.00am Mid-Day (EF)
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kearny Family	10.00		
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>			Imelda Genove	12.05
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>			Valerie, Christine and John Hall	12.05
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup>			James Reid	12.05
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Priest`s intention	10.00	Valerie, Catherine and John Hall	12.05
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Priest`s Intention	5.00pm	Margaret Curry	11.00 (EF)
Second Sunday of Advent	8 <sup>th</sup>	Polish Mass	11.00am	People of Parish Bishop Robert Presiding A Hammond	10.00 am Midday (EF)

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

**Priest's sick communions:** Marigold Court

**Remember in your prayers those who are sick;** especially Pat Palmer, Bernadette Hand, Albert Hanley, Jeanette Brenkley, Eva Barnwell, Mona Richardson and Sheila Gibertson.

COLLECTIONS: - ST JOSEPH'S £424.37

ST WILFRID'S £154.96 DONATIONJS £20

MISSION APPEAL: ST JOSEPH`S £223.19 ST WILFRID`S £56.20 MANY THANKS.