

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

Tel 0191 4771631 | Email gateshead.stjoseph@rcdhn.org.uk | michaelbrown6@btconnect.com

Parish website: - www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk

Hall Bookings contact: - Joanne Tonothy - joanne.tonothy@yahoo.co.uk or 07894149160

Second Sunday of Advent 4th December 2022 (OF - Year A)

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Saturday	Dec 3 rd	Special Intention (BD)	5.00pm		
Sunday	Dec 4 th			People of the Parish Audrey McDonald	10.00am Midday (EF)
Monday	Dec 5 th	Sr Shelagh Doherty	10.00am		
Tuesday	Dec 6 th			School Mass Sick Person	10.00am
Wed	Dec 7 th			Kathleen Butler	12.05pm
Thursday <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	Dec 8 th			Priest's Intention Deceased members of Wright and Unwin families	12.05pm 7.00pm
Friday	Dec 9 th	Priest's Intention	10.00am	Most Forgotten Soul in Purgatory	12.05pm
Saturday	Dec 10 th	Margaret Curry	5.00pm	Agnes McStea	7.00am (EF)
Sunday	Dec 11 th			People of the Parish Special Intention (BD)	10.00am Midday (EF)

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday 11-11.55am & Saturday 7.00am

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

St Wilfrid's - before Mass on Saturday

No Benediction or Vespers until FEBRUARY

African Mass 2.00pm LAST Sunday of the Month

PLEASE NOTE MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Please Note Mass Times This Week

St Joseph's Tuesday Mass at 10.00am
Feast of Immaculate Conception 8th December an extra Mass at 7.00pm (EF)
Saturday 10th December Rorate Mass at 7.00am this Mass is by candlelight as dawn breaks.

Christmas Mass Times

St Joseph's

Christmas Eve Holy Mass 5.00pm
Christmas Eve Sung Latin Mass (EF) 11.00pm
Christmas Day Holy Mass 10.00am

St Wilfrid's

Christmas Eve Holy Mass 5.00pm

St Wilfrid's

November Candles

Candles are available to collect, they are in the kitchen. For those of who don't want to take them home they can be left in Church, please be assured that the candles will not be thrown away until they are completely burnt out.

Christmas Raffle

Tickets on sale at the back of church

Parish magazine

Is available to collect from the piety stall; we have not set a sale price for the publication but hope you will make a donation towards its costs.

Income 20th November 2022

St Wilfrid's: - £205.70 Gift Aided- £30

Donation-£15 candles - £17.50 Priest training Fund - £34.20

St Joseph's - £575 of which £117.50 was Gift Aided
Many Thanks

North East Catholic History Society

next meets on **Wednesday 7 December 2022** at 2.00pm
in St Joseph`s parish hall

"The other Reformation - 'From an early border town
to global Catholic reform' " by Dr James Kelly.

All welcome. Non-members £1

**Mexican Fun Afternoon December 11th in St Joseph's
Church Hall 1.00pm - 4.00pm
ALL are welcome**

Christmas Appeal for Joe's Place

Joe's Place continues to offer food and a warm, safe place where all are welcome every Wednesday morning. The number of visitors has increased since we fully opened again after Covid.

The kind donations of tinned and dried foods, and tea/ coffee by parishioners throughout Gateshead, together with those from local schools and businesses have enabled us to serve over 80 people a meal every week.

We will be serving a Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 21st December, and will be catering for approximately 100 people. Our guests will receive a traditional 3 course meal.

Can you help us by donating a box of Mince Pies? These can be left in a box which will be in the Lady Chapel. There is no need to wrap boxes, as we will use them on the day.

Young Altar Servers

Watch this space for information about training sessions and a Christmas celebration

St Joseph's

Christmas Raffle

Raffle tickets on sale at the back of church £2 per strip of 5 tickets. First prize £100, second prize £50, and third prize £25 plus many other beautiful prizes. Draw will take place on Sunday 18th December after 10.00am Mass.

Piety Stall

Will be opening, selling Christmas cards and some gifts this Sunday and next, after which it will be closed until the New Year.

Parish magazine

Is available to collect from the piety stall; we have not set a sale price for the publication but hope you will make a donation towards its costs.

Open-Door Event

Wednesday December 14th from 11.30 - 13.30

Parking for Mass

Please park with care and consideration, keep the centre free in order not to block access for emergency services if needed or trap other drivers in. If you arrive when the car-park is full please park in the public car-park a minute's walk from the church grounds. Please take your car away as soon as Mass finishes, do not leave it in the car park whilst you shop!!

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

Church Cleaning

In the past we have asked for volunteers to give the church a 'spring clean' for Christmas, but this has not proved popular and only a few regular volunteers have turned up to undertake the mammoth task. This year we have hired cleaners to give the church a good clean, (they aren't magicians however), so hopefully you will all notice the difference next week. The clean will take place on Monday 5th December at a cost of £15 an hour. We do not yet know how long the clean will take, but if you would like to donate towards the cost please put your money in an envelope marked 'Church Clean' and place on collection plate (there are some envelopes available at the back of church).

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.

Turn Your Life Around

Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, it is John the Baptist who sets the scene.

John and Jesus were cousins who knew each other from childhood. And when John grew up, he began to realize that God had a very special mission for him. He was to become the Precursor (forerunner) of the Messiah.

We do not know much, but we do know that John spent some time with the Essenes, who were a group of strict observance Jews waiting and praying for the imminent coming of the long-awaited Messiah. John soon left them to live in the deepest part of the desert, where he waited for the call from God.

And, of course, with the passage of time Jesus himself grew to manhood, left his carpenter's tools behind and went off into the Jordan Valley where subsequently he was baptised by his old friend John the Baptist.

John the Baptist is a wonderful figure, an intelligent, courageous and very humble man, although he could lose his temper at times, but only for the best of reasons.

He was totally dedicated to the coming of the kingdom of God (the kingdom of God means God Himself), a kingdom of mercy and forgiveness, and he was urging the throngs of people to come to the Jordan River to be baptized to wash away the past and begin again: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."

He was talking about metanoia, a Greek word that means not just to be sorry for your sins, but to turn your life around and come back to the Lord, your God! God is calling. The Messiah is here.

John was angry with the Pharisees and Sadducees, not because they were religious leaders of the Jewish people, for this they were respected, but because too often they thought that they alone spoke for God, and they spoke a very, very harsh kind of religion, all rules and regulations but without heart. It was lacking in mercy and compassion.

This gave rise to John's anger and the Baptist turned on them, because while they saw sin as breaking a law, John the Baptist knew that it was much more serious, for basically sin is a failure to love, and love without compassion, without mercy, without forgiveness is empty and void of life itself. It lacks a spirit of self-sacrifice which is indeed the heart and soul of God Himself.

And we are to mirror Him: to be like Jesus, to be the kind of person you know you want to be, and can become, to walk with Jesus, for Jesus has only one reason, one purpose, in coming and that is to teach us all how to love as he loves, how to love as the Father loves.

We were told in the seminary not to be afraid to admit that we were sinful. It wasn't something to be afraid of, or something that needed to be denied.

Why?

Because Jesus has come, he has already come, walked into our world and he is here to stay.

The coming of the Christ Child into our homes and hearts brings back to us the joy and peace of God's presence.

We should not be afraid to admit our frailties and our weaknesses, where we fail ourselves and we fail our families and we fail our God. The Bible says the good man fails seven times a day.

It's Christmas time. John the Baptist comes and stands before us, he delivers tough words but beautiful words.

He is saying prepare your hearts for the coming of the Lord. Whatever is standing in the way of your loving and caring not for just God, but for each other ... get rid of it!

Toss it aside, for every Christmas is a new beginning, a new life, a new hope, a new joy, not just for us but for the people we touch and mingle with every day of our lives.

And then we will understand what Christmas really is. Christmas is to live with a loving, kind, forgiving Father who will lead us with His Son Jesus, safely home.

Fr Hanly

New Year Mass Times

Masses will remain as usual for the New Year weekend

St Wilfrid's:- New Year's Eve at 5.00pm

St Joseph's:- New Year's Day at 10.00am and 12.00 mid-day

Carols by Candlelight 7.30pm on Friday 9th December

Tickets available on the door £5 per adult, £3 concessions, children under 18 free

Please note the money from ticket sales is going to Westoe Brass Band,

There will be a donations box if you would like to give to the parish.

Poinsettias

It has become a tradition to decorate our churches for Christmas with poinsettias donated in memory of deceased loved ones. If you would like to continue with this tradition please bring your plant along to the office or sacristy where they will be looked after until we put up festive decorations.

Can You Spare an Hour?

On Wednesday December 14th from 11.30 - 13.30, we are holding an **Open-Door Event**.

This is a time for people, many of whom have never been inside our church before, to come in, to look around, to enjoy some quiet time, or to light a candle.

If you feel you could help to make sure this event runs smoothly please speak to Canon Michael, Bernadette Hirst

Book Club

Next Meeting

December 21st at 7.00pm

The book we are currently reading is the very seasonal '**A Christmas Carol**'
By Charles Dickens

We will be discussing this read in a very seasonal fashion with mince pies and brandy butter

Cheese and wine - possibly some mulled

And optional fancy dress to reflect the story and its times!

Join us if you can.



HALL RENTAL

Our Church Hall is available for anyone to hire subject to availability and adherence to hall policies

If you would like to book the hall for any event

please contact Joanne Tonothy

joanne.tonothy@yahoo.co.uk or 07894149160

Please keep in your prayers Bishop Robert who is unwell at this time. We wish him a speedy recovery.



Please take this newsletter home with you or sign up to receive it via email - send your email address to

shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk

Parish magazine

Is available to collect from the piety stall; we have not set a sale price for the publication but hope you will make a donation towards its costs.

Perhaps after you have read the magazine you will be so kind as to email a comment to: - shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk, (or drop a hand written note into the office), to let us know what you think of the publication.

Please be as honest as possible without being offensive; let me know:-

What you liked and/or disliked about the production, what you would change/keep, what you would have liked to see included/ excluded and your overall opinion about having a Parish magazine

Parish Magazine Reviews

Thank you very much for the magazine review emailed this week, it was very satisfying to hear about all that was enjoyed in the magazine and enlightening to hear about improvements which could be made, here is an extract:-

"The magazine is well presented, each article, poem or story given its own clear space. The bordered pages add to the attractive lay-out. The font is easy to read and a good size.

From a personal view point, I do not like prose to be centred. I prefer a conventional lay- out of a straight left-hand margin and an uneven right-hand margin.

The photographs on page 4 would benefit from being bigger. There is plenty of space on the page. Maybe a better 'unpixilated' picture of St Joseph's Church on the cover could be managed.

Excellent that the correct instruments, cornet and tenor horn, as mentioned in the story "A Strange Christmas" on page 16, are correctly illustrated.

Good to list the groups, clubs and activities in the Parish.

Parish magazine - great idea - Well done! "

Advent reflections

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission have produced a series of reflections on the readings used throughout our Advent preparations. The reflections have been written by members of the Diocese and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect. The first and second week of Advent reflections can be downloaded

from bit.ly/DHNAdvent2022 or by searching for #DHNAdvent2022 on Facebook. The second part of the Advent reflections will be available shortly.