

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



Saint Wilfrid's Catholic Church
Sunderland Road
Gateshead
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 Mr. Alan Telford Tel:-07989734644

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent 2021

"In the seventh year of the papacy of Francis, bishop of Rome, when António Guterres was secretary general of the United Nations, Ursula von der Leyen was president of the European Commission, Archbishop José Gomez led the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Joseph Biden was president of the United States, the world, plagued by climate change and still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, wondered where to find signs of hope."

This might be the way Luke would start writing a Gospel today, the first two chapters of his Gospel, the infancy narratives, serve as a prelude to what follows. Luke starts over with Chapter 3, placing everything in the context of world and local events. He wanted his readers to understand just how the story he was about to tell played a role in the trajectory of human history. Obviously, Luke would suggest that we too need to read his Gospel in the light of our own religious, social and political context. He would tell us that the state of the world's health and environment, the extremes of wars and peace, wealth and poverty, racism, division, social activism, religious devotion, lack of faith and anti-religious activities are the environment to which we must apply the Gospel if it is to have meaning for our time. Although Luke probably never met John the Baptist, he knew as much about him as the millennials know about the Rev. Martin Luther King. Luke's information came from storytellers, some eyewitnesses, and Christian communities — people who remembered John's message because of his relation to Jesus. Luke paints John as a prophet — the last and greatest of them, he shows how John applied Isaiah's nearly 600-year-old message to his own day, John combined tradition and his own unique ritual to gear people up, to draw their attention to their world so that they could decipher God's fingerprints and the echo of God's voice in what they saw and heard happening around them. John's unique take on his times included his use of Isaiah's message of consolation. In the verses previous to what John quotes, God calls Isaiah saying, "Comfort, give comfort to my people." John takes on the role of preparing the time and space for God and the people to encounter one another. Like Isaiah, he calls his people to level the slopes, straighten the curves and smooth the roads of their lives so that they can encounter God's saving power among them. How were they to do that?

John preached a radical message that is too tamely summarized as "repentance." Luke uses the word *metanoia* to describe it. *Metanoia* is a combination of the Greek words meaning "beyond" and "mind." This indicates that *metanoia* is far more than an intellectual affair. It is an experience of allowing ourselves to be lured beyond what we know, beyond our self-concepts, our theologies and our assessment of current affairs. It empowers us to see the hope lurking in the combination of current events, our own story and our faith. *Metanoia* is a turnaround, a revision of everything we know. It carries us into a new vision of life. John celebrated *metanoia* as an experience of being freed from guilt (forgiveness) and a ritual washing (baptism) that symbolized entering into a new life. In essence, John invited people to experience what he had experienced: the freedom of knowing that God was about to do something great with them. In the words of Baruch, the people who went to John's baptism were symbolically removing their mourning clothes and outfitting themselves to take the road of transformation — of themselves and their history. That was then. What about now, during the papacy of Francis and all our concerns? Is the Gospel just a history lesson about some people enthralled by a message of hope, or does it have something to do with us? Historically, after each massive world crisis — the Black Death, world wars, etc. — we see a resurgence of a search for meaning. Religious vocations rise and multitudes turn to God anew with the feeling that surviving the crisis has reoriented them. People reevaluate their lives. Might that be the call our Scriptures offer us during this Advent season? Are we desirous and capable of a 21st-century *metanoia*? Are we ready to help bring it about? The thing about genuine conversion or *metanoia* is that we can't plan it. It is God's offer in a particular moment of history — a grace of insight that shakes us up and turns us around. All we can do is be open to it. So, let us gather the willing and accompany one another on the adventure God offers us with this new Advent of the year 2021. The time is right.

[St. Joseph Sr. Mary M. McGlone serves on the congregational leadership team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.]

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Saturday	4 th Dec	Priest's Intention	5.00pm		
Sunday	5 th Dec			Peggy and Bill Mohan People of the Parish	10.00am Mid-Day(EF)
Monday	6 th Dec	Holy Souls	10.00am		
Tuesday	7 th Dec			Holy Souls in need of mercy	12.05pm
Wednesday	8 th Dec			Intentions of LMS	7.00pm
Thursday	9 th Dec			Holy Souls	7.45am
Friday	10 th Dec	Priest's Intention	10.00am	Brian Smith	12.05pm
Saturday	11 th Dec	Margaret and Kay Louise Curry	5.00pm	Intentions of LMS	Rorate Caeli 7.00am
Sunday	12 th Dec			People of the Parish Dorothy Devitt and Deceased members of the Devitt and Doherty families	10.00am Midday (EF)

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

Confessions:- St Joseph's: **NONE THIS Wednesday** after Mass; Saturdays from 12-12.30
St Wilfrid's - before Mass on Saturday

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIME ON WEDNESDAY 8th and SATURDAY 11th

Prayers for:- anniversaries occurring at this time; the sick and recently deceased

NO Exposition of Blessed Sacrament @ St Joseph's THIS Wednesday

Vespers and Benediction every First Sunday of the Month at 3pm

African Mass Every Last Sunday of the Month

Christmas Masses

This year Canon Michael will say Mass in the Ordinary Form at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve and a special children's Mass at 10.00am on Christmas morning where he will bless new toys, books or games. Mass

will be at 11.00 pm Christmas Eve in the Extraordinary Form (Latin).

Father Paul McCourt will say Mass at 5.00pm Christmas Eve at St Wilfrid's.



RORATE CAELI MASS - 7.00am - Saturday 11th December at St Joseph's

The Rorate Caeli Mass is a votive Mass in honour of Our Lady during the season of Advent. It takes its name from the opening words of the Introit, which comes to us from Isaiah 45:8 and has a long tradition in the Catholic Church,, especially in Germany where the Masses had to begin relatively early in the morning when it was still dark due to winter-time and were said by candlelight.



"Honouring Sunday"

Following their November Meeting, the Bishops of England & Wales have issued a new document entitled "Honouring Sunday" in which they are asking every Catholic to think about how special Sunday is, as a day we set aside for celebrating the Eucharist together at Mass.

"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



First Holy Communions

Preparation Classes for children not attending Catholic Schools begin in January. Please ensure Canon Michael has your child's name and contact details before Christmas. Thank You



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

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!



CBR is a pro-life organization which has a successful branch in Durham. They're eager to get as many pro-lifers onside as possible, but at the moment there are only two Catholics on the team. To find out more and/or join our work please visit: <https://www.cbruk.org>



Christmas Raffle - tickets on sale at back of church after Mass - PLEASE support this fund raising initiative. Tickets are £1 per strip of 5 tickets - 5 chances to win the first prize of £50, the 2nd or 3rd prize of £25 or one of many other fine prizes on offer.



Piety Stall at St Joseph's - now open at back of church after 10 and 12 Mass on Sundays selling Christmas Cards and Mass cards. ALL proceeds go towards supporting our Parish, please support the Piety Stall



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



The third session of the **Book Club** takes place on Wednesday 15th December at 7.00pm in the John Ingram Room located off the Sacristy at St Joseph's. We will be discussing the book "No Place for God" by Moyra Dooley, a book about church architecture.



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. If you have any suitable children's books with which you have finished please donate them to our collection by placing them in the box provided.

Thank You



Church Cleaners

Can you spare an hour once a week to help clean our church? We need fit able bodied, reliable helpers to ensure the church is kept at its best, join us on Friday after Mass

Thank You



FINANCIAL NEWS

Currently the Parish of St Joseph's is running at a loss of approximately £1,000 per month, this is in part due to the rising costs of heating and lighting, and the impact of a diminishing congregation.

I am making a direct appeal to **ALL** who see this newsletter, and therefore have some interest in St Joseph's Church, **PLEASE DONATE**- if you can increase the amount of a regular donation by even just £1 a week this would help, if you pay tax then please **GIFT AID every donation you make.**

The impact of running a parish constantly at a loss could mean more drastic action needs to be taken to make savings, we may not be able to heat the church as often - resulting in fewer Masses being said or everyone having to wrap up more, we may not be able to light the church, again leading to fewer Masses being said or us worshipping in the dark.

Weekly Income for 27th / 28th November

St Joseph's

Loose Plate Collection: £172.01 Gift Aid Envelopes: £35

Votive Candles: £20.15

Rental income: Room: £24 African Mass: - £39.70

Raffle Tickets: £9 Piety: £18

St Wilfrid's

Loose Plate Collection: £97.85 Gift Aid Envelopes: £47

candles: Donations: £5 piety: £

Thank you to all who are making regular donations, I urge everyone to GIFT AID this generosity, thus increasing our weekly income by 25% without anyone giving more!!



Donations

Giving through direct debit, standing order or bank transfer, the details are below.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

St Wilfrid's

St Joseph's

Sort Code 40-34-18

Sort Code 40-34-18

Account Number 01164120

Account Number 31164066

To donate via cheque please make out to 'DHN St Wilfrid's Gateshead' or 'DHN St Joseph's Gateshead'

These can be posted to the parish address

Where does the money go?

The upkeep of any Parish is an expensive one, the older the church or presbytery the more expensive the running costs, not only are there all the usual bills: - water, heating, lights, insurances, stationery, church supplies etc there are also maintenance and historical buildings repairs to undertake, we also still provide 10% of the capital costs for the maintenance of our school premises.

(By providing money for our schools the Catholic Church actually saves the taxpayer tens of millions of pounds a year - Why not Gift Aid your donations and let's get some back!)

PREPARING the CHURCH for CHRISTMAS

2.00pm SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER

Come along and meet your fellow parishioners, listen to Christmas carols and music, have a glass of mulled wine (alcoholic and non alcoholic) and a warm mince pie, work together for a common goal.

We need as many volunteers as possible to help 'spring clean' the church, erect the Crib and decorate the Christmas tree.

Enter the Christmas Spirit, don't leave it up to somebody else – do your bit!



DIOCESAN News

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

St Anne's Darlington require a cleaner

Christmas Decorations

Please help us to ensure the church is filled with colour and joy this Christmas, bring in a poinsettia for the crib and Altar, and give generously to the FLOWER COLLECTION which opens today, place your donations in the box provided at the back of church – Thank You



Please Remember we are still fighting a serious threat to life from the COVID virus, there are a high number of infections in our region leading to hospitalization and death especially amongst the unvaccinated. So

we are asked to continue with some simple safety precautions to protect ourselves and our fellow church attendees.

- 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."

