

**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**

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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 the Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday 2021*

This Third Sunday in Advent is full of comfort and joy, "Gaudete Sunday," (*gaudete* meaning rejoice.) The liturgy bids us be happy, not to worry, for the Lord is near. And if we want the peace of God in our hearts, that peace will be ours, if we ask God for it. St Paul says, "There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving." He tells us not to wait until after God has granted our requests before saying thanks. Even as we ask, we should be giving thanks. One of the things to thank God for at the end of this year is all the good done by so many good people in our time.

Wherever there is evil, God will see that brave, resolute souls rise up to combat it. Such was the work done by St John the Baptist, as described by St Luke. People were prepared to walk all the way from Jerusalem down to near Jericho in the deep Jordan valley, on the edge of the desert — all of fifteen miles each way — in order to see John, this charismatic figure living as an ascetic in the desert around the Dead Sea. Having heard him, many stayed to be baptized by him. But they were full of the uncertainty that can surface in all of us if we take time to cast a critical eye on the kind of life we are leading.

"What must we do?" they asked him; and John spelled out his answer in no uncertain terms. While their request showed their willingness to change, it also showed that they were lacking in clear insight about what is right human behaviour. "Love and do what you will," was to be the motto of St Augustine, meaning that if people have total inner commitment to God, then they will be incapable of doing wrong, they will know instinctively what is right from the promptings of the Spirit within them.

John the Baptist tried to change his listeners' hearts by telling them not to be grasping, not to take from others more than a just return for services rendered, but rather to help those in need. "If anyone has two cloaks, he must share with the man who has none." "Give your blood," the ancient monks in the desert used to say, "and you will possess the Spirit." The society to which John was addressing himself — as indeed Jesus did later — was to collapse because of its lack of spiritual depth, its over concern with externals, as evidenced by the Pharisees, its pursuit of a narrow-minded nationalism, as seen in the Zealots who resorted to violence and assassination in their hatred of the Romans.

The greatest danger to the continuation of any society becomes a reality when most of its members become motivated by selfish concerns, greed and covetousness. The message that our own society invariably highlights is not, alas, that of sharing cloaks, but of wearing outfits that are better, more comfortable, more in keeping with the size of one's pay differential. The sad thing is that all this unbridled seeking for earthly comforts, this concern with the cares of life, pulls us further and further away from the yearning for himself, that God has placed within all of us. It turns us away from the things of the Spirit, and from the pursuit of religious idealism. Prayerfully then, and in the presence of God, let us give thanks to the Father in this Mass, for the gift of his divine Son, who in its celebration makes us one with himself. Let us ask for the peace of God, as Sacred scripture urges us, for that abiding peace which is so much greater than we can ever understand, so much greater than anything this world can ever offer us. And we can be assured that for all who faithfully do this the reward will be everlasting.



MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Margaret Kay and Louise Curry	5.00pm		Rorate Caeli 7.00am
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec			People of the Parish Dorothy Devitt and deceased of Devitt and Doherty families	10.00am Mid-Day(EF)
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Holy Souls	10.00am		
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Special Intention (MG)	12.05pm
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Jonathon and Lara Devitt wedding Anniversary	12.05pm
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Holy Souls	7.45am
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Priest's Intention	10.00am	Jacob Crocker	12.05pm
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Dot Adams	5.00pm	Intentions of LMS	11.00am
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Priest's Intention People of the Parish	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 Every Last Sunday of the Month

**Christmas Masses**

**St Joseph's**

5.00pm on Christmas Eve (OF)  
10.00am on Christmas morning Children's Mass  
with blessing of new toys, books or games.  
11.00 pm Christmas Eve (EF Latin).

**St Wilfrid's**

5.00pm Christmas Eve said by Fr Paul  
McCourt



**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.

### "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)



African Mass Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm  
- Everybody is welcome.

Remember the COVID virus is still a threat and that as of this week the wearing of MASKS has once again become MANDATORY in many enclosed spaces, including CHURCHES.

ORGAN RECITAL by PETER LOCKE at ST NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 1.05pm  
Entrance is FREE  
Please see the notice board for further information

### 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 third session of the **Book Club** takes place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in the John Ingram Room located off the Sacristy at St Joseph's.



## PREPARING ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH for CHRISTMAS

2.00pm, NEXT SATURDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> 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!



## DECORATE BOTH ST WILFRID'S and ST JOSEPH'S for CHRISTMAS

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, place your donations in the box provided at Thank You



**ST JOSEPH'S RAFFLE TICKETS. £1 per strip of 5. To be drawn in church hall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December after 10.00am Mass**



**ST WILFRID'S RAFFLE to be drawn SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> after Mass**

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



## 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 5th December**

**St Joseph's**

Loose Plate Collection: £279.18 Gift Aid Envelopes: £96

Votive Candles: £27.96

Rental income: Room: £24 Car-park - £36.00

Raffle Tickets: £23 Piety: £30.50 Flowers: -£8

**St Wilfrid's**

**No Mass last weekend due to power failure**

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!)

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



#### **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



#### **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

Remember the COVID virus is still a threat and that as of this week the wearing of **MASKS** has become **MANDATORY** in many enclosed spaces, including **CHURCHES**.

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."*

