

**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  
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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 Fourth Sunday of Advent 2021*

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent – the final Sunday before Christmas, the birth of Jesus is now imminent. In a few days' time we will be celebrating the memory of that great event. Throughout Advent, we have heard of God's promise to send a liberator – a saviour into the world; today, we catch a glimpse of how that is to be accomplished. Today's Mass prepares us for the Christmas celebration. Each of the three readings takes up a different aspect of this great mystery to help us in our understanding and in our personal preparation. The persons in today's liturgy show that God often surprises the obedient with what He will do. If we follow their example, we can show our worthiness of God's coming to us in Christ at Christmas by arising from our sloth and becoming, like Micah, Mary, and Elizabeth, each in our different ways as they were different in theirs, God—bearers in our world that needs God so much.

In our first reading today, the Lord, speaking through the prophet Micah, says "the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel." It was from Judah, in the lowly town of Nazareth; in that unexpected place that God chose Mary to bear his Son. God can use anyone. Anyone can be holy. Anyone can be a saint. But first, we have to change. We have to allow God to take possession of us as He did Mary. How we live our life can have a tremendous influence on others around us. We have the power to bring Christ's love, compassion, mercy, and friendship to those around us, particularly to those who are close to us. John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb recognized Jesus in Mary's womb and was filled with joy. Others around us can recognize the presence of Christ within us and also be filled with joy. We can bring to them what their hearts are searching for.

So what does the story of Mary and Elizabeth in the gospel passage have to do with us? Well, Mary was carrying within her the Christ child. We, too, carry within us the presence of Christ. That's why we pay such attention to Mary. She models who we are and what God is doing inside us. The Church is pregnant with the presence of Christ, something that we are about to celebrate in Holy Communion. And since the Church is not simply a building or an institution, since the Church is the Body of Christ and you and I constitute together the Mystical Body of Christ, we, like Mary, carry within us the presence of Christ. Not only that, but we carry within us the presence of Christ not just for our own sake, but in order to share Him with others. We bear Christ within us that we may bring Him to others in the world around us. The presence of Christ in our midst leads us into joy, because the one we expect is already here. On this final Sunday of Advent, God through the prophet Micah promises a unique Saviour, born in David's town of Bethlehem; a Saviour who will stand and feed his flock and establish peace. I hope and pray that when we say yes, and perhaps because we say yes, to whatever it is God is asking of us we will also be able to say, with Mary, "My soul magnifies the Lord for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

BY: Rev Fr Stephen 'Dayo Osinkoya

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	Date	Saint Wilfrid's	Time	Saint Joseph's	Time
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Dot Adams	5.00pm		
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Priest's Intention People of the Parish African Mass	10.00am MidDay 2.00pm
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Poor Souls in Purgatory	10.00am		
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec			Renata Vendelova	12.05pm
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec			Daniel & Alice Henry	12.05pm
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec			Mrs M Armstroing	7.45am
Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Kathleen Derrick	5.00pm	George & Mary Wright People of the Parish Intentions of Pat Turnbull	12.05pm 5.00pm 11.00pm
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec			John & Frances Powell	10.00am
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec			Mary & John Wilson 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 last Sunday of the Month at 2pm

**Christmas Masses**

**St Joseph's**

**5.00pm on Christmas Eve (OF)**  
**11.00 pm Christmas Eve (EF Latin).**

**10.00am on Christmas morning Children's Mass**  
**with blessing of new toys, books or games.**

**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 **THIS WEEKEND**  
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.

### **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.



### **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!



### *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."*



**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



**RAFFLES to be DRAWN THIS WEEKEND**  
ST WILFRID'S after 5.00pm Mass on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>  
ST JOSEPH'S after 10.00am Mass on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

**ORGAN RECITAL by PETER LOCKE at ST  
NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup>  
DECEMBER at 1.05pm**

Entrance is FREE

The recital will have an Advent and Christmas theme, and will feature music inspired by the Gregorian Chant of the Church.

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 \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](https://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

**DIOCESAN News**

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

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.**

**Weekly Income for 12th December**

**St Joseph's**

Loose Plate Collection: £259 Gift Aid Envelopes: £106

Votive Candles: £30.12

Rental income: Room: £24 Car-park - £40.00

Raffle Tickets: £29 Piety: £22 Flowers: -£4

**St Wilfrid's**

Loose Plate: £167 Gift Aid: £54 Candles: £14.40

Donation: £5



**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

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**