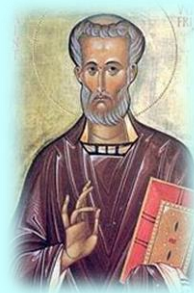


Weekly Newsletter During the Covid-19 Pandemic 17/01/ 2021 Joint Parishes of
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Third Sunday of the New Year

We continue to pray for a rapid return to normality where church can be full again and Mass said publicly on a daily basis, with regular confessions and celebrations resuming and the vibrancy of Parish activities beginning once again.

Today, **Sunday 17th January**, we mark **Peace Sunday** and Pope Francis asks us to think about 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace'. "How many resources," he says, "are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care?" Pope Francis calls on us to "strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another." In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. There are activities for families to do at home, including a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday2021/>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

Cheques payable to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Kendon, London
NW4 4JY Tel: 0208 203 4884

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (OF)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15.17-20
Gospel: John 1:35-42

Second Sunday After Epiphany (EF)

Introit: psalm 65, 4 Epistle: Romans 12, 6-16 Gradual: psalm 106, 20-21
Gospel: John 2, 1-11

Mass and Intentions this week

Saturday 5pm St Wilfrid's: Moira Rath
Sunday St Joseph's 10am: People of the Parish **Midday:** Ellen Woolf
Monday in private: intentions of A Barnes
Tuesday 12.05 St Joseph's: Elizbieta Kowalewska
Wednesday in private: Holy Souls
Thursday in private: Wellbeing of Norman, Sheila, Damian, Deidre and Kate Watchorn
Friday in private: intentions of LMS
Saturday 11am St Joseph's: Emma Hinds
5pm St Wilfrid's: Bell and Cantwell Families
Sunday St Joseph's 10am: People of the Parish **Midday (EF):** Fr David Milburn

Please keep in your prayers all those who have recently died or whose anniversaries occur at this time.

UNFORTUNATELY the special votive Mass in the Extraordinary Form for 850th anniversary year of the martyrdom of St Thomas Becket on the 23rd January at 10am in the Cathedral Canon Michael will be saying Mass in the presence of the Bishop has been **POSTPONED** until March.

Sunday of the Word of God, 24th January

Pope Francis is encouraging us to devote Sunday 24th January to the word of God so that we can 'experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.' (Aperuitillis.)

The year just past was designated the Year of the God Who Speaks to us in Scripture. Sadly, most of the activities planned for 2020 had to be postponed, but the Pope's call to mine the rich depths of the Bible encourages us to continue to do what we can, resources and suggestions to support this are available at:
www.godwhospeaks.uk/sunday=of-the-word-of-god

The above link also gives access to a journey through the whole Bible in a seven week course, It will be led by David McLoughlin, Emeritus Fellow of Christian Theology at Newman University, Birmingham.

In our diocese over fifty people have been taking part in Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, an online course which is continuing following a break over Christmas.

Fr Sean Hall has posted 2 talks on Mark's Gospel (about 12 minutes each) on the God who Speaks page of our diocesan website. As we begin the year of Mark, these will assist people to listen to the Sunday Gospel with greater insight.

We are aware that several Priests in the Diocese have decided to suspend public Mass during the current lockdown, St Joseph's and St Wilfrid's will remain open as usual with public Mass at St Wilfrid's on Saturday at 5pm, and at St Joseph's on Saturday at 11am, Sunday at 10am, and 12 midday, and Tuesday at 12.05pm. This state of affairs will only remain possible if we ALL remember to follow the guidance to **Maintain social distancing at all times** and to **follow the hygiene guidance: FACE, SPACE, HANDS.**

DO NOT GATHER TOGETHER TO CHAT AFTER MASS, the new variant of COVID is much more easily transmitted. Chatting, even in the fresh air, for more than five minutes without masks, or fifteen with a mask, seriously increases your chance of catching or spreading this horrible virus. More than half those carrying the virus are a-symptomatic so you may be a carrier and spreader without realizing it!

In line with Government guidelines and scientific advice we **MUST** keep ALL DOORS WIDE OPEN during Mass. You will need extra layers of warm clothing, or a blanket/shawl now winter is upon us.

APPEAL

WE desperately NEED more volunteers to help with the VITAL roles of CLEANING and STEWARDING.

Stewarding is done in pairs or threes, these are the people who greet everyone as they arrive at church and ensure they know how to follow the 'covid' procedures in place, as well as offer help, and assistance to the congregation, if needed, throughout Mass.

Cleaners are needed at the end of each Mass to wipe down all the public surfaces which have been touched during Mass, this role usually falls to those who have attended Mass, so please consider volunteering if you are a regular Mass attendee. We also need more

Cleaners for the general church clean, a team of people work together to ensure the church is thoroughly cleaned, the more teams we have the fewer times each will be called upon to help, at present the Church gets cleaned on a 3 week rota. Currently teams work every 6-9 weeks depending on availability. If you can help please email gateshead.st.joseph@rcdhn.org.uk

SPUC: Respond to Department of Health consultation to stop home abortions!

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. SPUC need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation>
the consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

SPUC: White Flower appeal last Sunday raised £40.70 at St Joseph's

Weekly Donations

If you would like to continue giving through direct debit, standing order or bank transfer, the details are below.

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
St Wilfrid's
Sort Code 40-34-18
Account Number 01164120

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
St Joseph's
Sort Code 40-34-18
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

Please use the reference "Weekly Contribution" for collection money
"Loft Fund" for donations to improving choir loft
"Lourdes Garden" for contributions to the garden
"Parish Poor" for donations to help feed our homeless and hungry

If you pay ANY tax please consider becoming a 'Gift Aider', it costs you nothing but costs the taxman 25% of everything you donate, just imagine how much more you would actually be giving to the parish without putting your hand deeper into your own pocket!!

If you visit St Joseph's or St Wilfrid's and have Gift Aid envelopes for another parish these envelopes and your donations go to the parish where you have registered as a gift aider. If you come to one of our parishes on a regular basis PLEASE consider changing your Gift Aid allegiance to support the parish you most regularly attend!

Northern Catholic Calendars 2021

£3 paperback or £3.50 for ring bound. Please see canon Brown if you would like one

Universe and Catholic Times Readers

At the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER for 3 MONTHS:-£25.00; SPECIAL OFFER for 12 Months:-£99.00; OR DIGITAL COPY for 12 Months: £55.00

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE

Ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

The Year of Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



Keeping Up to Date

Please keep our records up to date by ensuring Canon Michael holds your most recent contact information on file

If you are reading this and realise that you have not updated a recent change of address, telephone number or email address, please send an email to the parish with your updated information.

If you have recently moved into the parish and have not yet given us your details, please let us know your details by email.

You can keep yourself informed about Parish activities and more by following us on Social Media:
Face Book and Twitter
And by logging into the parish website and/or Blog

<https://stjosephstwilfridsgatesheadnewsblog.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk>

Please forward this newsletter to anybody you think may enjoy reading it.

If you know of someone who is not on the mailing list but would like to be please ask them to contact us via one of the above emails.

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a slimmed down, edited paper version of the newsletter please let me know.

Masses Online

Two online services stream Masses throughout the day - www.churchservices.tv and www.mcnmedia.tv other parishes stream live on YouTube - you just need to search for the parish name on YouTube to find them. You can also go to <https://mass-online.org> unfortunately, we have no live stream facilities at either St Wilfrid's or St Joseph's Churches.

Justice and Peace refugee Project

St Vincent's Centre, New Bridge Street, Newcastle NE1 2TQ

Deliveries can only be received on Mondays, 10.30am-1.30pm

Unless an alternative arrangement has been agreed in advance.

contact Sara Harris, Refugee Project Co-ordinator Tel: 07407091184