

3rd Sunday of Advent - 17th December 2023



Are we really ready?

As we journey through Advent and get closer to Christmas the expectation is building. Lots of parties and meals will have been enjoyed already; the tree is up and decorated and, probably for most of us, it is just a matter of putting the finishing touches in place, of buying the few things we still need.

Grumble alert! Is that really getting everyone ready to welcome Jesus into our lives? Perhaps it is but, possibly for many people, maybe it isn't.

It is worth looking at what the prophet Isaiah had to say in the first reading this Sunday. Look at the gifts that he lists: bringing good news to the poor; healing broken hearts, and setting prisoners free. Those words echo those of Mary that we hear in the Magnificat, "He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty." That is what God desires, requires, of us if we are to be ready to meet him.

Each of us is called to be a witness like John The Baptist, in our own way, in our own circumstances. We all need to make our own straight way for the Lord and to help others find theirs.

This isn't about being a killjoy. We know that Jesus enjoyed a meal as we see so many times. Just remember, as we are getting ready for the feasting to come, we need to include space at our table for Jesus and for all of those he loves.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Deacon Chris Callan

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

Deacon Shaun McGee

General Notices Around the Partnership

Partnership - Sacrament of Reconciliation: St Patrick's, Consett; Saturday after 10am Mass. Our Lady and St Joseph's Brooms on Saturday's before the 5.30pm Vigil Mass 4.45pm-5.15pm.
Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully, tel: 01388 818544/ 0191 3332183. Please telephone the chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit.

Mass Intentions: Just to remind parishioners that Mass intentions need to be requested at least '3 months' beforehand, and at present there are no spaces available until after the new year in St Mary's, Brooms and St Pius with very few available in St Patrick's.

Thank you from Significance: The Trustees of Significance thank everyone who supported the Grand Draw and all those who donated prizes. 1,606 tickets were sold which realised £8,030. The funds raised will help Significance to continue to support the Emmaus Village and provide opportunities for young people to recognise their own worth and value. Congratulations to all our winners: Danielle Dowson (St John's Catholic School, Bishop Auckland), Jamie Adams (St Mary's Cathedral), Sr Hilda (Oaklea Convent), Sarah Boyd (Dunston, Gateshead).

Carols by Candlelight. Join us at 3pm at Our Lady & St. Joseph's Church, Brooms on 17th December for a festive service of carols, poems and readings with contributions from pupils of Brooms School and St. Bede's, Lanchester. Mince Pies and refreshments afterwards. All are welcome.

Love Christmas: The 2023 Love Christmas campaign has been launched. It is across the whole partnership this year and collection envelopes are available in all our churches. With the help of your generosity we aim to make Christmas a little bit better for those across our community who need a helping hand. Last year, in 5 out of 10 of our parishes we raised over £2,400. Envelopes are available at the back of church.

Partnership Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024: We are planning a Pilgrimage to Lourdes for 2nd - 7th September for 5 nights full board staying at the Hotel Padoue, flying from Stansted Airport. Expression of interest forms are available from the Parish offices of St Patrick's Consett and St Mary's Blackhill. A meeting will be held early in the New Year to finalise arrangements.

Friends of the Holyland: This Christmas season, more than ever, Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem and Nazareth are experiencing economic hardship through the collapse of Tourism. This is entirely due to the current security situation. Livelihoods have been decimated and basic essentials are in short supply. Our thoughts and prayers are directed towards their spiritual needs. We can help with much needed financial assistance to buy basic foodstuffs and other family essentials.

A special retiring collection will be taken after masses over the Christmas period and you are asked to remember our Christian brothers and sisters as they struggle to survive in the land where Christ once walked.'

Around The Diocese

"CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for

your prayers.”

Little Sisters of the Poor - Job Vacancies: Exciting opportunities are now available at St Joseph’s Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for care assistants and nurses. Hours available: Care Assistant: Shifts are 8am-3pm, 3pm-9pm Nurse: Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm. Excellent rates of pay For more information please contact Lee-Marie Thornley on 07856256095 or email lee.marie@lsplondon.co.uk

Holy Island SVP Camp: Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They’ll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12. A week’s all-inclusive holiday costs a donation of £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you’re interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island> Applications open from 5th December 2023.

YMT led Confirmation Retreat at the Emmaus Village -January 26 – 28 2024: There are still places for your Confirmation group to join other Confirmation candidates across the Diocese in exploring our faith, the Church, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In this YMT led Confirmation Retreat, there will be time for fun, faith, and food during these days of retreat. If you are a catechist and want to book your group, please contact nsalked@ymt.org before January 19, 2024.

Vacancies – Opportunities to work at the Emmaus Village: The Emmaus Village, home for the Youth Ministry Team, hosts all the residential retreats led by YMT for our Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools. It also offers catering and hospitality to the biggest gathering of Catholic Schools, the YMT Summer Festivals, students named it “God Camp”. With this we are looking for an Assistant Catering Coordinator and Kitchen Technician, who will help our catering team deliver this valuable service to all the groups that come to the Emmaus Village. If you or someone you know, wants to be part of the YMT team, please contact admin@ymt.org or click the link www.ymt.org/vacancies for more information with regards to our vacancies.

Partnership Social Events

Partnership Pantomime Consett Empire – Jack and the Beanstalk: We have made a block group booking at the Consett Empire for the Pantomime “Jack and the Beanstalk” on Friday 29th December Matinee at 3pm. Tickets are £13 each and are on a first come first served basis. Envelopes are available at the back of the church and the full money must be paid before the space is booked. Last chance to book.

St Mary’s News

Collections: This week – SVP

Legion of Mary: Will say the Rosary and Legion Prayers on Tuesday Evenings at 6pm.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound since the lockdown, and

who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.
Sanctuary Candle: If you would like the candle to burn in memory of a loved one please contact the Parish Office. This week the candle will burn In Loving Memory of 'Angela Cox'.
In Need of Support: If you are in need of support from the SVP Society please put your name and telephone number in a sealed envelope marked SVP and place it through St Mary's presbytery door. A member of the SVP will contact you or phone 07821601684.
Welcome Thursday: The church hall will be open from 10.30am on Thursday's for anyone to pop in for a coffee after Mass. Lunch from 12 noon

St Patrick's News

Collection: This week - Advent Alms

Lately Deceased: Sarah (Sadie) Jackson and Monica Coleman. Please pray for them and their Families at this sad time.

Divine Mercy Devotions: The Divine Mercy Devotions are held every Thursday at 3pm.

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to donate a Poinsettia plant to decorate Our Lady's Altar for Christmas, please leave it near 'Our Ladies Altar' between *Wednesday 21st December and the morning of Saturday 23rd December*. Many thanks.

Christmas Fayre: Thank you to all who came to the Christmas Fayre we raised an amazing £1013. A special thank you to all of the volunteers for helping on the build up and on the day without your help we would not be such a success. Unclaimed Prize Winners names are at the back of church for the drinks and door raffle.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collection: This week - Advent Alms

Pie & Pea Supper: We raised £500 at the recent Pie and Pea Supper. Thank you to all who organised the evening and to all who supported it.

People's Kitchen: Thank you for your continued donations of coppers and small change which is forwarded to the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. Your donations can be deposited in the named tin at the back of the church.

St Pius News

Collection: This week - Advent Alms

Holy Rosary Hour: The next one will be held on Monday 29th January 2024 at 6pm

Benediction and Evening Prayer: Wednesday evenings 5.45pm - 6.45pm

St Pius X Advent Service: 17th December at 4.30pm. Please join us for our annual Advent Service including lighting and blessing our Christmas Tree. All welcome.

Children's Liturgy: is held on the first Sunday of every month.

Deep clean for Christmas: We will be cleaning the Church ready for Christmas on Tuesday 19th at 5.30pm. Volunteers are required to help as we will be moving all the Chairs.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collection: This week - SVP

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound and who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Violet Grant, John Shaw, (Baby) Sharmaine Murphy, Esther Dunn, Dorothy Anne McKean, Rose McNally, Joseph Cain, Richard Hannah, Mary Ellen Kiely, Hannah Marie Parkin, John Grimes, Frank Gowland, Anthony Neal Redmond, Mary McKenzie, John Joseph McGurk, Elizabeth Murphy, Arthur John Finley, Mary Lydon, David Alderson, Maureen Eva Lenihan, Teresa Daly, Ken Gibson, Jim Robinson, Karen Cassidy, (Baby) Joan Grugan, James Anthony Agnew, Ivon Lyon, Francis Quinn

Our Lady of the Rosary: Maureen McDonald, Winnie Williams, Jack McNally, Peter Jopling, Father John, Rose McNally, Jim McKie (jnr), Jim Robinson.

St. Patrick's: Molly Williamson, Catherine Boyle, John Donnelly, James Brown, Robbie Vallely, Cathy Lumb, Kathleen Page, John Rogan, David Cameron, Finbarr Taylor, Rose Jackson, Catherine McDonald, Teresa Winifred Rogan, Edward Patrick Murray, Doreen Donaghy, Maureen McCrory, Freda McNicholas, Terence O' Rourke, Eric Cheeseman, Laura McCann, Michael Shaw, Peter Crinnion, Michelle Johnson, Jack McNally.

St Pius: David Calford, John Corrigan, Gerard Cumiskey, Alan Hill, Jean Kennedy, Mary Lydon, Sharon Murphy, Vera Murray, Joan Peacock, John Robson, John Townson.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Mary Wilks, Wilf Herdman, Kathleen Grogan, David R. Fountain, Thomas A. Williamson, Rose Jackson, Kathleen Walker, Maureen Coates, Sr Mary Anthony, Robert Foreman, Jim Dodd, Teresa Tate

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Tom Slane, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, Simon Quinn, Philip Robinson, Audrey Johnson, Ged Hester, Terry Curran, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Catelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Austin Lawrie, Mary Guy, Joan Sewell.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reily, Judith Hindmarsh, Geraldine Donnelly, Andrew Bates, Patrick Lynch, Jean Walls, Sienna Jane McNestry, Austin McDonald

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Keith Elliott, Derek Hicks, Paul Hunt, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr, Jade Telford, Bob Parkin, Muriel Steele.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson.

Partnership Prayer

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.
As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede
may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth: to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.
We pray in trustful confidence that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you, never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.'

Prayer For Ukraine

O God in this time of violence. We call you to draw near.
Draw near to the people of Ukraine.
Draw near to the terrified children.
Draw near to the terrified parents.
Draw near to those who have nowhere to go.
Draw near to the elderly, the infirm,
the disabled, the displaced, the orphans.
Draw near to the care givers and aid workers.
Draw near to the helpers.
Draw near. Draw near. Draw near.
In this time of violence-Draw near.
Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence
is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting.
May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.