

Holy Family

Roman Catholic Parish

St Mary's, St John Vianney's, St Patrick's and St Joseph's Churches

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



Parish Diary — Week beginning 22nd December 2024

*Live stream: www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyHartlepool

Date	Feast	Saint Joseph's*	Saint Patrick's	Saint John Vianney's	Saint Mary's
Saturday 21st December	(Vigil) 4th Sunday of Advent	12.00pm - 2.00pm Baptisms 3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Brigid Carroll		6.00pm Mass Michael Linighan (B/Day Remembrance)	
Sunday 22nd December	4th Sunday of Advent	10.30am Mass Tony Ellett (A) 4.00pm Parish Carol Service	9.00am Mass Barry Walker		
Monday 23rd December		6.00pm Exposition & Confessions 6.30pm Mass Nancy & Harry Wilkinson		1.00pm Requiem Mass Margaret Muriel Cumming	
Tuesday 24th December		3.30pm Carols 4.00pm First Mass of Christmas John Cann (2nd A)	5.30pm Carols 6.00pm First Mass of Christmas Kitty Kelly, Tony Cawley	3.30pm Carols 4.00pm First Mass of Christmas The Deceased Garraghan & Davison Families	
Wednesday 25th December	Christmas Day	10.00 Christmas Day Mass Barry Hogan			
Thursday 26th December	St Stephen				
Friday 27th December	St John	12.05pm Altar Servers Mass Michael O'Hickey (4th A)			
Saturday 28th December	(Vigil) The Holy Family	3.00pm Exposition & Confessions 3.30pm Rosary 4.00pm Mass Christine Parker (A)		6.00pm Mass Thelma Strickland	
Sunday 29th December	The Holy Family	10.30am Mass Cissie & Don O'Donnell 4.00pm Mass for the Opening of the Holy Door Christine Hansell	9.00am Mass In memory of Anne Maughan		

SCHOOL MASSES

No School Masses this week

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, in Baptism You called us by name and made us members of Your family, the Church. Help all people to know their vocation in life and to respond by living a life of holiness. For Your greater glory and for the service of Your people, raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve as priests for the Church of Hexham and Newcastle. Send Your Spirit to guide and strengthen our communities, our seminarians and all who are discerning their vocation. Amen.

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest

Very Rev. Canon Paul Douthwaite
BA Hons PGCE

✉ pp.holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk

☎ 01429 272985

Deacon Jeff Parkes

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Parish Office

Secretary

Laura Dolan

✉ holyfamily.hartlepool@diocesehn.org.uk

☎ 01429 866288

Opening Hours
10am - 2pm
Monday to Friday

Parish Centre
Grosvenor Street
Hartlepool
TS26 8DP

Churches

St Joseph's

St Paul's Road
TS26 9EY

St Patrick's

Owton Manor Lane
TS25 3QG

St John Vianney's

King Oswy Drive
West View Estate
TS24 9LX

St Mary's

Durham Street
TS24 0HD

Weekly Groups

Sun: After 9am Mass
Coffee Morning @ St Patrick's Hall

Sun: After 10.30am Mass
Coffee Morning @ Parish Centre Hall

Restarts 13th January

Praise & Worship Prayer Group
@ Nazareth Room, Parish Centre

Restarts 14th January

Lunch Club @ Parish Centre Hall

Tues: 1pm-3pm
Over 60s Club @ St Patrick's Hall

Sat: As Announced
Coffee Evening @ St John Vianney's

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - Please save these dates for your diary over the Christmas period.

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sun 22 Dec	4pm	Parish Carol Service	St Joseph's
Tues 24 Dec	4pm	First Mass of Christmas	St J.V.'s
Tues 24 Dec	4pm	First Mass of Christmas	St Joseph's
Tues 24 Dec	6pm	First Mass of Christmas	St Patrick's
Wed 25 Dec	10am	Christmas Day Mass	St Joseph's
Fri 27 Dec	12.05pm	Altar Servers Mass	St Joseph's
Sun 29 Dec	4pm	Mass for the Opening of the Holy Door	St Joseph's
Wed 1 Jan	11am	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God	St Joseph's

CAROL SERVICES - Prior to our Vigil Masses on 24th December, each Church will have a Carol Service - 3.30pm St Joseph's, 3.30pm St John Vianney's, and 5.30pm St Patrick's.

ADVENT ALMS - There is a tradition of not giving Christmas Cards to fellow Parishioners and in lieu giving to charity. This year's Advent Alms for St Cuthbert's Care will be the 'Offerings for the Crib'. Please put your offerings in the boxes at the Cribs in each church of the Parish.

ALTAR SERVERS MASS - Traditionally, a Mass is celebrated around the Feast of St Stephen, the Patron Saint of Altar Servers. We will have an Altar Servers Mass on Friday 27th December at 12.05pm at St Joseph's Church. This will be a celebration for all of the servers of the parish, an opportunity to invest new servers into the Guild of Saint Stephen and to thank our servers for their faithful service at the altar. Please do join us for this celebration.

JUBILEE 2025 - Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we'll be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Further to our meeting in which we discussed the practicalities as a parish of hosting the Holy Door, we have established a team of volunteers for each day who will be able to act as welcomers. The welcomers will open the church, prepare for Mass and simply be a presence in the church whilst it is open. There is still need for further volunteers to join the teams, if you are able to help with this, please contact Laura in the office. In addition to our own volunteers, Bishop Stephen has requested for priests and laity from around the diocese to support us in welcoming pilgrims. Initially it is thought that the Holy Door will be open every day, Monday to Friday 11am-2.30pm, Saturday 1pm-5pm, and Sunday 9.30am-Noon.

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS - Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 24th December until Monday 6th January. Any voicemails left during this period will be responded to after New Year. In an emergency, please phone the presbytery on 01429 272985.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Application forms for infant Baptism are available at the back of each Church. Please return completed forms to the parish office and come along to a Preparation Meeting to secure your booking. The next Preparation Meeting is on Wednesday 5th February at 6pm, in the Parish Centre Hall at St Joseph's.

HYMN BOOK AMNESTY - We understand that, for all kinds of reasons, Hymn books have been borrowed over time and not always returned. Please take this opportunity to have a look if you may have misplaced a book and kindly return it to church where it belongs, we would be truly grateful for your help.

CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB - Thank you to everyone who supported the Savings Club this year. We raised a total of £1709 for Holy Family Parish. It would be great if we could get some new members and beat this total next year! For every £1 you save, 5p goes to our Church. You do not have to save the same amount each week. Please put your money in an envelope with your name and amount on. In each Church, the following people will be available at these Masses to collect your savings:

St Joseph's- Vigil Mass: Ann Howe

Sun 10.30am: Mary Storer & Paul Johnstone.

St Patrick's- Sun 9am: Diane Gooding

St John Vianney's- Sat 6pm: Colin Gray

The Club will restart on Sunday 5th January 2025. Many thanks.

ADVENT COURSE: JOURNEY TO THE CRIB WITH LUKE'S GOSPEL - Many of us have heard the Christmas story so often we're sometimes in danger of taking it for granted or overlooking key parts of the story. But do we really know the story as Luke intended? In this series of four talks, we will look again and reflect on the Infancy Narratives of Luke, Chapters 1 and 2. We will meet characters such as Zechariah and Elizabeth, John the Baptist, the shepherd's, the angels, Anna and Simeon. We will look at the four great canticles of Luke's Gospel; the Magnificat, the Benedictus, the Gloria and the Nunc Dimittis. Join us in the Day Chapel on Monday evenings 7-8pm after the 6.30pm Mass. A great preparation for Christmas!
23rd December: Aftermath

CONTACTLESS DONATIONS - We are now able to take contactless donations. Please scan the QR code to make a donation, or use our digital collection plate at the back of St Joseph's Church.



NEW MISSALS - Thank you to everyone who ordered the New Sunday Missals, we have sold out of the ones we had delivered. If anybody else would like to order, let the parish office know as soon as possible and we will put another order in.

PARISH DONATIONS - Anyone wishing to provide regular giving, you can instruct your bank to set up a standing order using these details:
Beneficiary: DHN Holy Family Hartlepool Account Number: 11173928 Sort Code: 40-34-45 **Thank you.**

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

‘From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.’

Thus says the Lord:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

**Response: Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

‘Behold, I have come to do your will.’

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.”’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings’ (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will’. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-45

‘Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.’

There is a sense of peace when the fourth Sunday arrives. Everything has been put in order, Jesus is coming and the whole joyous occasion is almost upon us. If there are last minute worries, put them behind you, now is the time, relax and enjoy.

We begin with the prophet Micah, speaking of the insignificant town of Bethlehem, “From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel”. Micah sees Christ, not as a mighty king, but, as a shepherd standing and feeding his flock so that they may live secure. He reminds us of the promise of God for the Christ Child “He shall be their peace”.

The psalm is a plea for forgiveness and protection and gives us hope that the hand of God will always be with us. “Let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved”

The passage from Hebrews brings a different dimension to the coming birth. It speaks of sacrifice and obedience, In the midst of birth we have a foretaste of the garden of Gethsemane and Jesus praying to the father “Here I am, I am coming to do your will”

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth is both poignant and heartwarming, one approach to this reading is to sit quietly, if you can find a space in the turmoil, and pray the “Hail Mary”. a prayer rich in scripture and insight. Pope John Paul II suggested that when we say this prayer we pause before and after the name “Jesus” because the prayer is said through Our Lady to Jesus and by pausing, we offer the prayer in a very special way.

Each Christmas we dream of a new start, each New Year we see twelve months, fresh and clean, laid out before us, an empty sea waiting for our boat of dreams to set sail. But if we only dream and not turn those dreams into action then our boat will stay in harbour and never feel the wind filling its sails. Mary’s “Yes” to Gabriel set her dreams free, John the Baptists “yes” to a mission of bringing repentance to the people of Israel set him free. Jesus waits for our “yes” so that he can set us free on the path he has prepared for us. So, listen for his call, then, raise your anchor and set your sails. The ride will not be smooth, but the wind of your dreams will take you on a voyage you will never forget.

David Franke

Mass of Christ the Saviour

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes, who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Daily Readings



OUR PRAYERS

The sick of the Parish: Annie Airey, Stephen Anderson, Maureen Andrews, Neil Apedaile, Pat Baker, Kathleen Barlow, Carole Bew, Michael Blackford, Dennis Bratt, Ronnie Burnett, Kay Burns, Sarah Carroll, Rita Charlton, Veronica Cochrane, Daniel Cosby, Betty Crane, James Daley, Neil Davis, Louise Dixon, Natalie Eglintine, Teresa Falkingham, Grace Fallow, Lorraine Galen, Dorothy Geen, David Geen, Catherine Gray, Mary Harris, Andrew Haygarth, Bella Hoey, Muriel Howe, Molly Hughes, Carol Hutchinson, Peter Johnson, Christine Jones, Ceilia King, Isobel Knowles, Frank Kozorowski, Maureen Maguire, Baby Pippa Marie, Vera Marriott, Ian Matthews, Colin McDonald, Owen McEaney, Lilian McGee, Jim McKenna, Christopher Mgehee, Peter McNaughton, Paul Moore, Ann Mullins, Bob Mullins, Pat Ness, Kitty Newstead, June Nolan, Sylvice Notrianni, Joe O'Connor, Myra Pattison, Carol Price, Damian Rafferty, Pam Robertson, Eric Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Paula Rogers, Kathleen Royds, Hilda Ryan, Agnes Scully, Michael Christopher Sheeran, Corazon Simpson, Matthew Steel, Brenda Stott, Brett Swain, Gail Symington, Melvin Thackeray, Lynsey Todd, Kieran Turnbull, John Twydale, Norma Twydale, Jonathon Vokes, Julie Wallace, Kay Wallace, James Walsh, Tony Wilkinson, Edith Wilson. *Through our prayers may the healing presence of Christ be with them at this time.*

Recently Deceased: Margaret Muriel Cumming. *May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*

Anniversaries that occur at this time: John Winston Malone, Sylvia Veronica Wilkinson, Ernie Watson, Peter McPartlin, Danny McHugh, Raymond Michael Watson, Claire Michael, Bill Spalding, Robert Burton, Margaret (Peggy) Mordaunt, John Boyd, Stanley Joseph Beattie, Doris O'Dell, Dave Crisp, Mary Ellen (Nellie) Hubbert, Albert Everitt, Dorothy Cooke, Kathleen Kelly, Tina Shaw, Kevin O'Connell, Mary Laughton, Ann Glita, Colin Swift, Joanna Boagey, Ina Hay, Jane Kempthorne, Jane Hardy, Michael O'Hickey, Cathrine Cronin, Mary Hartin, Thelma Strickland, Charles Fawcett, Josephine Florence Geen, Margaret Helen Kennedy, Mary Hartin, John Thomas Waller, Francis Patrick (Frankie) Linighan, John Nicolson, Glenn Harbron, Joan Galvin, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.*

Kids Corner:

Christmas is Almost Here!



Now it's only a few days until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!

Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.



Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve!



Answer to front page puzzle: Blessed are you among women!

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd, 2024



Luke 1.39-45

Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her? Use the code to find out!

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