

FOURTH SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

Welcome to our masses: Remember that, for *all* masses, we need to phone in and book a place; we can't just 'turn up', I'm afraid. There is a danger that if we are at full capacity in a church then people who haven't booked would need to be turned away and we must avoid that at all costs. We won't be having any masses next weekend (Saturday/Sunday, 26/27 December) but we will have mass at **Ushaw Moor on 1 January at 10.30am**, and at:

St Joseph's at 6.00pm on Saturday, 2 January

St Michael's at 9.30am on Sunday, 3 January

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs at 10.30am on Sunday, 3 January.

Book a place for those masses by phoning **0191- 366 9465 between 3 – 7pm on Wednesday, 30 December**

Do, please, try to keep to these times. When you phone in, please give your name, your phone number and say whether you are coming to mass as an individual, as a couple, or as a household. We are also opting to keep a 2-metre distancing in our churches. All of our weekend masses could be particularly helpful to families currently thinking about baptism or First Communion. And, if you would like to volunteer for the occasional 30-minute cleaning, or with stewarding at mass, please let us know at the Parish Office. You can phone the office on 0191-373 0219 or email: stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com.

Test and Trace: If you have a smart phone with the NHS app you can now click on to the NHS icon as you enter any of our churches. If there should be a local outbreak of covid-19 this can help with the 'Track and Trace'.



This weekend: A retiring collection for 'Sea Sunday' to support people, away from their families, working at sea for months at a time. This charity helps with warm clothes, phone cards as well as support in faith.

Church cleaners during this week (before Christmas Eve) (Team 3)

St Joseph's:	St Michael's:	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:
Christine Brennan, Joe Cutmore, Geraldine Barnes, John Flynn.	Jill Cox, Lynn Dumighan, Noreen Gardner, Christine Thompson	A McKenna, Catherine McKeown, Cecilia Wharton, Kevin Quigley.

Weekly collection: Fewer people have had the opportunity to come long to our masses these past few months and some are asking about making their contributions to our parish finances. A good and safe way to do this is to transfer money from your bank account straight into the parish account. Other people, are bringing their envelopes when they do have the opportunity to come to church for private prayer or for mass. Yet others are dropping their donations through the letter box of the Parish Office. Thanks for all this in these difficult times!

Prayer resources: Again, today you will receive a reflection on the Scripture readings for each day of this final week of Advent. Those people with access to a computer can access the diocesan website at redhn.org.uk and scroll down to 'Advent resources'. Each day, before you read the reflection, try to read the passages from the bible, then pause to consider what strikes you from your reading. Then read the bible passages again before reading the printed reflection. On-line, don't forget to watch the terrific videos by David Wells

Stewards for Christmas masses:

St Joseph's: 8.30am Christmas morning	St Michael's: 9.00am on Christmas Eve	OLQM: 10.00am Christmas Eve
Margaret Coonan, John Alderton, Elsie Vasey, Joe Cutmore.	John Flynn, Lynn Dumighan, Karen Thompson, Jill Cox.	Kevin Quigley, Cecilia Wharton, Angela McKenna, Bill Donnelly
St Joseph's 10.00am Christmas morning	St Michael's: 11.00am on Christmas Eve	OLQM: 12 noon on Christmas Eve
Christine Brennan, Colleen Brown, Esther Martin, John Thornton.	Noreen Gardner, Christine Thompson, Jill Cox, Anne McMahan	Angela McKenna, Tom Brennan, Catherine McKeown

Virtual Parish Social Evening:

We have had several coffee mornings with Zoom. We now invite everyone to a 'social evening' at 8.00pm on Monday, 21 December. Details of how to join the meeting will be available in the Parish Facebook Group, or by contacting christine.brennan61@gmail.com Sit in front of your screen with a glass of whatever!



Facebook page: We have set up a Parish Facebook page. If you are interested in being part of this then the name of the Facebook Group is "St. John Boste Parish Community".

Hospital visits: If you know of a patient who wants a visit from the Catholic Hospital Chaplain, please inform Fr Paul Tully on 01388 818544 or frpaultully@outlook.com

Newsletters: Is there anyone receiving a paper copy of the newsletter each week when, actually, they have the facility to read this on-line? This could save someone delivering a copy to your door. Please let us know at the Parish Office.

Advent Reflections: Throughout this season of Advent our diocese has made available scriptural reflections for every day. Perhaps you have made use of them, perhaps not. Those who arranged these reflections wondering how we have found them. Have they been helpful? Not really? Did we use them?

Northern Catholic Calendars: this 2021 directory for the churches, parishes, schools and convents of our diocese is now available for £3. They can't be left at the back of church but if anyone wants a copy please let us know.

Holy Family: Next weekend is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We won't have masses next weekend but, in the style of 'Anchor prayers', maybe take time to look out of your window and pray for each of the families in your street. Families, couples and those who live alone behind each door. And take a while to prayer for each member of your own family, including those you may find difficult to get on with at times.