

MASSES & SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Day	Date	Time	Church	Mass Intention	
Sat	30 Dec	4.45 pm 5:30 pm	St. Anthony's	Atkinson & Redhead Families	The Holy Family
Sun	31 Dec	8.45 am 9:30 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	St. Lawrence's St. Teresa's St. Teresa's	People of the Parishes Dominic Lindsay	The Holy Family
Mon	1 Jan	11.00 am 12.00 pm	St. Teresa's	People of the Parishes	Mary, The Mother of God
Tue	2 Jan	5.45 pm 6:30 pm	St. Teresa's	Robert McGuinness (RIP)	Ss. Basil & Gregory
Wed	3 Jan	9.15 am 10.00 am	St. Anthony's	Fr Michael Conaty MBE (RIP)	Holy Name of Jesus
Thur	4 Jan	8.45 am 9:30 am	St. Lawrence's	Doris Clapshoe (RIP)	Feria
Fri	5 Jan	8.45 am 9:30 am	St. Teresa's	Alex & Franca Warrington	Feria
Sat	6 Jan	10.00 am 10.30 am 4.45 pm 5:30pm	St. Teresa's St. Anthony's	People of the Parishes Frank Shieds	Feria The Epiphany of the Lord
Sun	7 Jan	8.45 am 9:30 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	St. Lawrence's St. Teresa's St. Lawrence's	Derek Cooper People of the Parishes	The Epiphany of the Lord

CHILDREN'S LITURGY FOR THOSE IN YEAR 3 OR UNDER
TAKES PLACE DURING THE 11 AM SUNDAY MASS

Please continue to remember in your prayers:

those who are sick or housebound and their carers:

John Gourley, Doreen Graham, June Stephenson, Aileen, Tommy Allan, Tony Errington, Pat Matfin & Mary McLaren

Our sick children: Josh Graham, James Taylor, Joseph Relph, Colby Taylor & Charlie Davidson

And those who have died recently:

Fr. John Gibbons, Robert McGuinness, Agnes Dunlavy & Elaine Clayton

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention for January:

For the gift of diversity in the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

During Ordinary Time from January to February

We are asked to pray for these intentions: ; Peace on earth, Openness to the Word of God, Christian Unity, The Sick and those who care for them, Victims of trafficking, and the Unemployed.



St. TERESA'S
Heaton Road, Heaton



St. ANTHONY'S
Welbeck Road, Walker



St. LAWRENCE'S
Byker Crescent, Byker



Parish Newsletter

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Sunday 31st December 2023

Parish Priest:	Fr Jonathon Bowes	Tel:	0191 265 5290
		Email:	Jonathon.bowes@diocesehn.org.uk
Parish Secretary:	Christine Dixon	Tel:	0191 265 5290
Office Hours:	Thursday & Friday 9.00am-3.00pm	Email:	stteresa.heaton@diocesehn.org.uk
Safeguarding Reps:	St. Teresa's: Jean Potts		
	St. Lawrence's: George Paul Atkinson		
	St. Anthony's: Christine Dixon		
Parish Websites:	www.stteresaeastnewcastle.org.uk		www.stanthonysstfrancis.org.uk

THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM FR. JONATHON

Past, Present & Future

The Christmas season is a time when we remember and give thanks. We remember the vulnerable child born in a manger, cared for by his parents, visited by the shepherds, the angels and the magi. And we give thanks for this child; for how his birth showed that God loved us so much that he was prepared to humble himself to become one of the weakest and most vulnerable of humanity, to save us from our sins, and give us the opportunity to be united with him.

We may also remember our Christmas celebrations of the past. For those we spent them with, those who we shared gifts and Christmas dinner with, those who we would visit or sang carols with. And we give thanks for these relationships – for the love and joy that we have shared together. This time of year, is also an opportunity for us as a community of parishes to look back. To remember all of the blessings we have received in 2023. For the beautiful liturgies, the wonderful opportunities to help others, the chance to discover more about our faith, the joy found in sacramental celebrations, the fun and laughter shared in our social events. We give thanks to God for this chance to have grown in our faith together and for all those who have helped to make them happen.

The Christmas season, and the New Year, is also a chance for us to look forward. Many artists who chose the nativity as a subject added a crucifix in the background, to remind us what lay ahead for this child. The manger prefigures the cross. The incarnation points us to the resurrection. The new life in Bethlehem, points us to the eternal life in heaven. During this Christmas season we look ahead to the days to come. Perhaps we see in the excitement of the children around us the future of our community. We can look forward to the coming year being a time when we can make new friendships and have new experiences. In our parishes too, we now look forward to 2024.

We pray that in the coming year the Holy Spirit will empower us to grow together in our love for Jesus Christ, so that the people of Byker, Heaton & Walker will discover the Good News that we profess with joy. May we be bold in this coming year to be more vibrant and welcoming communities, more united in worshipping God and serving our neighbours. May we invite every person to join us in growing together into a living and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experiencing and living through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Jonathon

NEWS FROM OUR PARISHES, PARTNERSHIP AND VICARIATE

Crib Offerings

This year any offerings that are made at our cribs will be given to the Friends of the Holy Land. Please be as generous as possible as we try to help our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land who are suffering so much.

Recently deceased

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Robert McGuinness, Elaine Clayton and Agnes Dunlavy, who have died recently. Robert's funeral service will take place on Tuesday 9th January at 11.00am at St Teresa's. Agnes' funeral service will take place on Wednesday 10th January at 12.30pm at West Road Crematorium. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and light perpetual shine upon them.

New Years Eve

Today at 5.00pm at St. Teresa's we will have a Holy Hour of Thanksgiving for the past year, which will include Evening Prayer and Benediction. At the end of the Holy Hour we will sing together the traditional 'Te Deum' as we give thanks to God for the past year. Please do come along if you are able.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Tomorrow is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Solemn Mass will be offered at St Teresa's at 12noon, preceded by a Holy Hour for Peace from 11.00am. Come and start the New Year off on the right foot with time with Jesus and Holy Mass.

2024 - A Year of Prayer in preparation for The Jubilee Year of 2025

Pope Francis has asked us, in preparation for The Jubilee Year of 2025, to have a year of prayer focused on the Our Father. This presents us with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more a people of prayer. *'Prayer doesn't help our relationship with God, prayer IS our relationship with God!'* and so when we become more devoted to prayer, we are building up that Divine friendship. Throughout the year we will hold regular monthly events to help us prepare for The Jubilee Year. The first event will be a Holy Hour on Sunday 7th January at 5.00pm at St Lawrence's. Please do come along if you are able. A poster with details of the monthly events is displayed in the church porches.

Confirmations

Application forms are still available from Fr. Jonathon for those who are baptised Catholics in school year 9 and above and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. A information meeting for parents and candidates will take place on Tuesday 16th January after the 6.30pm Mass at St Teresa's.

Merry Christmas & Thank You

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts that I have received over Christmas. It has been wonderful to spend my first Christmas as a Parish Priest with you all here. The welcome I have received since arriving has been amazing. I am blessed to be your parish priest! Can I thank all those who have contributed in decorating the churches and making our liturgies so beautiful over Christmas. The churches and the liturgies have been beautiful.

Advent Alms

Thank you all very much for your generous contributions to this years Advent Alms appeal on behalf of St Cuthbert's Care. The totals raised for each parish is - St Anthony's £208.64, St Lawrence's £47.00 & St Teresa's £168.

Diocesan Gift Aid Scheme

Do you pay UK Tax and give regularly to our church collections? You could join the Gift Aid Scheme! We gain an extra 25% of your offering, at no extra cost to you. Contact the Parish Office for further details.

Booking the Parish Halls

Please remember that if you wish to use the Parish Hall, either at St Teresa's or at St Lawrence's, you should book it through our Parish Office. At St Teresa's, there are many users of the Hall, so it is necessary to book in advance rather than just expecting it to be available. It costs £25 per hour for use of the Hall for private uses or for any group that charges others to come to their event. At St Lawrence's there is very little use of the Hall at the moment but we're always open to discussion for anyone who wishes to hire it for use.

2024 Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of the new edition for 2024 of The Northern Catholic Calendar, the diocesan handbook listing all parishes, priests, deacons, religious houses and diocesan associations are now available at the back of Church. These are priced at £3 each. We only have a limited number of these available. Once they're gone, they're gone!

New Mass Times for our parishes

At the beginning of the season of Lent we will have a few changes to the Mass times across our parishes to allow Fr Jonathon more time on a Sunday to speak to the people at St Lawrence's and to allow him to have his day off on a Wednesday. Therefore, from the First Sunday of Lent the times of Masses across our parishes will be :-

Saturday Evening - 5.30pm St Anthonys. Sunday Morning - 9.00am St Lawrence's and 11.00am at St Teresa's. Monday 6.30pm St. Teresa's. Tuesday 10.00am St. Anthony's. Thursday 9.30am at St Lawrence's. Friday 9.30am at St. Teresa's.

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE AND OTHER NEWS

Is God calling you to be a priest?

The Vocations Team extends an invitation to men aged 18+, who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The evenings will take place at St Joseph's Church, Stanley on a Tuesday Evening. The next evening takes place on Tuesday 9th January at 6.00pm. For more information, please see the posters in the church porches or speak to Fr Jonathon.

Proud Catholics

Do you identify as LGBT+ or are you questioning your sexual or gender identity? Would you like to attend a support group run by and for LGBT+ Catholics in the North East? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at St Andrew's RC Church, Worswick For more information, phone Isabel on 07858 934457, email proud.catholics@yahoo.com, or visit our website <https://www.proud Catholics.co.uk/>

Going into hospital?

Current rules concerning patient confidentiality make it more difficult for chaplains to discover which patients are Catholics. Consequently, Catholics going into hospital are sometimes not visited by the chaplain or his assistants. If you are going into hospital, or a member of your family is, please let one of the clergy know; they will ensure that the chaplain is informed. On admission, you should also tell the admission staff that you are a Roman Catholic and would like to be visited by the Roman Catholic chaplain. In cases of an emergency, please get the ward nurse to contact the on-call catholic priest immediately.

Emmanuel Catholic Charismatic Community:

A day of renewal will take place on Saturday 20th January 2024, which will include a Vigil Mass at the end of the day. The day is entitled "Pilgrims of Hope" and the guest speaker is David Wells—a renowned Catholic speaker in the UK. The day begins at 10.30am-4pm. Coffee at 10am. Venue: St. Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Road, NE7 7PE (near Longbenton Metro.) Please bring a packed lunch and collection will be taken. To book contact Pat Kennedy on 0191 2841690 or email pat,kennedy42@icloud.com

Youth Mission Team in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle:

There is lots of news coming through from the Youth Mission Team, which you can read fully in several ways: Please use the YMT website at <https://ymt.org>, or you can read the emailed attachment sent with all those who receive their newsletters electronically, alternatively we have a print out of all the news on the Church notice boards. Thank you.

African and Caribbean Catholic Community

There is a Mass for the African and Caribbean Catholic Community living in the diocese, on the last Sunday of every month at 2pm at St Joseph's Church, Gateshead, NE8 1LX, (right behind the Interchange for Metro and Buses). For more information please contact Fr Anthony Ohaekwusi on 07407 486 865 or email him on africancommunitydhn@gmail.com

Message from 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 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. 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/holyisland> Applications open from 5th December