



HOLY FAMILY PARISH

HARTLEPOOL



This week's readings

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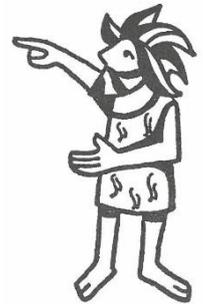
Sunday 6th November

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

MESSAGE FROM CANON MICHAEL

Once upon a time, in a land far far away....so start many traditional stories and we can be forgiven if the first words of the gospel today; 'The beginning of the Good News', suggests we are going to hear an old familiar story. What we are presented with today is a beginning, ever new - current and to be accepted and not dismissed as old and familiar.

John the Baptist is of course a key figure of Advent as he makes current the message of his predecessor Isaiah; 'Prepare the way for the Lord'. John the Baptist also makes the older story of the Exodus current by setting up in the desert and baptising in the Jordan. Ancient Israel had escaped from slavery in Egypt, passed through the Red Sea and then wandered for forty years in the desert before arriving in the promised land. All this would not be lost on a people down cast and desperate for a new Moses to lead them to the promised land. Drawn to this fresh Exodus in John's ministry, he took them through the water having forced them to cross the desert to the river Jordan where they made their original entry into the promised land. This is where the old familiar story is left behind for the Promised Land is now the Messiah who would baptise them with fire and the Holy Spirit. The first Exodus from slavery in Egypt is now the exodus from the slavery to sin. John's baptism of repentance marks a new beginning then and now and is the essential preparation to gain liberation and the promised land now in the very kingdom of God to be established by the messiah.



Prepare
the way
for the
Lord

What preparation do I need to make now in order to make the journey to liberation and the consolation of God? What is the wilderness in my life? The place of harshness and little growth? The troughs and peaks of my selfishness and sin the jagged edges of my judgements criticism and anger? What is holding me back from getting on the straight highway? Is it the obsessions, addictions that seem to offer liberation but only ensnare me?

Last Wednesday with the lifting of this second lockdown we may have felt we were escaping captivity in Egypt and we are now looking to console ourselves in the familiar and past ways of celebrating Christmas. Christmas is not some cheap magical fix, a trip down memory lane. This year of pandemic has brought us from the familiar tried and tested to the new by asking ourselves what truly matters, what really needs to be prepared and done? We need to see beyond national restrictions to what truly restricts us at a deeper level and then in Jesus our messiah, find our liberation: 'the new heavens and the new earth where righteousness will be at home'.

Question of the week:

What concrete action can I take this week to prepare myself for Jesus' coming?

Father Michael

A few suggestions to keep a true Advent:

- Set aside a few moments every day to talk to our Lord, to be with Him in prayer – in church if you can if not then in your room, in your home.
- Take a look at your family situation and see if it's possible to prayer together at some point in the day
- If you've fallen out with somebody, make a move to make it up
- Go out of your way to get in touch with a relative, neighbour or friend whom you have neglected all year
- Don't spend all of your Christmas money on yourself and your friends; put something aside for the poor.
- Be sure to include the sacrament of reconciliation in your advent preparations
- Value, even within restrictions, any time to be with family and friends for advent is a joyful time- enjoy it.

An audio version of this reflection can be heard by calling 01429 450388 or by searching 'Holy Family Hartlepool Podcast' where you usually get your podcasts.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS

IMPORTANT UPDATES

The second government lockdown has come to an end and we have begun once more with public Mass in St Joseph's, our hub church. We do this within the restrictions of Tier 3. As announced last week we were negotiating with the diocese for the reopening of St Mary's Church on the headland and St Patirck's Church Owton Manor. This of course is open to anybody from across the parish but to be of particular help to those who live in these given areas and perhaps struggle to get to the centre of town and St Joseph's church.

As we explained last week, in extending our Masses we have to be aware of the practical implications if we are to sustain this. We will need some extra volunteers to help with stewarding in all the churches that are open in order that they remain safe. At the moment no further volunteers have come forward so again I appeal for volunteers to contact me or the parish office with offers of help. We also have to recognise that some of our parishioners have been extremely generous and responsible in their giving, but we are running on less than 50% of our usual collection monies across the town. This means that unless there is an improvement, we will not be able to sustain 3 buildings being open. Also, if the only result of this is to spread the same amount of people currently filling St Joseph's over 3 buildings this again does not make sense and is unsustainable. As with so many things at the moment, we have to face some very harsh realities so be aware that we have to be careful how we progress and what we can sustain.

Now that we have returned to tier 3, this means that we continue with baptisms are now reduced to a total of 6, weddings are now 15 maximum, funerals remain at 30. Mass still counts as an act of worship and therefore, our present number remains, and we continue to be vigilant in wearing masks and social distancing.

MASS BOOKING If you have previously given your name and contact details and are in the St Joseph's track and trace register, there is no need to book but follow the usual procedure of coming into church as before. New attendees can also come without pre-booking and just need to give their contact details on arrival. In St Mary's and St Patrick's you can simply turn up on the day and give your details for track and trace if you are not already in the parish track and trace register. If you are already on track and trace at St Joseph's then you do not have to give all your details again but simply indicate whether you're attending on a regular or one off basis. We would recommend, however that as many people as possible use the booking sacramental telephone number 07783326407. This will secure your place and prevent bottlenecks at the door. By booking through the telephone line, it does mean that you are on our track and trace register and you can attend any church for Mass or visits thereafter.

MASS TIMES Because of a delay in the diocese approving their opening, we now hope to have St Mary's church open for private prayer on Saturday 12th December 10-12 and for Mass on Tuesday 15th December at 6.30pm, with confessions 6-6.30. At St Patrick's we hope to open for Mass on Thursday 17th December at 9.30am.

CHRISTMAS Can we also give advanced notice of the week leading up to Christmas and beginning the Christmas octave. *Tuesday 22nd December* at St Joseph's: 12 noon Mass. St Mary's: Confessions 6-6.20pm, 6.30pm Mass with confessions also available after Mass.

Wednesday 23rd December at St Joseph's: 12 noon Mass. St Patricks: Confessions 6-6.20pm, 6.30pm Mass with confessions also available after Mass.

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve) St Joseph's Church open 4.30 for 5pm Mass. 6.30pm for 7pm Mass. 10.30pm for 11pm Midnight Mass.

Friday 25th December (Christmas Morning) 9am Mass of Dawn- St Joseph's. 10.15 Mass of the day – St Joseph's.

Saturday 26th December 12 noon Mass- St Marys. 5pm -St Joseph's

Sunday 27th December 9am Mass – St Joseph's. 11am Mass - St Joseph's.

Monday 28th December 10am Mass- St Patrick's

There will be further Masses in the 3 churches until new year's eve, details to follow next week.

We have followed the advice of the Bishop's Conference to promote the Christmas octave and encourage people to recognise that it is impossible to accommodate everybody on Christmas eve and Christmas day. Therefore, to arrange Christmas Masses on the day in the largest of the churches to accommodate the greatest number of people. While encouraging people to also use the Masses of Christmas that follow in the octave (8 days).

ADVENT DAY BY DAY Devotionals available at the back of church. £1 each.

ADVENT NOTICES

POSADA This year we will continue to make room for Mary Joseph and the donkey on their way to Bethlehem for Christmas day. Because of restrictions it will not be possible to pass them from home to home. We invite you to join us at the doors of our churches for a short time of prayer and an advent carol.



St Mary's - Tuesday 8th December at 4pm

St John Vianney's- Thursday 10th December at 4pm

St Thomas More's -Tuesday 15th December at 4pm.

St Cuthbert's – Thursday 17th December at 4pm.

St Patrick's- Tuesday 22nd December at 4pm.

St Joseph's-Thursday 24th December at 4.45

Please wrap up warm and bring an umbrella if necessary as well as the usual mask! Everyone will be distanced. These will be live streamed on the [Holy Family Parish Facebook page](#).

CHRISTMAS PIETY ITEMS A range of advent calendars, diaries and Christmas cards are now available at the back of St Joseph's church. If you have a problem with collection, please contact Sue Harrison on 07846764952.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES; A TIME FOR HOPE, PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE

St Joseph's Envelopes are available at the back of church for you to use to dedicate a Red Lamp to place around St Joseph's church and burn from Christmas Eve to New Year. PLEASE RETURN ENVELOPES BY FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2020.

St Mary's This Christmas we will once again be filling St Mary's Church with candlelight. Every candle in church will be dedicated to an individual or a family; those who are ill or who have died and those who need our prayers. If you would like to dedicate a candle to be lit this Christmas time then please get in touch with Bernadette on 07791000985 or message [St Mary's Church on Facebook](#) and we will ensure one is lit for your intention. Closing date: Sunday 20th December. Any donations gladly accepted.

THE 200 CLUB draw was held last weekend and the winners are: 1st prize 39 Corran Harwood. 2nd prize 126 John Wilkinson, 3rd Prize 8 Tony Frain. Congratulations to our winners. We will make the December draw on the 20th December so that the winners can celebrate before Christmas. As our churches are beginning to open for Mass, we should be able to continue with the 200 club in some form in 2021. It is an important part of Parish fundraising as well as a source of joy to those whose numbers are pulled out of the hat. More details will be issued shortly but please remember the 200 club is open to all those in our Holy Family parish and it is easy to join.



Listen to the Word

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday 6th December

Psalm 84

2 Peter 3: 9-14

Mark 1: 1-8

The world in which we live is changing; social habits which we thought would last forever are now things of the past. Work itself has changed; no longer do we have the Steel, Engineering, and Factory jobs of past years; if we can get employment now it is in service industries and call centres, even the retail trade is suffering with the rise of on-line buying. We are in the middle of the greatest health catastrophe in 500 years. It seems to me that John's voice in the wilderness is echoing through all our homes and has become our voice too.

We live in a modern wilderness where religion is becoming a side issue, a school subject, an echo of times past, no longer relevant. But to us it is relevant it is alive and active, and we cannot understand why others cannot see it. It was the same in John's time, he came to the people of Israel with an important message; "God is coming to his people" he cries; "make straight his paths, prepare his way, repent and be saved". The common people listened; they made their way to the Jordan for a baptism of repentance, they made themselves ready for God to enter their lives. Their time of Advent was upon them and they waited for Him to appear.

These weeks of Advent are precious; if we are to be voices in the wilderness, then it is our time to shout, to prepare, to level out the mountains and valleys. We need to reconcile with each other; to seek those who have lost their way and bring them back into the sheepfold. We must be mindful of the health of those around us and the restrictions on gatherings but Christmas is a time to bring people together, a time, if possible, to invite family, to contact friends, to celebrate the feast that Christ lays before us. John's message touched the hearts of those who listened to him; if we do not repeat that message today then how can we reach those who do not hear the Christmas message.

The best present we can give to those we love is simply to awaken them to the joy that God loves them and waits for them to turn back to Him. Let us try to change the wilderness in the hearts of the people around us into a garden of delight through the love of God. Be careful, keep safe, but rejoice, for this time of distress will end, hope will keep us going, and, soon, if we will celebrate the gifts that we receive every day from God's rich bounty.

David Frank

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

During the suspension of Sunday Obligation

*Live stream: Tuesday's 6.30pm Mass and Sunday's 11am Mass are live streamed on [Saint Mary's Facebook Page](#)

	St Joseph's		St Mary's	St John Vianney's
Saturday 5 th December	4.15-4.45 Confessions 4.30pm Exposition & Rosary	5.00pm(Vigil Mass) Patrick Northey		
Sunday 6 th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.00am Mass HN Lee & Cwob Pauline Beha *11.00am Mass Fr Stephen Johnson, Kevin Coull			
Monday 7 th December St Ambrose	-----			
Tuesday 8 th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	*6.30pm Mass Patronal Feast day Mass 12.05pm Mass Sheila Allison & Sheila Dolan		4pm Posada Outside church	
Wednesday 9 th December Weekday of Advent	6.30pm Mass Kath McNeil			
Thursday 10 th December Weekday of Advent	12.05pm Mass Kathleen & Joseph Curren Doreen Richie RD			4pm Posada Outside church
Friday 11 th December Weekday of Advent	12.05pm Mass Stefano Ferro (1 st Anniversary)			
Saturday 12 th December	4.15-4.45 Confessions 4.30pm Exposition & Rosary	5.00pm (Vigil Mass) Bridgid Carroll	10.00am-12.00pm Church open for private prayer	
Sunday 13 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	9.00am Mass Deceased Waller family	*11.00am Mass Eileen McConnel (Birthday Remembrance)		

OUR PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember in your prayers all those in our communities who are sick or housebound, especially:

MAXINA CAFFREY, CHRISTINE HANSELL, CORAZON SIMPSON, LORRAINE GALEN, PAUL MOORE, JIM MCKENNA, BRENDA STOTT, ANTHONY WEEGRAM, PETER JOHNSON, MATTHEW STEEL, MYRA PATTISON, MARGARET BURKE, VERONICA COCHRANE, GAIL SYMINGTON, MURIEL HOWE, MOIRA KELLY, MICHAEL BLACKFORD, AGNES SCULLY, MAUREEN MAGUIRE, PETER GRIEVES, SARAH CARROLL, OWEN MCENEANEY, NORA TRISCHLER, PATRICIA WRAY, MOLLY HUGHES, CHRISTINE JONES, RACHEL JUDGE, HILDA RYAN, KAY BURNS, HILARY BRADBURY, MICHAEL GRUFFERTY, BRETT SWAIN, BETTY CRANE, KAY WALLACE, BELLA HOEY, LYNNE HARRISON, DOROTHY GEEN, MILLIE PEARCE, MICHAEL O'HICKEY, MARIE LYDON, SARAH CANN (HAGGETT), MICHAEL CANN, MARY HARPER, WINNIE JOY, TERESA FALKINGHAM, DORIS REDDINGTON, MATTHEW THACKERAY, MARIE CHOLMONDELEY, JOSEPH ROBINSON, ETTY JORDAN, PAM ROBERTSON, SYLVICE NOTRIANNI, JEAN RICHARDSON, DORIS O'DELL, PAT TURNER, MARY COOPER, , NEIL DAVIS, ALISON FOSTER, TERESA FALKINGHAM, JONATHON VOKES, PAULA ROGERS, RITA CHARLTON, MARY MASON, NATALIE EGLINTINE, PAT NESS, TOM GILFOYLE, FR TOM, LOTTIE DOCHERTY, VERONICA WILKINSON, CHRISTOPHER MGHEE, MARY HARRIS, VERA MARRIOTT, WINNIE OLIVER, PATRICIA WRAY, COLIN PRICE.

All the sick and their careers both at home and in hospital are prayed for at each Mass as well as the health and safety of all parishioners.

Please pray for those who have died recently:

MARGARET MELVILLE, KENNETH DOWSON, FR DERECK PEEL, FR GERARD MARTIN,

and for their families and friends who mourn their loss. We also pray for all those who's anniversaries fall this week:

SHEILA DOWSON, IAN JACKSON, DELIA MARIE INGLEDON, GORDON THOMAS LARKIN, BERNADETTE GUY, GLADYS BIRD, ANNE HANSEN, TERENCE BONE, JACK CHRISTIE, JAMES CUSHLOW,

During this month of November- the month of the Holy Souls- we remember all those who have died since last Holy Souls day and all our loved ones who have gone before us in faith and all of their names are placed before the altar during this month.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

During this present lockdown, once again we encourage you to make private visits to church and as you will note the church will be open at what was originally our Mass times also you're encouraged to attend Mass through live streaming and to use our telephone service during the week and at weekends.

Please also encourage others and help them to keep in touch through the methods below.

To receive this newsletter by email each week: email hartlepoolnewsletter@gmail.com

Pre-recorded Telephone Liturgies Call: 01429 450388 – recorded rosary and devotional prayers each Wednesday and Sunday (calls charged at local rate)

Contacting the parish:

Parish Office- for general Parish enquiries: Call: 01429 866288 Email: holyfamilyhartlepool@gmail.com



Holy Family Youth: For enquiries about ministry to young people, or to volunteer

Call: Ric Slatter on 07741162085 or email ric@holyfamilyyouth.co.uk