

# Catholic Parishes of ST. JOSEPH SACRED HEART ST. PATRICK

Stanley

Byermoor

Dipton

Pontop Partnership Dean: **Father Dermott Donnelly**  
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Deacon Paul Nichol (07906 489152)  
Guest Priest: Fr. Radni Caparas, OAR

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

December 13, 2020  
**3rd Sun Advent Year B**

## Listen to the Word

Is 61: 1-2, 10-11 Ps 1: 46-50, 53-54

1Thes 5: 16-24 Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

Today is *Gaudete Sunday*, a day of Rejoicing during this Advent season; it is a chance to celebrate the gift that God is giving to us, the joy that is to come; the first two readings reflect the love and compassion of our God in the message they bring.

In the first reading Isaiah prophesies the ministry of Jesus. He speaks of the anointed one, filled with the Spirit of God, and coming to dwell with His people. He is not a King in the usual sense of a great ruler and warrior, instead he speaks of a King who will rule in the hearts of the people. He will bring Good News to the poor and the broken hearted, and justice to those held captive or in prison. By His example, all things will be made new, the land will bloom with good things and integrity will be the watchword of the people.

Paul calls on us to be happy. We should pray to God for all that we need and give thanks for the mercy He has shown us. Paul's message is for us to be faithful to God, to live our lives in a blameless way, with love and compassion, and always be ready for the coming of the Lord. He ends

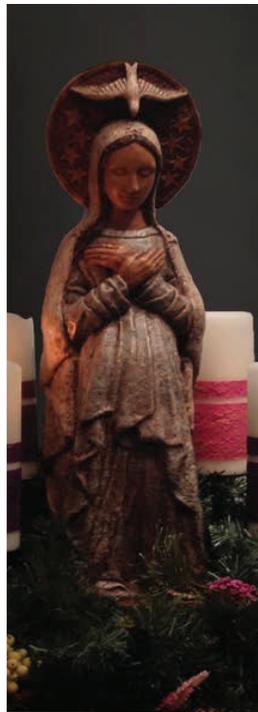
the passage with a prayer which we should hold in our hearts for the words echo the hope and joy of our lives with God.

John's Gospel is full of images as he reaches into our souls and ignites a fire in our inner being. He speaks of a Light, who is Christ, and a man, a man sent to reveal the light, a witness to call to us from the wilderness of sin and despair into a new light, one which banishes fear and makes us new. By contrast,

John also speaks of the religious authorities, the representatives of the Law who hold captive the spirit of the Lord in words and gestures. They ask, "by whose authority do you act, Who are you?" John refuses to be named, refuses to be labelled, he is only a witness, and he will be followed by another, whom John, in his humility, is not fit to undo the strap of his sandals.

Jesus came, not to serve, but to serve; in the culture of that time if a visitor was welcomed into a man's house it was the duty of a servant to remove the man's sandals and wash his feet as a gesture of respect. John may be alluding to the image of the servant King who undoes the sandals and washes the feet of those who come to him.

- David Frank



## Love Christmas Update

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in the Love Christmas programme, whether by donating or helping to pack the gift bags. We hoped to raise enough to be able to donate 60 Christmas boxes to our 4 primary schools and instead we have raised enough to be able to pack and distribute 240 Christmas boxes-which means that we can donate 60 Christmas boxes to each of our 4 primary Schools for them to distribute.

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED DURING WEEK COMMENCING 13.12. 20

Saturday 12th December	St Patrick's Church	5:00pm	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP
Sunday 13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	St Joseph's Church Mass Celebrant Bishop Robert Byrne	11:00am	Mass: JUNE ROUSE
Monday 14th December		PRIVATE	Mass: EDWIN HALL
Tuesday 15th December	St Patrick's Church	9:30am	Mass: MARIE RAFFERTY
Wednesday 16th December		PRIVATE	Mass: LYNNE ALNAZZAN
	St Patrick's Church	6:00pm	Reception of the body of Father Derek Peel into Church. DUE TO RESTRICTIONS, THERE ARE LIMITED NUMBERS ALLOWED TO ATTEND-PLEASE BOOK ON THE BOOKING LINE NUMBER
Thursday 17th December	St Patrick's Church	12 noon	Requiem Mass: DUE TO RESTRICTIONS THERE ARE LIMITED NUMBERS ALLOWED TO ATTEND-FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS ONLY
Friday 18th December	St Joseph's Church	9:30am	Mass: PETER HAGAN
Saturday 19th December	St Patrick's Church	5:00pm	Mass: MARY McDERMOTT, KATHLEEN GOLDSMITH, GEORGE GILL & ELSIE SMITH
Sunday 20th December 4th Sunday of Advent	St Joseph's Church	11:00am	Mass: PEOPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

### Bank Details

Parish	Sort code	Account No
St Joseph's Church	40-34-18	81164511
St Patrick's Church	40-34-18	91797557
Sacred Heart Church	40-34-18	91492241

### Booking System For Mass

To book a place at Mass at Stanley St Joseph's or Dipton St Patrick's Churches, you must phone this number **07762 354516** which is manned between 5pm and 8pm Monday to Thursday.

Please do not contact any other number to book a place. As we need to keep a strict record of numbers of people booking, please do not leave a voicemail on this number. As the weather gets colder, please remember to wrap up warm for Mass as doors and windows must be kept open to allow ventilation in Church.

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

2pm The Sacred Heart, Byermoor  
4pm St Patrick's, Dipton  
6pm St Joseph's, Stanley

Christmas Day (Friday 25th December)  
10am St Joseph's, Stanley

Boxing Day (Saturday 26th December)  
5pm St Patrick's Dipton

Sunday 27th December  
11am St Joseph's, Stanley

Monday 28th December  
10am Sacred Heart, Byermoor

### The Pontop Partnership

St. Teresa's, Annfield Plain + Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph, Brooms + The Sacred Heart, Byermoor + Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Blackhill + St. Patrick's, Consett + St. Patrick's, Dipton + All Saints, Lanchester + St. Pius X, Moorside + Our Lady of the Rosary, Shotley Bridge + St. Joseph's, Stanley

### Christmas Candles

Would you like to remember a loved one in Church during this Christmas season? We intend to display living candle memorials in our Churches during Christmas. We will light the sponsored candles throughout every mass and private prayer time in our Churches. It is £5 to sponsor a candle and you can sponsor as many candles as you wish. Please consider supporting your family of parishes and sponsor a candle in memory of a loved one.

Each candle will have a memorial card next to it with an individual/family/prayer intention on it, ie. John Smith, The Smith Family or All NHS workers. Order Forms can be left in Church when Church is open or posted through the letterbox at St. Joseph's Church. If you are unable to get to Church and would like help arranging to sponsor a candle, please contact Christine in the Parish Office.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

### Pray for those that need healing in our parishes:

Claire Mills, Pat Wilson, Anne Kennedy, Winnie Watson, Margaret Convey, Martin Bryce, Maureen Dixon, Mark Pinkerton and Gerard Ritchie.  
**Recently Deceased:** *Father Derek Peel and Gerard Ritchie*

Items for newsletter must be received by Tuesday. **Send it to:**  
**sacred3pontopnews@gmail.com**