



St. Paul's RC Church, Cramlington
28 Dewley, Cramlington, NE23 6EF, Tele: 01670 712476.
Parish Priest – Fr. Manoj Joseph



Parish Mission Statement

To be a welcoming community that encounters Jesus in our Sacraments and spiritual activities and reflects Jesus' experience to the periphery of our community through the works of charity and transparent Christian living.



Sunday 17th December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent (B)

“There stands among you, the one who is coming after me.”

Mass Times and Intentions

Wednesday Masses will be in Back Room.

Sat 16 th	6:00pm	at St. Paul's	Paul Battersby R.I.P.
Sun 17 th	10:45am	at St. Paul's	People of the Parish
Tues 19 th	10:00am	at St. John's	
Wed 20 th	10:00am	at St. Paul's	
Thur 21 st	10:00am	at St. Paul's	
Fri 22 nd	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. John's at 6:00pm then Mass at 7pm		
Sat 23 rd	6:00pm	at St. Paul's	
Sun 17 th	10:45am	at St. Paul's	

Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday Evening: 5:30 - 5.50pm before Mass at St. Paul's
Sunday Morning: 10.15 - 10.35am before Mass at St. Paul's

A time of SILENCE in church.

As the Blessed Sacrament is exposed it is a time for people's private and silent prayer.

Please respect the situation with your silence and carry out any discussions in the Piety Stall prior to the start of Mass.

Sat 16th December Vigil Mass, Sun 17th December Mass

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1 - 2, 10 – 11.

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24.

Gospel: John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28.

Hymn Numbers for both Masses this weekend

24, 655, 19, 52, 417, 357, 11.

Bishop Stephen Wright's Visit to St John's & St. Paul's Parishes

The visit is planned for Thursday 25th January 2024 with Mass celebrated at 6.30pm at St. John's, Annitsford. There will be refreshments served in the Hall & Presbytery after the Mass. As a parish community it is very important that all the able members of the parish community attend the celebration of the Eucharist with the bishop and after which we will have a chance to meet the bishop. Therefore, please can you add your name to the list at the back of church to allow us to plan the catering. Thank you. Names to be provided **NO LATER THAN 24th December 2023.**

Prayers

The Pope's intention for December: he asks us all to pray for people with disabilities, both physical and emotional that they may be at the centre of attention.



Advent Wreath and Candles

Advent is a time of expectation and hope filled with rich traditions. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. The advent wreath and candles provide beautiful symbolism for each week of advent as we wait for Christmas to arrive. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth. The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy. This candle is coloured pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

School Carol Services

These will be held in church next Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December both at 1:30pm. Please do try and come along to show your support for the school staff and children.

Christmas and New Year Services 2023

St Paul's Church, Cramlington:

Christmas Eve: Carols at 6pm followed by Vigil Mass at 6:30pm

Readers: Peter Killen & Terry Carr

Christmas Day: Mass at 10:45am

Readers: Jacqui Hall & **Volunteer**

New Years Day: Mass at 10:45am

Readers: 2 Volunteers

St. John's Church, Annitsford:

Christmas Eve: Carols at 11:30pm Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day: Mass at 9:30am

New Years Day: Mass at 9:30am

Christmas Cake Raffle

The Cake has arrived and tickets at £1 per strip of 5 for this beautiful cake supplied by Agnes and baked by Ann, will again be sold on 16th / 17th December. The Draw will take place after Mass on Saturday 17th.

Lamb House

Lamb House is our local refuge for Mothers, children and the other adults of all ages. During the four weeks of Advent donations to the food bank will be channelled as gifts to the residents of Lamb House. Please place your donations in the Café Area by this **Sunday 17th December** after which they will be taken down to Lamb House. After Christmas your donations to the Food Bank will return to its normal purpose. Thank you for your generosity.

HELP!

Your help is needed towards the upkeep of the parish as we are going through a depleting financial situation due to lack of needed contribution at weekends except the generous support by the parishioners by means of their Standing Order. Winter is a season where church expenditure shoots up due to the heating expenses etc. Therefore I would like to ask those who are not presently in the Standing Order scheme to be little more generous towards the upkeep of the parish and maybe contribute a substantial amount during this season of Christmas towards our church, which needs urgent financial assistance, rather than the usual charity you usually contribute to. Thanks for your kind understanding and co-

Little Sisters of the Poor - Job Vacancies & Concert

Exciting opportunities are now available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for care assistants and nurses. Hours : Nurse: Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm Care Assistant: Shifts are 8am-3pm, 3pm-9pm. Excellent rates of pay. For more information please contact Lee-Marie Thornley via email, lee.marie@lsplondon.co.uk or on 07856256095.

Church Decoration



We would be grateful for donations of Poinsettias and Greenery to decorate the church. Please bring them from **16th December** to enable our Flower arrangers to decorate the church for our Christmas celebrations.

St Peter & St Paul's Thursday School Mass

A big Thank You from school staff and children to Teresa Reid, Meg and David Cocks together with Eddie Lavender who have provided juice and biscuits to the children with no cost to the parish during the last term. God bless them!

SVP Holy Island 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 at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island> for further details. Applications open from 5th December 2023.

Confirmation Retreat at the Emmaus Village -Jan 26 – 28 2024

There are still places for our Confirmation group to join other Confirmation candidates across the Diocese in exploring our faith, the Church, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In this YMT led Confirmation Retreat, there will be time for fun, faith, and food during these days of retreat. If you are a catechist or are considering Confirmation please contact nsalked@ymt.org before January 19, 2024 if you want to book into the program.

200 Club and Bonus Ball

We should be grateful if you could prepay your contributions for these up to 16 Dec to include 23rd / 30th as the books will be closed and money banked on 18th. Thank you.

Bonus Ball

Result for 9th December – Number 30 Congrats to Meg Cocks

You must be in it to win it!

Finances

Weekly Collection 9th / 10th December £309.25

Rota List

Bidding Prayers	16 th Dec	Teresa K
Welcomers	16 th Dec	Stella S & Marylyn T
	17 th Dec	Julie & Bob M
Readers	16 th Dec	Teresa K & John R
	17 th Dec	Peter K & Jacqui H
Coffee	16 th Dec	Joyce & Malcolm G
Bulletin		Peter
Weekly Cleaning Team 4:		Julie & Bob M
Collection Counting Team 5:		Stephanie N & Sheila H

Bidding Prayers	23 rd Dec	Malcolm G
Welcomers	23 rd Dec	Barbara B & Anne Marie L
	24 th Dec	Russell & Stephanie N
Readers	23 rd Dec	Malcolm G & Margaret F
	24 th Dec	Julie M & Eddie L
Coffee	23 rd Dec	Victoria & Pamela
Bulletin		Kathy
Weekly Cleaning Team 1:		Stephanie Norwood, Barbara W
Collection Counting Team 1:		Joe S, Averill R, Betty W.

If you cannot cover your Ministry please let John Reid, 07833 692397 or Peter Killen, 07948 403341 know.

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Bulletin email: bulletin@stpauls-rc.co.uk Webmaster email:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/143816098991252/

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsRCChurchCramlington

webmaster@stpauls-rc.co.uk Website: www.stpauls-rc.co.uk