The Parish of Saint Joseph, Stokesley

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Stokesley

Saint Mary the Virgin Roman Catholic Chapel, Crathorne

Saint Margaret Clitherow Catholic Church, Great Ayton

Parochial Administrator: Rev Fr Timothy Whitwell Telephone: (01642) 710239

Address: Saint Joseph's Presbytery, 1 Tanton Road, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, TS9 5HN.

E-mail: stjosephstokesley@rcdmidd.org.uk Parish Website: https://www.stjosephsparish.uk/

THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday 28th November	5.30pm Vigil Mass Saint Margaret's	*Sr Katherine Frost FCJ (LD)* **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Sunday 29th November	9.00am Mass Saint Mary's	*Month of the Holy Souls: November Dead List (RIP)* **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
	11:00 Mass Saint Joseph's	*People of the Parish* **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Monday 30th November	9.15am Mass Saint Joseph's	*Month of the Holy Souls: November Dead List (RIP)* S ANDREW, APOSTLE & PATRON OF SCOTLAND
Tuesday 1st December	9.15am Mass Saint Joseph's	*Albert Mitchell (LD)* Weekday in Advent
Wednesday 2nd December	12noon Mass Saint Joseph's	*Rory Connolly (LD)* Weekday in Advent
Thursday 3rd December		S Francis Xavier, Priest
Friday 4th December	6.00pm Mass Saint Joseph's	*Teresa Harrison (Sick)* S John Damascene, Priest & Doctor
Saturday 5th December	9.15am Mass Saint Joseph's	*Jill Shaw (First Anniversary)* Weekday in Advent
	5.30pm Vigil Mass Saint Margaret's	*Anne Ridley (PI)* **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Sunday 6th December	9.00am Mass Saint Mary's	*People of the Parish* **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
	11:00 Mass Saint Joseph's	*Helen Fiddis (RIP)* **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently and for their dear families:

+ Requiescat in Pace +

A **warm welcome** if you are a visitor to the parish or if you have moved into the area, please introduce yourself to Fr Timothy at the end of Mass.

Any **loose change** may be left in bowls in all churches and will help pay for school meals for asylum seeker children at Sacred Heart School.

Any **safeguarding** concerns can be confidentially conveyed via e-mail to the Parish Representatives: psrstjosephandmargaretclitherow@rcdmidd.org.uk

Please leave in the church porches non-perishable items to help the work of **Hambleton Foodshare**.

Please contact Ken on 07808 877191 regarding the **church halls** at Saint Margaret's or Saint Joseph's.

If you would like to have a **Mass offered**, please give your offering envelope to Fr Timothy and make your requests known well in advance please. We receive very few requests for midweek Masses, thank you.

Confessions - Saturdays at Saint Joseph's after the 9.15am Mass and at 5.00pm at Saint Margaret's, or may be arranged by contacting Fr Timothy directly.

Any adults wishing to become Catholics (RCIA) or any parents seeking **First Sacraments** for their children please see Fr Timothy, thank you.

Logos will meet on Wednesday, 2nd December from 10:30 – 11:45 in Saint Joseph's Hall where we shall reflect on the subject of anger with the aid of refreshments, good company and informed debate.

Nativity Play and **Christingle** followed by seasonal refreshments, raffle, stalls and entertainment on Sunday, 20th December at 4.00pm at Saint Joseph's.

Parish Christmas raffle tickets available to buy after all weekend Masses until 13th December, with the draw taking place following the Nativity play and Christingle on 20th December, in the church hall at Saint Joseph's. Thank you for all the wonderful prizes donated so far. Ticket stubs and payment can be left in the envelopes provided at the back of each church. Also, donations of chocolates, chocolate biscuits and bottles of alcohol for the tombola and raffle stalls will be gratefully received and may be left in the porch of Saint Joseph's church. Thank you.

If any parishioner would like to request a **visit** from Fr Timothy for any reason, please make contact via e-mail or by telephone in the first instance.

Parish **Christmas cards** depicting the painting above Saint Mary's Altar are now on sale (£5 for 10) and can be purchased from the church porches.

Please scan the QR code to donate to your parish or kindly click here: https://donate.mydona.com/st-josephs-stokesley

Adventus! Veniet Rex iustus cum victoria! (Advent! The righteous King will come with victory!) The cold, icy, winter weather naturally makes us want to keep warm – to wrap up if we are going outside or to put the heating on when indoors. But if we are too warm and cosy, we are more likely to become tired and then we sleep. That's why it is good not to be too warm in church – it would be such a shame if members of the parish were to fall asleep during the homily, wouldn't it?! Most of the trees by now have lost most of their leaves. Trees are beautiful when they are in full leaf, but they have a different kind of beauty when they have shed all their leaves. Indeed, the loss of leaves reveals other attractive qualities and features of nature that are not so evident when everything is in full bloom. Just as nature has its seasons, so too do our own lives have seasonal moments. What could be termed as a dark 'winter of the spirit' can be an opening for God to work within us in new and creative ways. That is why the words in our Gospel this weekend, which call us to always stay awake, are so hopeful and hope-filled. We are to be awake, ready and alert, for the Lord's coming. So, as Advent begins at the beginning of another new liturgical year, let's hold fast to our life in Christ, who comes to set us free. As fellow pilgrims, we must use this freedom well as we wait for our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bethlehem-Babe, to come in His final glory. Quite rightly, we do not know when and nor should we, so we must patiently 'stay awake! Brothers and sisters, our mortal lives are brief and fleeting but if we are vigilant and prepared for the coming of the Christ-child, the righteous King, at Christmas and at the end of time, then the chances are we shall also come to live more nearly as we pray.

All sincere best wishes for a holy Advent and with my continued prayers, Fr Timothy.