

The Season of Advent: Today we begin the Season of Advent which marks the beginning of the Church's New Year. During the first two weeks we contemplate Christ's second coming among us at the end of time and then as Christmas draws near we think about His first coming among us as a helpless little baby in the stable at Bethlehem.

Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

1st Sunday of Advent "Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.'" Is the Lord awakening you to consider a vocation to the priesthood? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

BLACKHALL

APF Missions: Brian writes: Red Mission Boxes are due to be emptied so please can you bring them to Church. Thank you!

THORNLEY

Christmas Hamper Draw: Tickets cost £1 per strip – and will be drawn near Christmas. Good luck!!

BLACKHALL

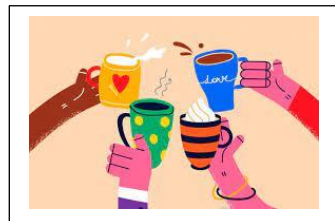
Christmas Spirit Draw: Tickets cost £1 per strip and will be drawn near Christmas. Good luck!!

ALL

December Edition of the Northern Cross: Now on sale at the back of church. Good way of keeping up with our Diocesan news!!

NORTHERN CROSS: for parishioners who would like to try the paper today and in January for **£1.50**, the paper is offering St Joseph's / Ss Peter & Paul / Sacred Heart & English Martyrs to keep any extra sales money to benefit the parish. A no-brainer, you might agree?

St. Joseph's Parish Coffee Evening: This coming Monday 4th December. 7pm-9pm in the Parish Rooms. Why not come and join us? All welcome!!



Candle lit Carol Service and festive refreshments:

SS Peter and St. Paul's, Hutton Henry - Sunday 17th December at 4.00p.m. Why not come and join us as we draw near to Christmas. Refreshments will be served in the Parish hall after the Service. All welcome!

Diocesan Advent Reflections: The dedicated Advent reflection page on the diocesan website can be found here: <https://bit.ly/DHNA Advent>.

Christmas candles: Please complete a form, from the back of Church and place **£5 for each candle with the form into an ENVELOPE** and place in the box at the back of Church. You will have until

Saturday/Sunday 9th/10th December to purchase your candles.

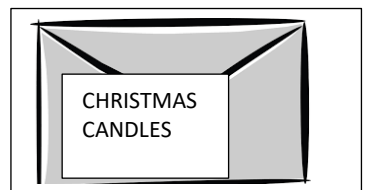
The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Safeguarding Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 12 December

IT Manager, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date 12 December

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Excerpt reflection – D. Frank Advent is an opportunity to take a look at our lives and see how far we have travelled away from God and, perhaps, how do we get back to a loving relationship with Him. Some may say they do not need God, that He is irrelevant in their lives. We believe that God is our creator, as Isaiah acclaims, we are merely clay in the hands of our God, the potter who forms us and gives us life



Why is it getting harder to buy advent calendars?

A. Their days are numbered!

How do you feel when you can't get your advent calendar chocolate?

B. Foiled!

**St. Joseph's, St. Peter & St. Paul's, Sacred Heart & English Martyrs
Parish Priest- Fr. Ian Jackson**

C/O St. Joseph's Presbytery, Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool. TS27 4HW.

Tel. **0191 5864319** e-mail. **sjbh1950@hotmail.com**



Diocesan Website: **www.diocesehn.org.uk** Parish Contact: Pam - Office mobile **07483318764**

Hutton Henry: Tony 07774149662 Thornley: Joe 01429 823327

Safeguarding:



Blackhall: Bill 07527552049 Hutton Henry: Mary 07817136092 Thornley: Elaine 07539475333

The First Sunday of Advent.

3rd December 2023

ST. JOSEPH'S, BLACKHALL.

Sat. 2nd Vigil	6.00pm	Lvg. & Dcd. Ms. Richardson Family & Geraldine Douglas & John Murphy (R.I.P)
Mon. 4th(Private Mass)	9.15am	Leeming & Appleton Fams.
Thurs. 7th	9.15am	Bridget & Noel Fox (R.I.P) & Vera McClure (R.I.P) & Kathleen Young (R.I.P)
Sat. 9th	9.15am	Lillian Palmer (R.I.P.)(L.D)
Sat. Vigil	6.00pm	Joan & Jack Foster (R.I.P) & Kathleen Troughton (R.I.P) Michael Gibson (R.I.P) & Moya Wood (R.I.P) (82 Birthday)

ST. PETER & PAUL, HUTTON HENRY.

Sun. 3rd	8.30am	Mary & Ken Watson (R.I.P) & People of the Parish
Wed. 6th	10.00am	Arthur Vokes (R.I.P)
Fri. 8th	10.00am	Alby Dougherty (Ints.)(Sick)
Sun. 10th	8.30am	Leo Taylor (R.I.P) & Hughie Teasdale (R.I.P) & People of the Parish

SACRED HEART & ENGLISH MARTYRS, THORNLEY

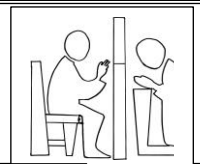
Sun. 3rd	9.15am	Doreen Brown (R.I.P) (Latin Mass)
	11.00am	Martin & Catherine Kenny (R.I.P) & Nancy Francis (R.I.P) & Helen & Thomas Durkan (R.I.P)
Tues. 5th	9.15am	Bill Hudson (R.I.P)
Wed. 6th	10.00am	Dianne & Lesley Thomas (Ints) (Latin Mass)
Thurs. 7th	6.30pm	Eileen Waller (R.I.P)
Fri. 8th	10.00am	Isabella O'Riordan (R.I.P) (Latin Mass)
Sun. 10th	09.15am	Neil Murphy (R.I.P) (Latin Mass)
	11.00am	John & Winifred Hart (R.I.P)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Blackhall: Saturdays at 10.00am.

Hutton Henry: Fridays before and after morning Mass.

Thornley: Thursdays at 6.00pm.



Feasts of the Week.

Thursday: St. Ambrose.

Friday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Next Sunday: The Second Sunday of Advent.



Please note: Hospital chaplain: Fr Paul Tully, tel. 01388 818544/ 0191 3332183 - Please telephone the chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit. If you phone the hospital, please make sure they know the message is for the RC chaplain.

...The passage from Mark comes from the last chapters of his Gospel but his message is very relevant to our journey through Advent. From the first two readings we have signposts for our journey, but we must always be aware of the traps and pitfalls of our world which is increasingly so opposed to our beliefs. We need to be alert, to stay awake and ready, for Christ is coming to us and we must be prepared to receive Him with open hearts.

David Frank