

## THE GATESHEAD CLUSTER OF CHURCHES ST ANNE, ST AUGUSTINE, AND ST OSWALD.

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### PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

The 3rd meeting  
for the candidates for Confirmation  
will take place on

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm**  
**at St Augustine's Presbytery,**  
**Wealcroft, Leam Lane,**  
**NE10 8QS.**

**Topic: "Who is Jesus?"**

### "Walk with Me"

**Spiritual Reading during the  
Season of Advent.**

The popular "Walk with Me"  
Advent Booklet is available for  
you this weekend, costing only  
£1, providing you with a helpful  
short reflection for each day and

### First Confessions

St Oswald: Tuesday 3.30 pm  
St Anne: Wednesday 6 pm.  
St Augustine: Saturday 10 am.

**ADVENT ALMS** goes to support the  
work of St Cuthbert's Care. This  
Advent, Donations will go to  
support community work, focusing  
on those in need of hot, nutritious  
food and older isolated people  
needing a little company.

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

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Vigil St Anne 5.30 p.m.**  
**St Augustine 9.15 a.m.**  
**St Oswald 11.15 am**

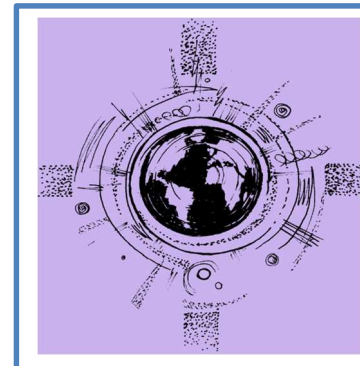
William Hill  
James Spoors  
For the Parishioners

Tuesday St Augustine 10.00 a.m. Mary Gibson  
Wednesday St Anne 10.00 a.m. Giovanna Deriu  
Thursday St Oswald 12 noon Marina Farnie

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Vigil St Anne's 5.30 p.m.**  
**St Augustine 9.15 a.m.**  
**St Oswald 11.15 a.m.**

Mary Aitchison  
For the Parishioners  
Special Intention (S.T.)



### RED WEDNESDAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Archbishop John Wilson, the Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, spoke after a special Mass in his Cathedral in south London to mark **Red Wednesday** on 22 November 2023. Red Wednesday is the day when the Catholic community comes together globally to 'Break the Silence' on Christian persecution. When darkness falls, iconic buildings and monuments are lit red to champion the cause. This year St George's Cathedral was bathed in red light. Archbishop Wilson explains why it's important we speak out about Christian persecution and why the rosary is the ideal prayer to pray when calling to mind the suffering of Christians around the world.

### Message

Dear friends, it's Archbishop John here speaking to you from our cathedral, St George's Cathedral in Southwark. We've just celebrated the Mass for Red Wednesday, and our Cathedral has been lit red as a sign of the martyrdom of Christians. Today, we focus especially on the persecution of Christians across the world. We need to call this out. We need to speak about this, because it's a matter of justice that people are being unjustly persecuted for their faith. We heard this evening the testimony of a marvellous woman, Margaret Attah from Nigeria, who was the victim of a terrorist attack on Christians in her church after Mass. She lost both her legs and the sight in one eye, and others were killed from her congregation. This is a matter of justice to speak up for the truth, for an end to persecution. But also as Christians, we form one body in Christ and when one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers. This, as well as being about justice, is about solidarity with suffering Christians around the world. Sometimes people ask: How can we pray and what can we pray in the face of Christian persecution in the world – when our brothers and sisters are being attacked for their faith, imprisoned, tortured, and even killed? I would suggest that the most powerful prayer that we can pray is the rosary. It is the prayer that we can do anywhere at any time. It takes us through the mysteries of the life of Christ, His birth, His life, His suffering and His glory. And when we unite ourselves to the mystery of Christ in our prayer, we do a powerful act of spiritual solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are suffering. So, in these coming weeks, after Red Wednesday, please pray the rosary. Even just a decade of a rosary. Even just the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be. Please pray for Christian brothers and sisters who suffer for their faith.

### 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](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk)

### Northern Cross

The Northern Cross, our diocesan newspaper, is a Registered Charity and a not-for-profit company, it is independent it receives no outside funding. It relies on sales and advertising to continue to share the news and views of the people in our diocese, which we have done continuously since 1956. There are a number of copies available free of charge for you to take. We hope reading it will whet your appetite and you will consider buying the paper in 2024

### St Oswald 100 Club Winners

#### Week 6.

<b>1st £15</b>	No.96. J. Relp
<b>2nd £5</b>	No.90. R Ayson
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> £5</b>	No.35. T. Musgrove

Every 10<sup>th</sup> week, there is  
an extra prize of £50.