

24th December 2017

Fourth Week of Advent

A Journey Towards Christmas

Peace

Light to guide
our feet into a
way of peace.

Luke 1:79

**Our Lady and St Aidan
& St Bernadette's
Parish Communities**

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Thank you, God of peace, for announcing the coming of peace on earth and for coming among us to make peace. Thank you for siding with the homeless, the refugee, the marginalized, the immigrant, the outsider, the disenfranchised, the imprisoned, the enemy. Thank you for being good news for the poor and the oppressed.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Christmas
Christmas Eve: Carols at 6.30pm First Mass of Christmas at 7.00pm (St Aidan's): Do come early!
Christmas Day: Mass at 10.00am (St Bernadette's)

This year our Christmas collections will support the work of De Paul working in the North East to support vulnerable homeless young people. De Paul provide a safe haven for young people who arrive at their door in freezing temperatures who for whatever reason have nowhere else to turn.

£12 can provide a night pack of nightwear and toiletries
£15 can provide a warm safe place to stay for the night
£30 can provide a life changing mentor who will help them get back on their feet

£100 can help them learn new skills that will help them work their way out of homelessness and poverty
Lets see how much we can help De Paul provide!

I would like to thank you all for your generous support of the Food bank in the weeks leading up to Christmas. You are always generous but last weekend you surpassed yourselves. I know that there will be many families in our local area whose celebration will be enhanced because of our generosity. THANK YOU

The Penitential Service held in St Edward's Church Whitely Bay during the week was well attended. Advent is never as popular a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as Lent. What did strike us as priests is the need for people to be confident that whatever they share during confession is held in the strictest confidence, Lent comes around early next year so you can expect more of these services to be held in the partnership.

New Years Day Mass will be at St Aidan's at 10.00am followed by refreshments in the parish room.

Always a good way to start the New Year for those who have not partied the night away!

Northern Catholic Calendars are now on sale at the back of both of our Churches. The Calendars contain a wealth of information providing a snapshot of the Diocese and what is going on. Cost £2.50

w/c 24th DEC	St Aidan's	St Bernadette's
Sunday	CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS AT 6.30PM MASS AT 7PM Dcd McElhone Family	
Monday		CHRISTMAS DAY 10am People of our Parish Communities
Tues 10.00am		BOXING DAY Michael Feely
Wed 10.00am	Special Intention	
Thurs 10.00am		Celebrants Intention
Fri 10.00am	Tracey O'Donnell	
Saturday	NO EVENING MASS	
Sunday	10.00 am Richard Devlin	11.30am William Edgar

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMES OF CHRISTMAS MASSES
AND
THE CHANGE IN MASS TIMES STARTING 31ST DECEMBER

It has been very encouraging to see the way in which parishioners at St Aidan's have responded to the need to reduce weekend Masses. It is important that the Saturday evening and Sunday morning congregations come together to celebrate at the new time of 10am. Regardless of which community you belong to—if you have never taken an active role in our celebration—now is a really good time to do so!

It was lovely to welcome the children and staff of St Aidan's school for their Carol Service on Wednesday afternoon, and St Bernadette's school for their Nativity on Wednesday evening. Our young people at both of our schools are very talented. Children have a special way of drawing out the meaning of Christmas in their telling of the story of the birth of Jesus.

There will be a meeting for parents of the children of our First Communion Programme on Tuesday 9th January at 6pm at St Aidan's. This meeting is for parents only, children are not expected to attend. The meeting is to discuss the children's celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation the date of which will be the 16th January.