

Christmas Masses at St Mary's and St Wilfrid's, Bishop Auckland.

Masses on Christmas Eve will be at 5.30pm at St Mary's and 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's. Christmas Morning Masses will be at 9.30am at St Wilfrid's and 11.00am at St Mary's. Both St Mary's Masses will be streamed on line and can be accessed via *St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube*.

Seating capacity in both churches is severely limited in compliance with Government, Health and Church social distancing requirements. St Mary's has only 48 individual places available and St Wilfrid's only 36. If individuals are from the same household or bubble, they can sit together. While we cannot compromise on safety, this will extend numbers slightly.

Anyone wishing to attend one of our four Christmas Masses will need to book a place. Further instructions are printed below, but please note the following:

Clearly we will be unable to accommodate all who will want to come.

No more than four places can be given to any family.

Pre-school children must sit on an adult's knee.

Stewards will facilitate entry and seating places in each church.

Regrettably stewards cannot allow entry to anyone who has not booked.

Each person may only book to attend one of the four Masses.

How to book

Ring St Mary's phonenumber (01388 603431) between the hours of 9.00am and 9.00pm on Thursday 17th or Friday 18th December. You must speak to someone in order to book. Seats and rows will be numbered and you will be allotted a place or places. Voice messages left will not be counted as bookings. You'll be helping us if you'll ring back if the phone is not answered. In a busy office we can't undertake to return calls about Christmas Masses.

We will have a seating plan. If we have space we'll give you a seat(s) at the church and Mass of your preferred choice. If this is not possible, we'll let you know what else may be available. When all places are taken, we'll have a standby list and will let you know should someone be unable to fill their booked place.

We will make the best decisions we can. You will appreciate we'll not be able to please everyone. If you can watch online, that may have to be our best alternative suggestion.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION AS WIDELY AS YOU CAN

It is important that as many people as possible know of these arrangements in order to avoid disappointment if individuals or groups arrive without knowing about booking a place.

Fr Dennis and the Parish Council