

Penitential Rite : We often use the 'Lord, have mercy/ Christ have mercy/ Lord, have mercy' option of the Penitential Rite at the beginning of mass. Might we try Option B for a few weeks until we get to know it?

PRIEST : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

PEOPLE : **For we have sinned against you.**

PRIEST : Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

PEOPLE : **And grant us your salvation.** [page 8 in mass books]

Pastoral letter : Today we have a letter from Bishop Stephen in which he reflects on 'Advent', speaks about the New Lectionary, and refers to the forthcoming Holy Year.

Christmas Quiz: We are to have our amazing quiz on **Thursday 5 December**, doors open from 7pm. Quiz starts at 7.30pm. Christmas jumpers at the ready! If you have any bottles for the bottle stall please take a bottle bag from the back of church. then return to St Mary's by Thursday.

Foodbank: If you are able to bring anything at all for the local food bank, it is always much appreciated. As the weather gets cooler it really can be a choice between food or heating. **This week we need tinned spaghetti and tinned vegetables.** A big thank you!

Contact details: Any more of those mauve coloured sheets to come in? If you haven't picked one up yet, please do so. They are to help me build up an up-to-date parish address book. If you don't fill in one of these then I won't know where you live!

- David Coxon

Carol Service: Yes, it is still just the very beginning of Advent but sometimes, in schools, they are trying to organise many things at the same time. So, our schools are planning to come together for a Carol Service this Wednesday evening (4th December) at 6.00pm. This will be at St Mary's. Parishioners are very welcome.

Laudato Si Group : Would you like to help to reduce the waste we create at Christmas? In December a large Christmas card will be placed in both St Mary's and St Wilfrid's churches. If you want to share Christmas greetings with friends in our parish, please add your name and wishes to the card instead of sending individual cards. A donation can be made to the SVP at the same time if you wish. Hopefully this will help to reduce some of the waste this year.

Christmas essentials : Please remember when buying wrapping paper and cards: avoid foil/ plastic wrap. If it crunches, it is paper and can be recycled. Avoid cards with glitter, foil and decorations. In both cases, remove ribbons, bows, tags, Sellotape or any

Please pray for the health of:

Mrs Aitken
Joan Lightfoot
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Robin Davis
Angela Graham
Frank Ridley
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Teresa Brown
Christina Marsh
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Mary Curry
Adam Quarmby
Eileen Kelly
John Green
Lynette Stott
Brenda Dawes
Jayne Littlefair



decorations before recycling. Check out this excellent special festive waste site at durham.gov.uk/christmas recycling

Advent reflections : Reflections for each day of Advent have been prepared by people from across our diocese. You can access these on-line: <https://bit.ly/DHNAdvent2024>.

Advent services : This is the first weekend in the Season of Advent. On the Sunday afternoons of Advent, at 4.30pm, we are to have a special service of reflection. Today, at St Wilfrid's, we will have a Service of Light. Next Sunday, at St Mary's, a Blue Christmas celebration. Both at 4.30pm. Everyone very warmly welcome to these services.

Weekday masses: This week we might start to have our weekday masses in the meeting room at St Mary's. It should be warmer than the church and we can also gather round together. Please come to the middle door between church door and presbytery. Perhaps we could also experiment with having our *Wednesday* parish mass in the small room at St Wilfrid's.

Northern Cross: The December edition of the 'Northern Cross' is hot off the press at the back of church at £1.50 with news from around the diocese. Please take a copy if you can.

Christmas Dinner: Parishioners are invited to St John's school on Tuesday, 17 December, from 12 noon—2.00pm. There will be a Christmas Dinner, a chat with students and a few Christmas carols. Parishioners are asked to contact the school directly [01388- 603246] by Monday 9 December if they wish to attend this lovely occasion. It will be free of charge, though donations to the school's Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be very welcome.

Bible Alive: Decembers copies of Bible Alive are now available at the back of church for those on the list. Price £1.50.

Christmas cards : In case you are wanting Fr Dennis Tindall's address:- St Hugh's Presbytery, 90, Staverton Road, Bilborough, Nottingham, NG8 4EX

Gift Aid : A parishioner who puts £5 on the plate each week can contribute an additional £65 to the parish if that parishioner signs a simple Gift Aid form. A GAD. All that is needed are a few pieces of info on one simple form AND of course the person must be paying tax. In this example £65 tax over the tax year, ie., £1.25 per week. In return, the parish gives you a nice shiny box of numbered envelopes, one per week, to put your donation in. No name on the envelope, just your unique number. We use the envelope to support the Gift Aid claim. If interested - talk to John Stockton (St Wilfrid) or Tony Murphy (St Mary).

Non-cash offerings : Did you know that more than 35 parishioners don't have to bother with cash to make their offerings to the parish. They sign up to pay (usually monthly) by bank transfer from their bank account to the parish account. A good system, saves a lot of cash handling. If interested see the usual suspects, John Stockton or Tony Murphy.

SVP200 Club : annual subscriptions of £12 to Zita by 15th December. Thanks

St Mary's Piety Shop: now have some Christmas cards, Advent calendars and small items for sale. Pop in and have a look.

St Mary's Christmas Dressing of windowsills: we will have sixteen of the large red candles for sale. They are £3 each and burn for a week. Would you like a candle named as a Family Remembrance Window? A card with the family name will be placed in the window. Only 16 will be available - so first come first served. See the sheet at the back of church. Many thanks.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 30 November <i>St Andrew, apostle.</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Lina & Luigi Quagliari</i> followed by confessions. 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For all who have died</i>
Sunday 1 December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> <i>(Year C)</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Deceased members of the</i> <i>Gabriele and Catchpole Families</i> 11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>Laura Rea & Mario Rea;</i> <i>Giovannone family; Norman & Phyllis Bayles.</i> 4.30pm at St Wilfrid's : <i>A Service of Light</i>
Monday 2 December	No Mass today 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm <i>Craft Club at St Mary's</i>
Tuesday 3 December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Private intention (M)</i> * <u>in meeting room</u>
Wednesday 4 December	10.00 am Mass <u>in mass room at St Wilfrid's:</u> <i>Holy Souls</i> 6.00pm : <i>Schools' Carol Service in St Mary's.</i>
Thursday 5 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Frs Kelly, Burke, O'Donnell</i> * <u>in meeting room</u>
Friday 6 December <i>St Nicholas</i>	8.15 am mass in St John's school chapel
Saturday 7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Birthday blessings</i> * <u>in meeting room</u> followed by confessions. 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Holy souls</i>
Sunday 8 December <i>Second Sunday of</i> <i>Advent</i> <i>(Year C)</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Oldfield and Teesdale families</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>For everyone in our parish.</i> 4.30pm at St Mary's: <i>Our Blue Christmas celebration</i>

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

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website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : e-mail: stmarystwilfrid.bishopauckland@diocesehn.org.uk

To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **1 December 2024**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

The Season of Advent

The word 'advent' means 'a coming'. In a Christian context this can refer to our coming closer to God or, more likely, God drawing closer to us. This is why, if you ask a child the significance of Advent, you will likely be told that Advent is our preparation for Jesus' birth at Christmas. That's right, surely?

Well, that is partly right. In fact, our season of Advent falls into two distinct parts. The second part of Advent begins on 17 December. It is a period of nine days leading up to Christmas and during these nine days we certainly take time to ponder the significance of Jesus' coming. This period offers us a novena of prayer - 'novena' in Latin and in other modern European languages means 'nine'. So far, the child's answer is correct.

Yet the first and main part of Advent is not about Jesus' birth at all. The Scripture readings in this first part of Advent focus on how, in ancient times, the prophets expressed a longing for what God could give to the people to change their lives. So, Isaiah dreams of how God will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, enough for all to be filled. The gospel that day presents the adult Jesus as feeding the crowd with bread and fish with more than enough to go around. There is a different theme each day, but generally the same pattern. In this first part of Advent, then, Jesus is presented as the one who fulfils the dreams and longings of the Old Testament peoples. Put simply: in Jesus, God is present for us.

David Coxon

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the Diocese's policies and procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Jeannie Hardy for St Mary's and Fiona Ottewell for St Wilfrid's or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Confession Times

St Mary's

Saturdays at
10.45-11.30
and by request.

St Wilfrid's

before
Sunday
Mass