

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 1 April	10.00 am Mass: <i>Private Intention</i> 10.30 am <i>Bulb and seed planting event at St Mary's</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's: <i>Margery Harrop</i>
Sunday 2 April <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Maeve Mooney</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i> 6.00 pm <i>Service of Forgiveness & Reconciliation at St Mary's</i>
Monday 3 April	No Mass 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm <i>Craft Group at St Mary's</i>
Tuesday 4 April	10.00 am Mass: <i>Ian Lloyd</i> 2.00 pm <i>Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's</i>
Wednesday 5 April	10.00 am Mass: <i>Health of Lorraine Brown</i>
Thursday 6 April <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>	7.00 pm <i>Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Wilfrid's</i>
Friday 7 April <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	3.00 pm <i>Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at St Mary's</i>
Saturday 8 April <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	8.30 pm <i>Easter Vigil Mass at St Mary's: People of the parish</i>
Sunday 9 April <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Special Intention</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>

Quote

"When Gandhi was asked what he thought of western civilisation, he replied "I think it would be a good idea"

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [2 April, 2023](#)

PALM SUNDAY

A prayer for Caiaphas

Lord, when I am very confident, when it is crystal clear and the die cast and when I stride life's path looking neither to left nor right, defeat me.

Pull the rug from under my feet, confound me.

For my hope rests in my undoing. Pity the upright man who has never stumbled. Have mercy on the sinner who has never sinned.

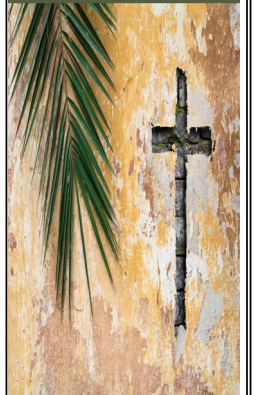
Bind up the wounds of the man who does not know he's wounded and turn round the runner who at the chequered flag reaches for the garland but has never seen the misery in his wake, the feet he has trodden on, the false paths he has travelled.

Possess me, for I am possessed.
Defeat me for I am defeated.
Confound me for I am confounded.

Only when I stop seeing myself and the grand tapestry of my own plans, will I see you as you are and myself as you would have me. Amen

- Stephen Cottrell (Archbishop of York)

Palm



Sunday

Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

This Holy Week - invites us to enter into what dying and rising again mean for us individually and collectively. The horrific death of Jesus and his wonderful resurrection should ideally stop us in our tracks to think about what God has done. For Jesus to put himself through such violence is the biggest signal I can think of to demonstrate how God gives himself totally to humanity - to the people he created and loves passionately. Can you imagine a bigger and more shattering message? God raising his Son out of death is telling us that death's finality is broken, smashed forever. Life after death is the new path we each will travel and will join those dear ones of ours who have gone before us. It's a week of strong messages. Have a happy Easter!

Holy Week times - Palm Sunday, 2nd April: Masses as usual.

Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation: 6pm at St Mary's

Holy Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm at St Wilfrid's

Good Friday: Solemn Celebration of the Passion 3pm at St Mary's

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil at 8.30pm at St Mary's

Easter Sunday: Masses as usual

Cost of living - There's shocking new research about Bishop Auckland. Funded by the 38 Degrees community, it reveals how the cost of living crisis is affecting every single constituency in Britain - including ours. From missing rent payments to being unable to afford heating, it tells a bleak story. **Here's how people are struggling in Bishop Auckland: 36% couldn't afford to turn the heating on when cold in the past month, 17% missed a rent payment in the last six months, 31% are worried about having to use a food bank in the next year and 44% of people's mental health has worsened due to the cost of living crisis. This is us. We must continue to help.**

Craft Club - Please note that there will be **no craft club on Monday 10 April.**

St Mary's Church Cleaning - As Easter is quite early this year we have decided to combine the March clean (Group 1 due to clean on 20th) to a **joint clean on Monday April 3rd.** If anyone not on our regular rota would like to come along and help it would make for much lighter work. We will then have a lovely clean church for the Holy Week ahead of us. All welcome - if your children are off school we have plenty of dusters and benches to polish. Many thanks.

Turkey-Syria Earthquake - This tragedy adds to an already desperate crisis. If you would like to donate, we'll send on any funds in your name to help with emergency food, water, shelter and winter kits such as blankets and heating materials. Thank you.

The Journey of Faith - many people do not join the Church because no one ever asks them. Is there anyone in your family or acquaintances to whom you might raise a question about whether they may be interested in learning more about faith, about God, about the Church?

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Norah Hutchinson
Robin Davis
Angela Graham
Frank Ridley
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Teresa Brown
Christina Marsh
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden
Mary Curry
Adam Quarmby
Alan Harrison
Eileen Kelly*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 50: 4-7	Ps 21	Philippians 2: 6-11	Luke 22: 23-56
Mon	Isaiah 42: 1-7	Ps 26	John 12: 1-11	
Tues	Isaiah 49: 1-6	Ps 70	John 13: 21-33, 36-38	
Wed	Isaiah 50: 4-9	Ps 68	Matthew 26: 14-25	
Thurs	Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14	Ps 115	1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	John 13: 1-15
Fri	Isaiah 52: 13-53:12	Ps 30	Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9	John 18: 1-19: 42
Sat	Romans 6: 3-11	Ps 117	Luke 24: 1-12	
Sun	Acts 10: 34, 37-43	Ps 117	Colossians 3: 1-4	John 20: 1-9

You could be a great help in making an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to enter and initiate a journey of faith in an individual's life. I'm always happy to help and to answer any questions.

The Big Cafod Walk - This year Cafod has set the Lent challenge of a walk, 200km over 40 days, to raise money to fight global poverty. As a parish we are frequently asking for support for local causes and other urgent needs of people. We appreciate the generosity of everyone, but if you feel you could support this appeal with whatever you could manage that would be great.

Easter Eggs - Along with St Wilfrid's we will be selling "The Real Easter Egg" made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company. Supermarkets are not allowing this egg to be sold in any stores this year, so as not to offer other competition to their main suppliers. Around 80 million eggs will be sold in this part of the world - yet this is the only egg that tells the Easter Story. By using Fairtrade chocolate they ensure producers get a fair price allowing them to improve their communities. The chocolate is palm oil free and no plastic used in the packaging. They are more expensive than many you can buy in a supermarket at £3.99 each - but in buying them we help others. Stock is limited so if you would like one please ask. Many thanks.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, UHT milk, sugar and tinned tomatoes. Help with funds for assisting with gas and electricity needs.** Anything you can do to help people with food, heating and lighting is a most practical way of showing love and humanity. Funds to help folks with heating are already urgent. Your help is invaluable. No one should be living in a house with no heating or be unable to put a light on, boil a kettle or warm up food. Thank you.

St. Mary's Easter Windowsills - Would you like to take a windowsill and decorate it using the Easter theme? You could do this on your own or with the family, a friend or a group. You could think of something along the many readings of Lent or theme it over the major Easter celebrations. You can produce your arrangement using recycled goods, hand made items or flowers. There are lots of ideas to be found online. We have sixteen spaces to fill, so put your name down on the list at the back of church. We will open the church 11am - 1pm on Easter Saturday for you to bring your contributions. Give it a try it's fun and makes our church look even more beautiful. Many thanks.