

**Right To Life** - Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Sign a postcard from the back of church and we'll post it to your MP in support of this amendment.

**Lent Extra** - copies of Lent Extra are on sale at the back of church at £2.50 each.

**The Faith Museum visit - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** - the list for this is now closed. We will meet in Auckland Tower at 11.00am on the day and we will then be guided to the Old Library where we will hear a talk from the Faith Museum Curator. Lunch will follow, and then we will be free to explore the museum at our leisure. It would be a great help if everyone could pay by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - the cost is £15 if you have an Auckland Project Annual Pass or £24.50 if you don't. It should be an interesting day.

**Fashion Show** - St John's sixth form students are holding a charity fashion show raising money for Cancer research. They would like as many people as possible from the St John's community to come and watch the show on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 - 8.30**, the price is £5 a ticket including a meal. If you would like to attend, you can purchase a ticket at main reception with cash or email [stjohns.bhccet.org.uk](mailto:stjohns.bhccet.org.uk) and reserve your seat and pay on the night.

**Laudato Si Group: Dates for your diary - Saturday 9th March** - we would like to invite parishioners to come along to our bulb planting and coffee/social morning at St Mary's from 10.30am to 12.30. We will be making paper plant pots and providing bulbs and compost to take home and plant in the garden or put in a planter.

**Sunday 24th March** come and take part in a walk and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Meet at St Wilfrid's church at 2 pm. Route will be fairly flat and suitable for casual walkers. Raise money to support CAFOD. Everyone is welcome. Why not consider taking part in the UK wide 'Big Plastic Count' between 11th- 17th March. Sign up to take part via the internet with the Big Plastic Count team by searching 'bigplasticcount'. You will be sent information to take part prior to the week.

**Pope Francis** recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, jam, small tins of meat and more bags for life. 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 fuel costs are already urgent. Your help is invaluable. No one should be living in a

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford  
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)  
Margaret Pattenden  
Mary Curry  
Adam Quarmby  
Eileen Kelly  
Senara Wilton*

**Please pray for  
LENA READER (78)  
who has died.**

**May she rest in  
peace**



**Scripture Readings** for this week's Masses:

Sun	Exodus 20: 1-17	Ps 18	1 Corinthians 1: 22-25	John 2: 13-25
Mon	2 Kings 5: 1-15	Ps 41	Luke 4: 24-30	
Tues	Daniel 3: 25, 34-43	Ps 24	Matthew 18: 21-35	
Wed	Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9	Ps 147	Matthew 5: 17-19	
Thurs	Jeremiah 7: 23-28	Ps 94	Luke 11: 14-23	
Fri	Hosea 14: 2-10	Ps 80	Matthew 12: 28-34	
Sat	Hosea 5: 15 - 6:6	Ps 50	Luke 18: 9-14	
Sun	2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23	Ps 136	Ephesians 2: 4-10	John 3: 14-21

house with no heating or be unable to put a light on, boil a kettle or warm up food.

**World Peace** - please have a space in your personal prayer for peace in the war zones of the world and for the plight of innocent children and civilians. Thank you.

**Pope Francis'** brilliant document on caring for creation (Laudato Si) is now 8 years old! Not enough has happened over this time so he has written a further document called Laudate Deum (meaning 'Praise God') about the climate crisis. We have some copies at £4.95 at the back of church.

**Age UK** - Tunes and Chat Community Café at St John's School on Friday 22 March at 1.30 to 2.30pm and every 4th Friday of each month. Enjoy live music whilst having a cuppa. This is a free event.

**Passover Meal** - we will be sharing the Passover Meal once again on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.00pm in St Wilfrid's Presbytery. As always, it gives us the opportunity to celebrate all that God has done for us with an occasion which is a unique mixture of the social and the spiritual. Numbers are limited - please get your ticket at St Wilfrid's or give Michael Broadbent a ring on 01388 488569. A contribution of £6.00 is asked to cover the cost of the meal.

**Wanted** - any unused or unwanted mug racks or kitchen roll holders. We are planning on using our many unused Christmas tree baubles and making window sill decorations for St Mary's. Many thanks.

**SVP 200 Club** - winning February numbers are 17 and 198.

**Summary of Listening Exercises, Result of Questionnaire and Bishop Stephen's Response**

On our diocesan website <https://diocesehn.org.uk/> you will find all the summaries from the various listening exercises that have been running since the summer of 2023, and the results of the Questionnaire for the Dicastery of Bishops Report from March 2023. These are together with Bishop Stephen's response to what has been presented to him. He reflects on the past, present and our future together. The documentation is necessarily lengthy. Too lengthy for a pastoral letter. If you wish to have hard copies of all or parts of the suite of documents, then please contact the parish office.

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 2 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Fr John Gibbons</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Sunday 3 March</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>People of the parish</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Ian Lloyd</i>
<b>Monday 4 March</b>	<b>No Mass</b> <b>10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</b> <b>1.00 pm Craft Club at St Mary's</b>
<b>Tuesday 5 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Maureen and John Nicholson</i> <b>2.00 pm Funeral Service for LENA READER at Wear Valley Crematorium</b>
<b>Wednesday 6 March</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 7 March</b> <i>SS Perpetua and Felicity</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass:</b> <i>Agnes and Michael Coleman</i> <b>11.00 am Faith Museum Visit</b>
<b>Friday 8 March</b> <i>St John of God</i>	<b>8.15 Mass in St John's School Chapel</b> <b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i> <b>6.30 pm Stations of the Cross at St Helen's Church</b>
<b>Saturday 9 March</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Paddy Cosgrove</i> <b>10.30—12.30 pm Laudato Si Coffee Morning and bulb planting at St Mary's</b> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 10 March</b> <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Peter Maria Chu Sinh</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Vasey, Hogg and Cruddace Families</i>

**Quote:**

*"Christians are made, not born"*  
- **St Jerome**

## The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

Fr Dennis Tindall, St Mary's, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6PQ Tel: (01388) 603431

website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : Bulletin e-mail: office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk

To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **3 March, 2024**

# 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

### Pick and Mix

Robert Burns was well aware of the wreckage which he so often made of life. 'My life', he said, 'reminded me of a ruined temple; what strength, what proportion in some parts, what unsightly gaps, what ruin in others.'

Rev. Studdert Kennedy describes the feelings of a soldier in the First World War. The public tried to treat him as a hero; the padre insisted on treating him as a hell-deserving sinner.

One padre says I'm a sinner,  
and John Bull says I'm a saint,  
and they're both of them bound to be liars,  
for I'm neither of them; I ain't.  
I'm a man, and a man's a mixture,  
right down from his very birth, for part of him comes from heaven,  
and part of him comes from earth.  
There's nothing in him that's perfect;  
There's nothing that's all complete.  
He's nobbut a great beginning  
From his head to the soles of his feet.

Every one well knows that they're a mixture. We know that we are capable at one time of an almost saintly goodness, and at another time of an almost devilish evil. We know that at one time we are capable of an almost sacrificial kindness, and at another of an almost heartless callousness. We know that sometimes the vision of goodness fills our horizon, and that other times the unclean and evil desire has us at its mercy. We are part ape and part angel.

- William Barclay



### Confession Times

St Mary's

**Saturdays at  
10.45-11.30  
and by request.**