

**Annual Parishioners' Christmas Lunch** - St John's ask us to join them on Tuesday 19 December from 11.45 to 2 pm for Christmas lunch. This event is free of charge, however they are raising funds to support the Pilgrimage to Lourdes so any donations will be gratefully received. **RSVP by 11 December on 03188 603246.** Please see poster at back of church.

**Bishop Auckland Baptist Church** are offering free food and festive fun on Christmas Day from 12 noon until 3pm. To book a place please call **01388 450838 before 3pm on Thursday 14 December.** Please see poster at the back of church for more details.

**From Darkness to Light** - today at 4.30pm in St Wilfrid's we will celebrate what has traditionally been known as the Lucernarium, when we use music, readings and prayers to reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ as light into a dark world. All are welcome, and refreshments will be served afterwards (contributions gratefully received!)

**St. Mary's Piety Shop** now has Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, Chocolate and Small Christmas items for sale.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week.

**The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, UHT milk and good quality 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 house with no heating or be unable to put a light on, boil a kettle or warm up food. Winter temperatures will drop. Thank you.

**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. More are on order.

**Advent Extra** copies are now available at £2.00—great value and price.

**St. Mary's Christmas Church Clean and Decoration** - will be done on Friday 22nd December after 10am Mass. Could you spare us half an hour or an hour to prepare our beautiful church for Christmas. We need cleaners and those who could decorate the altar trees. Bring the children along - all are welcome. It's a much easier and quicker task with a few more bodies. Many thanks.

**CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT** with a bottle stall on 7 December. Please pencil the date in your diary. **Can we also ask if you have any spare bottles for the stall could you bring them to either St Mary's or St Wilfrid's.** Many thanks.

**Marie Curie Nursing** - have gladly arranged an evening in St Mary's when we'll enjoy the music of Durham Police Brass Band on Friday 8 December

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  
Joan Vasey  
Patrick Fogarty*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64:1, 3-8	Ps 79	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9	Matthew 13: 33-37
Mon	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Ps 121	Matthew 8: 5-11	
Tues	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Ps 71	Luke 10: 21-24	
Wed	Isaiah 25: 6-10	Ps 22	Matthew 15: 29-37	
Thurs	Isaiah 26: 1-6	Ps 117	Matthew 7: 21, 24-27	
Fri	Genesis 3: 9-15, 20	Ps 97	Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12	Luke 1: 26-38
Sat	Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26	Ps 146	Matthew 9: 35-10:1, 6-8	
Sun	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11	Ps 84	2 Peter 3: 8-14	Mark 1: 1-8

at 7.30pm. Seasonal refreshments will be provided. If you're ready for a night out, come and join us. Adults £7.50, children £1 and it's pay on the door.

**Bible Alive** – December's copies are available at the back of church. Please collect yours if you ordered a monthly copy. Tick against your name on the list for November. £1.50. Thank you.

**The Faith Museum** – is the stunning new building at Auckland Castle. It has opened now. This new asset to Bishop Auckland will explore the many ways faith has shaped lives and communities across Britain. There are four galleries with displays and changing exhibitions. It houses over 250 objects from across the UK, some national treasures and personal mementos. The museum's story begins 6000 years ago, taking visitors on a journey through time, considering the ways faith has shaped our lives throughout history and continues to do so. Plan to visit sometime in the Autumn. Tickets can be booked in advance. We hope to arrange a group visit.

**SVP Club** - if you are a member your £12 subscription (for one number for the year) is now due for 2024. If you would like to join as a new member you are very welcome. For more details of the club please see the poster on the left side notice board as you enter church. Please give your money to Zita or leave it in an envelope clearly marked. Many thanks.

**Thank you from Significance** - The Trustees of Significance thank everyone who supported the Grand Draw and all those who donated prizes. 1,606 tickets were sold which realised £8,030. The funds raised will help Significance to continue to support the Emmaus Village and provide opportunities for young people to recognise their own worth and value. Congratulations to all our winners: Danielle Dowson (St John's Catholic School, Bishop Auckland), Jamie Adams (St Mary's Cathedral), Sr Hilda (Oaklea Convent), Sarah Boyd (Dunston, Gateshead).

**Vocations Alert** - "Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."

Is the Lord awakening you or anyone you know to consider a vocation to the priesthood? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299012 or vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

**The Northern Cross** - the new Northern Cross is available today.

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 2 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Sheila Stobbs</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 3 December</b> <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Eileen Relton</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Gosia and Jan Kucharski</i> 4.30 pm Service of Light at St Wilfrid's
<b>Monday 4 December</b>	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm <i>Craft Club at St Mary's</i>
<b>Tuesday 5 December</b>	No Mass
<b>Wednesday 6 December</b> <i>St Nicholas</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Breda Sheridan</i>
<b>Thursday 7 December</b> <i>St Ambrose</i>	9.00 am Mass: <i>Paul Mary Chu Sinh</i> 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm Christmas Quiz and Raffle
<b>Friday 8 December</b> <i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</i>	8.15 am Mass in St John's School Chapel 10.00 am Mass: <i>Ian Lloyd</i>
<b>Saturday 9 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Fr Harry Ryan</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 10 December</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Arthur Oldfield and Wilfred Teesdale</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Jason King</i> 6.00 pm Blue Christmas Service at St Mary's

**Quote:**

"It's discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit"

- Noel Coward

## The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **3 December, 2023**

# 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### An Advent Prayer

*Wilderness is the place of Moses, a place of no longer captive and not yet free, of letting go and learning new living.*

*Wilderness is the place of Elijah, a place of silence and loneliness, of awaiting the voice of God and finding clarity.*

*Wilderness is the place of John, a place of repenting, of taking first steps on the path of peace.*

*Wilderness is the place of Jesus, a place of preparation, of getting ready for the reckless life of faith.*

*We thank you God, for the wilderness.*

*Wilderness is our place.*

*As we wait for the land of promise,*

*teach us ways of new living,*

*lead us to where we hear your word most clearly,*

*renew us and clear out the wastelands of our lives,*

*prepare us for life in the awareness of Christ's coming*

*when the desert will sing and the wilderness*

*will blossom as the rose.*

- Francis Brienon



### Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.