

Special days - it seems that just about every day of the year is nominated as a special day to focus on something or other. Next Sunday, 11 February, is normally the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and it's a day of prayer for all sick people. It's also nominated as a day of prayer for unemployed people.

The Second Collection - today is for the Diocese's Lay Training Fund to support courses the diocese arranges and to help those attending. Thank you for any help you can give.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. Copies of Lent Extra are on sale at the back of church at £2.75 each. For those who have ordered Bible Alive, your January copy takes you through to the start of Lent. February's issue will be available next week.

The Faith Museum visit - we have arranged a visit for Thursday 7th March. The Curator will give us a talk at 11.30 in the library and we'll then have lunch there and head into the museum after that. Cost of the talk and lunch will be £15 - entry to the museum is £9.50, but free if you have an Auckland Project Annual Pass (worth getting!). There's a list at the back of each church - please sign up if you are interested as numbers are limited.

The Northern Cross for February is on sale today. £1.50. What a bargain!

Calling all Grandparents - I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that we could have a Service of Blessing for Grandparents and asked for a few grandparents who would meet with me to talk about what would be useful in such a Service. I had only one volunteer and am hoping for 2-3 others. This could be an enjoyable celebration and so, if you'd be interested please do have a word. Thanks.

Lent - is coming up fast. Ash Wednesday is 14th February this year. In our commercial world St Valentine's Day will be more important to some! But it makes sense to begin thinking now about how you'd like to spend the 6 weeks or so of Lent. Talk to yourself (or others) about whether you routinely do the same thing each Lent and quiz yourself (maybe to share with others) about what it means to you and what you get from it. It needs to involve prayers. Why not also consider coming to weekday Mass if you can? It's an excellent way of learning more about Mass and what God may be doing in your life. It's not too early to start thinking. Thanks.

Pope Francis recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it. Various invitations are under way to provide and suggest ways and routines of praying and there will be others coming from the diocese. You may be

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
John Green*

Please pray for

**CATHLEEN RITSON (84)
and
MAUREEN NICHOLSON
(85)**

**who have died.
May they rest in**



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7	Ps 146	1 Corinthians 9: 6-19, 22-23	Mark 1:29-39
Mon	1 Kings 8: 1-7, 9-13	Ps 131	Mark 6: 53-56	
Tues	1 Kings 8: 22-23, 27-30	Ps 83	Mark 7: 1-13	
Wed	1 Kings 10: 1-10	Ps 36	Mark 7: 14-23	
Thurs	1 Kings 11: 4-13	Ps 105	Mark 7: 24-30	
Fri	1 Kings 11: 29-32, 12: 19	Ps 80	Mark 7: 31-37	
Sat	1 Kings 12: 26-32, 13:33-34	Ps 105	Mark 8: 1-10	
Sun	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46	Ps 31	1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1	Mark 1:40-45

interested in accessing an online site from the Jesuits which gives you a prayer time each day. It's called Pray As You Go, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly while travelling to and from work, study etc. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Lasting 10-13 minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflections. Download the Pray As You Go app.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, sugar, pasta sauce, small tins of meat, tinned potatoes 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 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.

Saving food from Landfill - The Bread and Butter thing (charity). Go on their website and it will explain about being a member. It's free to join. It isn't about benefits, its about saving food wastage. Anyone can join. 3 bags of food for £8.50.

Big Chef Little Chef - run by volunteers, again its about saving food from landfill. The Community Hub, LCBC, 11 Selby Close, Bishop Auckland DL14 9ED opens Monday to Thursday. Telephone 07507 666805 for more information.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 3 February <i>St Blaise</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Audrey Hartley</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 4 February <i>5th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Special Intentions</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>
Monday 5 February	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm: Craft Group at St Mary's
Tuesday 6 February	1.30 Mass in St Chad's School
Wednesday 7 February	10.00 am Mass: <i>Mary Freney</i>
Thursday 8 February	10.00 am Mass: <i>Margaret Brown</i>
Friday 9 February	8.15 am Mass in St John's School Chapel No Mass in church 1.00 pm Funeral Service at St Wilfrid's for MAUREEN NICHOLSON
Saturday 10 February <i>St Scholastica</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>The Ottewell Family</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Marie Green & Margaret Parry</i>
Sunday 11 February <i>6th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>

Quote:

"How fortunate for leaders that people do not think"
- Adolf Hitler

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **4 February, 2024**

5th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

A MUM'S LIFE (continued)

*Would you watch what your doing?
Move your glass. It's too close to the edge.
Watch it!
More, please. That's better.
You don't always get what you want. That's life.
Don't argue with me. I'm not discussing this any more.
Go to your room.
No, ten minutes are not up.
How many times have I told you, don't do that.
Is your homework done?
I'll think about it.
Not now.
Ask you father.
We'll see.
Don't sit so close to the TV, it's bad for your eyes.
Calm down.
Is that the truth?
I'm sorry that's the rule. I'm sorry that's the rule.
I'm sorry that's the rule.*

- Delia Ephron



Confession Times

St Mary's

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