

This week

Day/Date	Services & meetings
Saturday 3 December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Teresa Hall</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Mick and Shirley Degnan</i>
Sunday 4 December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Mary Curry's recovery</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>
Monday 5 December	No Mass 10.00 am - <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm - <i>Craft Group in St Mary's meeting room</i> 2.00 pm - <i>Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's</i>
Tuesday 6 December <i>St Nicholas</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Antony Bertucci</i>
Wednesday 7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Thanksgiving</i>
Thursday 8 December <i>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Maureen Nicholson</i> 7.00 pm <i>Christmas Quiz</i>
Friday 9 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Ian Lloyd</i>
Saturday 10 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Hugh Ottewell's birthday</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 11 December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Kenny Clarkson</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>Joan and Bernard Hannon</i>

Quote

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me"
- C. S Lewis

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [4 December, 2022](#)

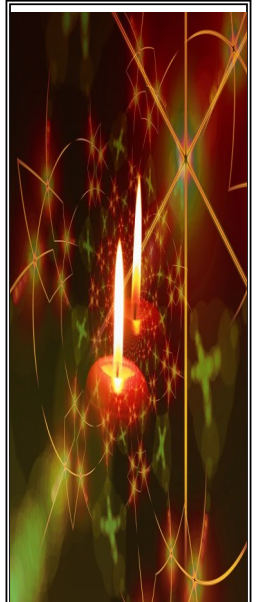
2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

LET YOUR GOD LOVE YOU

BE SILENT.
ALONE
EMPTY.
BEFORE YOUR GOD.
SAY NOTHING.
ASK NOTHING.
BE SILENT.
BE STILL.
LET YOUR GOD LOOK UPON YOU.
THAT IS ALL.
GOD KNOWS.
GOD UNDERSTANDS.
GOD LOVES YOU
WITH AN ENORMOUS LOVE,
AND ONLY WANTS
TO LOOK UPON YOU
WITH THAT LOVE.
QUIET.
STILL.
BE.

LET YOUR GOD - LOVE YOU.

- EDWINA GATELEY



Confession Times St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Christmas Masses - will be as last year:

Christmas Eve: No morning Mass, 5.30 pm St Mary's and 7.30 pm St Wilfrid's.

Christmas Day: 9.30 am St Wilfrid's, and 11.00 am St Mary's.

All Christmas Masses will be offered for the People of the parish and world peace.

Churches with warm spaces during winter - The Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches have made arrangements to have safe and warm places where individuals can come to socialize over a cuppa and biscuits.

Woodhouse Close Church, Proudfoot Drive, DL14 6PD - open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30 am to 2.30pm.

The Parish Centre, Middlewood Avenue, St Helen's, DL14 9DJ - the lounge is open on Tuesdays from 10am - 3pm and Thursdays from 11am - 2pm.

The Ark - at the back of St Helen's Church DL14 9DN—open on a Wednesday from 10.30am to 4pm.

Bishop Auckland Baptist Church, Cockton Hill Road, DL14 6AH, from week beginning 31st October their Church will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am - 3pm, Thursdays—Wellbeing Café, from 9.30am including a light lunch from 12.30pm.

St Mary's Catholic Church, Vart Road, DL14 6PQ—Thursdays and Fridays 11am to 2 pm.

Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, Cockton Hill Road, DL14 6DN, Monday and Fridays 10—3 pm.

Coffee morning/Warm Space - Thursdays and Fridays in St Mary's Meeting Room 11am—2pm. Please see the helpers rota at the back of church. Any problems ring Zita on 01388 604926 or 07722219173.

Christmas Dinner will be provided again at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, courtesy of our Fellowship of Christian Churches. This is for anyone who will be alone this Christmas. Please ring 01388 450838 to book by 15 December. Please spread the word. Thank you.

Christmas Quiz this **Thursday 8 December** in St Mary's meeting room. Doors open at 7pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm, to get us all in the mood please wear a Christmas jumper! If you have any spare bottles please bring them on the night for the bottle raffle. Thank you.

St John's School and Sixth Form College, Parishioners Christmas Lunch - we warmly invite you to attend our parishioners Christmas lunch, which will take place on Tuesday 13 December. Arrival from 11.45am, lunch served at 12pm with departure at 2pm. Please be aware that onsite parking is limited and there are parking restrictions in place on Woodhouse Lane. We hope you are able to attend and we look forward to seeing you once again. Please RSVP by Tuesday 7 December by calling 01388 603246 or email: admin@stjohns.bhccet.org.uk

CAFOD's World Gifts Catalogue for 2022/2023 is available to be picked up free from the back of church. They note that we should order by 15 December, free delivery for Christmas. Do take one today.

SVP - would like to thank Melvyn Relton for donating his Great North Run sponsorship monies to the parish SVP groups to help us with our ongoing works.

SVP at the two churches are very grateful for our parishioners support for the "Cake Bake" recently. The amount raised was over £200 in total and many thanks are due to those who baked, and spent so generously. Thanks also to those who manned the "stalls", which was not only SVP members. The amount raised will help us to carry out plans to help some of our needy brothers and sisters in the coming month.

St. Mary's Christmas Church Clean and Decoration - We will be doing our church clean on Wednesday 21st December after the 10am morning Mass. If you have a spare hour or two please come along and help clean and decorate our beautiful church for the celebration of Christmas. If the children are off school they can dust and polish with the reward of something sweet at the end. Hope to see some of you there - many hands make like work. Thank you.

HOLY ISLAND VINNIES CAMP 2022-23 URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS - Have you got some time spare to help out our Term Time Camp? We urgently need volunteers to work in the kitchen or do a bit of cleaning/ caretaking at Holy Island Camp, washing dishes, serving food and clearing /cleaning the dining hall. We cannot offer glamour but we can offer friendship and a worthwhile cause to help. Term Time Camps take place between Easter and the Summer Holidays and then September and October. Commitment involves training, a DBS check and the choice of anything from a few days to a week helping on the beautiful island itself. We also need volunteers to work as part of a team of helpers to supervise and look after children, taking part in our weekly holidays over July and August. Volunteers would help organise activities and supervise the care of the children, aged between 9 and 12. Again, very little glamour, and

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
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
Billy Teague*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Ps 71	Romans 15: 4-9	Matthew 3: 1-12
Mon	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Ps 84	Luke 5: 17-26	
Tues	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Ps 95	Matthew 18: 12-14	
Wed	Isaiah 40: 25-31	Ps 102	Matthew 11: 28-30	
Thurs	Genesis 3: 9-15, 10	Ps 97	Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12	Luke 1: 26-38
Fri	Isaiah 48: 17-19	Ps 1	Matthew 11: 16-19	
Sat	Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-4, 9-11	Ps 79	Matthew 17: 10-13	
Sun	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10	Ps 145	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11

admittedly tiring, but so worthwhile! Commitment is for training, a DBS check and a week on the island. All roles can be applied for, in November 2022 on line at <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/> where there is also much more information. We hope to meet you soon!

Care for Creation - the wonder and drama of space, galaxies, planets and stars is mind-bending. We may be fascinated by the sheer numbers and dimensions of what's going on in our own galaxy and beyond in the whole cosmos - it's all God's creation. Our part is to look after and responsibly protect our Earth. We've damaged it severely and it needs our deliberate intervention.

The Laudato Si group are planning to hold a food/cookery event as part of this year's Season of creation. If anyone has any expertise in cookery or recipe ideas and would like to be involved in a small group of us, please get in touch via email - jeanniemariehardy@gmail.com or with Eileen Thornton at St Mary's.

From the Parish Laudato Si Group (Care of Our Common Home)

As we are now moving into the season of Advent and preparation for Christmas, we would like to ask parishioners to consider your purchases and if possible reduce buying plastic packaging.

The Facts about plastic:

- 1 Plastic pollution is a huge problem and made worse by excess consumption
- 2 Microplastics are being found in food and have been detected in human blood.
- 3 A truck load of plastic enters the ocean every single minute and the UK produces more waste per person than almost any other country. Also, Christian Aid is campaigning to support the funding for countries devastated by the climate changes. We will be placing a small Christmas tree (and poster) at the back of each church and a prayer person template to write on. We would like to ask people to write a prayer supporting this work and place it on the tree during the season of Advent.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, tinned carrots, Christmas puddings and chocolate. 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.

Recipes - During the covid pandemic we received recipes from parishioners and have been planning to put them together into a booklet to be shared. We would also like people to send in and share any recipes which they have that would include 'cheap and nutritional' ingredients. We are aware that many people are struggling with money worries and it would be good to offer ideas that may help stretch family budgets.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023 Can you help the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year? We need nurses, healthcare assistants, doctors and volunteers to provide care to the assisted pilgrims who travel with us. Previous helpers have found it is a rewarding and spiritually uplifting week. We plan to travel on Friday 28th July. If you would like to find out more information please email or look at our website <https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/> or email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk

Catholics in hospital - The Hospital Trust for our region has renewed all its computerised patient infrastructure and, as a result, chaplains no longer have access to lists of patients by religion or denomination. This is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future and means that Father Paul Tully, our Catholic Chaplain based at Durham will only discover Catholic patients by chance unless they are referred to him from their parish or family. A Catholic in Durham hospital will need to ask for Fr Paul Tully or in our other hospitals to ask for a Catholic priest if they want a visit and the sacraments. You can let Fr Dennis know also.