

Thank you to everyone who organised and supported our Advent liturgies and to all who prepared our churches in any way for our Christmas masses. On a personal note, I want to thank you all for the very warm welcome extended to me since my arrival in the parish in September, and a further thank you to all who were kind enough to give me cards, and even gifts, this Christmas. All of this is much appreciated. Thank you. - David Coxon

Penitential Rite : We often use the '*Lord, have mercy/ Christ have mercy/ Lord, have mercy*' option of the Penitential Rite at the beginning of mass. Might we try Option B for a few weeks until we get to know it?

PRIEST : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

PEOPLE : **For we have sinned against you.**

PRIEST : Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

PEOPLE : **And grant us your salvation.** [page 8 in mass books]

Foodbank: Thank you for what you feel able to bring in for our food bank, week after week. If you are able to bring anything at all, it is always much appreciated. As the weather gets cooler it really can be a choice between food or heating. **This week we are hoping for small tins of meat and coffee.** A big thank you!

Today's retiring collection: This being the first weekend of the month, our retiring collection is for Racial Justice.

Thoughts from a newcomer: Whenever I arrive new to a parish I think it is courtesy to observe and to learn. However, after four months with you, might I suggest a few things for our masses? First, I never think it to be a good idea for people to be 'moving' during prayers so perhaps those who are readers could wait till the opening prayer is finished before leaving their seats to go up to the lectern. Similarly, maybe those people leading the intercessions could wait until we have finished the creed before going to the lectern - and then wait until after the priest's conclusion before returning to their seat. It is also good during the intercessions to give us the 10 seconds of silence since it is actually the silence when we do our praying. The reader's part in the intercessions is simply to offer us the theme for which we are to pray! Then, our Holy Communion ministers: rather than approach the altar while a prayer is being said, perhaps come forward during the sign of peace when there is already movement in the body of the church. Then, a health and safety point: while ministers do already sanitise their hands when they arrive on the sanctuary, it can be good practice to sanitise hands again before distributing the hosts to others. Finally, other priests may not do this but I always tend to hold up the Book of Gospels to say 'The Gospel of the Lord'. Perhaps remain standing until I lower the book? Thank you very much. - David Coxon

Please pray for the health of:

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
Mary Curry
Adam Quarmby
Eileen Kelly
John Green
Lynette Stott
Brenda Dawes
Jayne Littlefair

Please pray for
JANE HARDY (52)

Who has died.
May she rest in peace



Northern Cross: The January edition of the 'Northern Cross' is available at the back of church this weekend at £1.50 with news from around the diocese.

Several feasts : During the Christmas season we celebrate several feasts. Obviously, there is the 25 December (the birth of Jesus). Then, last weekend, the feast of the Holy Family. On Wednesday, New Year's day, we celebrated the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Then, today, the feast of the Epiphany. Finally, the Baptism of the Lord next week.

Two requests : 1. If you are wanting a mass intention for a particular day, perhaps you could let us know at least two or three weeks in advance, and in which church you want the mass. 2. If possible, could you let us know as soon as you can in the week if you want an item included in our parish bulletin. If items arrive when we are about to print then it often means we need to take out some other item so as to squeeze it in.

Laudato Si Group meeting: will take place in the meeting room on Wednesday 8th January at 6.30 pm.

Jubilee 2025: Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we opened the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen celebrated the opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Craft group : Next meeting in St. Mary's meeting room will be on Monday 6th January.

'Northern Catholic Calendar' 2025 : This book offers (**almost**) up-to-date information about parishes, schools, convents and clergy across our diocese. Available today at £3.50

White Flower appeal : Sometimes women opt for an abortion because they feel trapped and can see no other solution. The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child seeks to offer support, and also to put pressure on governments to protect the lives of the unborn. This is the purpose of the White Flower appeal. Next weekend we will have an opportunity to support this in a retiring collection.

New Year's Day: We usually get very few at our weekday masses which is one of the reasons why we use the smaller rooms. It was suggested that we probably wouldn't get many more people on New Year's Day. However, people just kept coming! We probably had over 30 people in St Mary's meeting room for mass. A great way to begin 2025!

Finding out more: One or two people who are not Catholic have recently asked the possibility of finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe. I'm just wondering if anyone else might be interested. -DC

Bible Alive: January copies of Bible Alive are available at the back of church for those on the list. Price £1.50.

Please pray for for Jane Hardy who died in hospital on 27 December. Jane is the daughter of Margaret Kirby. Her funeral service will be at St Mary's church at 1.30pm on Thursday, 16th January. Also, one of our diocese's priests, Fr Kevin Cummins, died on 12 December.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 4 January	* No morning mass or confessions today. 5.30pm mass : Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Sunday, 5 January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : For everyone in our parish 11.00am mass at St Mary's : Tommy & Veronica Loye
Monday 6 January	No Mass today 10.00 am : Holy Communion Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00pm: Craft Club in St Mary's meeting room
Tuesday 7 January	10.00am : Intentions of Fr George Woodhall
Wednesday 8 January	10.00 am Mass (at St Wilfrid's): Maureen & John Nicholson 6.30pm : Laudato Si group in parish meeting room
Thursday 9 January	10.00am mass : Holy Souls
Friday 10 January	8.15am mass in St John' school chapel
Saturday 11 January	* No morning mass or confessions today. 5.30pm mass : John Watson Harrop
Sunday, 12 January	9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : Richard & Marion Brownless ; Joanne Dinsley (for a successful operation) 11.00am mass at St Mary's : Bridie Clinton

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [5 January 2025](#)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Read this poem carefully

Refugees

*They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These people are just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way*

Brian Bilston

Now read it again, starting with the bottom line
and working up to the top.

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the Diocese's policies and procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Jeannie Hardy for St Mary's and Fiona Ottewell for St Wilfrid's or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Confession Times

St Mary's
Saturdays at
10.30-11.00
and by request.

St Wilfrid's
before
Sunday
Mass