

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 4 September <i>The Translation of St Cuthbert</i>	10 am Mass: <i>Ian Lloyd</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Fr Joe Tynan & Rita Desai</i>
Sunday 5 September <i>23rd Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Ida Herbert</i>
Monday 6 September	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer
Tuesday 7 September	9.45 am Mass: <i>Joe and Irene Connolly</i> 6.30 pm Finance Meeting
Wednesday 8 September BIRTHDAY of OUR LADY	10 am: <i>Margery Harrop</i> 7pm Partnership Development Group
Thursday 9 September	10.00 am Mass: <i>Fr Bill O'Gorman</i>
Friday 10 September	10.00 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Saturday 11 September	10 am Mass: <i>Remembering 9/11</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Jim Arthurs and Christine Bestford</i>
Sunday 12 September <i>24th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Intentions of Shirley Wallis</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Mick and Shirley Degnan</i>

Quote:

“Those who dream by day are aware of many things which escape those who dream only by night” -
- *Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)*

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 [5 September 2021](#)

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY of the YEAR

NOTHING MERELY HAPPENED

.....Everything is created. Everything carries within its form and texture the signature of its Creator. No part of this material world is unconnected with God; every cell is in the organism of salvation. Biblical religion cannot be lived apart from matter - the seen, felt, tasted, smelled and listened to creation.

It is all, precisely, *creation*. Nothing merely happened along, cherries and tundra and weasels are not random accidents. Since everything is by design, no part of creation can be bypassed if we intend to live in the fullest possible relation to our Creator in his creation. None of it is an inconvenience that we are forced to put up with. Nothing is a stumbling block introduced by the devil to trip the feet of those whose eyes are piously lifted in praise to God. Creation is our place for meeting God and conversing with him. The voice that spoke dinosaurs and whales into being is the same voice that says 'your sins are forgiven', and invites us to call upon him in the day of trouble. External and internal are the same reality. Heaven and earth are formed by a single will of God.

We take box seats in this creation theatre when we pray. We look around. The mountains are huge, heaving their bulk upwards. The streams spill across the rocks, giving extravagant light shows under the hemlocks. The lakes fill up with sky, on earth as it is in heaven. A lion rips its prey. A sparrow builds its nest. An infant drinks her fill of breakfast from her mother's breast. Matter is real. Flesh is good.

- *Eugene H. Peterson*

Copies of the weekly bulletin, the Partnership Note and any other handouts are available in a plastic storage box at the door of St Mary's and St Wilfrid's presbyteries. Please take what you need.

Following government advice, and that from our Bishops, church will be open for private prayer and for Mass. See this bulletin for details. We continue to take the safest measures we can. Please do your best to stay safe.

Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Sunday Mass obligation - when Covid and lockdowns came, churches were closed, individuals vulnerable by health or age were cautioned to stay indoors, remain safe and protect themselves from possible exposure to the virus which was spreading dangerously. Sunday Mass obligation, our expression of the 3rd Commandment about keeping the Sabbath day holy, the backbone of Catholic worship, was suspended. Sundays have been radically changed by commercialism and other factors but the obligation remained. In fact, in an increasingly secular world it's more relevant and important than ever.

Our Bishops intend to restore the Sunday Mass obligation from this coming Advent - the end of November onwards.

Many have got out of our Sunday (or Saturday vigil) Mass habit, and, sadly many no longer give it the seriousness which it has never lost. To give God an hour or so of worship once a week is not asking much for most people and should be considered as a basic requirement.

Streaming of Masses has been a great help for many and will continue, but it's no substitute for expressing Communion with the Lord and communion with the living community of the Church and the parish.

I mention the restart of the obligation now so that we can begin to prepare for attending Mass again. Vaccinations have helped greatly but have not dismissed the possibility of infection. The layout of our churches may change again and we'll let you know. I'll give you more information when we have it. In the meantime, let's give thought to what Communion and community means as we prepare carefully to celebrate more together again - as safely as possible. Covid has affected us all and we'll have to live with it wisely and carefully from here onwards. I'll keep you posted.

New Foodbank note - the foodbank is now accepting food items once again but we have an excess of some items and a shortage of others. We'd love you to help with: **small tins of meat, long life milk, jars of jam, coffee, bars of chocolate (most supermarkets do their own brand for about 35p perfectly good chocolate!)** Food can still be handed in at St Mary's and St Wilfrid's. As

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Monica Fuller
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Maureen Nicholson
Norah Hutchinson
Robin Davis
Angela Graham
Stephen Gregory
Frank Ridley
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Teresa Brown
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 35: 4-7	Ps 145	James 2: 1-5	Mark 7: 31-37
Mon	Colossians 1: 24-2:3	Ps 61	Luke 6: 6-11	
Tues	Colossians 2: 6-15	Ps 144	Luke 6: 12-19	
Wed	Micah 5: 1-4	Ps 12	Matthew 1: 1-16, 18-23	
Thurs	Colossians 3: 12-17	Ps 150	Luke 6: 27-38	
Fri	1 Timothy 1: 1-2, 12-14	Ps 15	Luke 6: 39-42	
Sat	1 Timothy 1: 15-17	Ps 112	Luke 6: 43-49	
Sun	Isaiah 50: 5-9	Ps 114	James 2: 14-18	Mark 8: 27-35

always, money to help with gas and electricity need is a godsend. The ending of furlough and the end of the £20 addition to Universal Credit will cause severe problems. Let's see what we can do. Enormous thanks.

Red Mission boxes - It's time for your box to be brought to church for emptying please. If you don't have a box at home and would like one, just let me know. For the last 3 months St Wilfrid's boxes have raised £292.41 and St Mary's 232. Thank you all.

Caring for our Common Home a one day conference to be held at the Youth Village Emmaus on Saturday September 18. The event will include keynote speakers (Emma Gardner, Project Lead for the Guardians of Creation Project and Christine Allen, CAFOD Director), achieving sustainability within Catholic Dioceses, presentation and feedback on the draft policy, COP26 and advocacy, workshops on sustainable living (buildings/energy, food, travel, plastic/waste) and a Mass for Creation presided over by Bishop Robert. Programme details and booking information to follow.

Parish finances - Please remember to use your green envelopes, not forgetting the white second collection envelope also. The envelopes are important as it enables us to identify offerings that are Gift Aided. The tax recovered from HMRC is an important amount which requires us to use the envelopes as part of our recording systems. No envelope, no gift aid reclaimed.

Payment of Offerings by Bank Transfer - Any parishioner who wishes to stop paying their offerings in cash, can arrange to pay direct from their bank account into the church account. See copies in the plastic box on the presbytery doorstep. Thank you.

Used stamps - can be brought to church for helping the work of the Little Sisters of the poor. Thanks.