

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 4 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Kristoph Stencil</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For the health of parishioners</i>
Sunday 5 December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Deceased of Quang's Family</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>
Monday 6 December <i>St Nicholas</i>	No Mass 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 11-1 pm <i>St Mary's open for private prayer</i>
Tuesday 7 December <i>St Ambrose</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Special Intention</i>
Wednesday 8 December <i>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</i>	5.45 pm Mass: <i>Hugh Ottewell's 50th birthday</i> 6.30 pm <i>Synod meeting at St Mary's</i>
Thursday 9 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
Friday 10 December	8.15 am Mass in St John's School 10.00 am Mass: <i>Sick members of the Kellett Family</i>
Saturday 11 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Souls in purgatory</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 12 December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Kenneth Clarkson</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Ian Lloyd</i> 6.00 pm Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation at St Mary's

Quote:

"Instead of loving people and using money, people often love money and use people" -
Wayne Gerard Trotman

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 December 2021](#)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LIFE IS AN ADVENT SEASON

Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfil. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfilment are all part of our Advent experience.

The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us - as one of us - gives us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfilment into the Advent of our lives.

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.

Our Advent Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

will be next Sunday 12 December at 6pm at St. Mary's. Everyone is most welcome. Come and receive the Lord's forgiveness and blessing.

Advent takes us into remembering Jesus' birth - God coming to live among us, love us and teach us. It's a time also to remember he'll come again. We hold both these events together during the weeks of Advent and let our thoughts and reflections deepen our understanding and love of the Lord. Any time you give to thinking about these comings of the Lord is a blessing. You'll find the Scripture readings at our Masses may focus your thinking. The references to the readings are here in the bulletin.

Care for the Earth, Our Common Home we all feel that plastic packaging is excessive. If you recycle as much as you can it helps our contribution to care for our environment. Christmas time will generate a lot of wrapping paper and plastic. We can choose to use as little as possible and re-use and recycle as much as we can. Our festivities and gift-giving must not divert us or blind us to the possibilities of care or damage to the fabric of our world.

Thank You - to all who have sent in suggestions and ideas to help in our Care for our Common Home - the Earth. Please continue to send in any suggestions you may have for looking after our ecology and reducing our carbon footprint. Others may be helped by your suggestions. Many thanks.

Readers - As we return to attending Mass, could I ask our readers to indicate their willingness to join a rota for reading the Word of God to us at weekends - and during the week if you're here? Thank you to those who have contacted us so far.

Eucharistic Ministers can we likewise set a new rota for our weekend Masses? Thank you.

The Foodbank now has an urgent need for food of all kinds and for help with funds for assisting with gas and electricity needs. In this winter weather anything you can do to help people with food, heating and lighting is a most practical way of showing love and humanity.

If you have a mind to check the posters at the back of St Mary's church detailing the amount of food allotted to a family or an individual to get them through a few days, you'll appreciate how much food is needed for those seeking help. You may never have been in critical need, or you may have been helped by someone at a difficult time. As followers of our God who came to us at this time and didn't ask but commanded us to love one another, we can't just do nothing. I thank God for our generous people. Please help now to

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
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
Brian Gilpatrick*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Baruch 5: 1-9	Ps 125	Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11	Luke 3: 1-6
Mon	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Ps 84	Luke 5: 17-26	
Tues	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Ps 95	Matthew 18: 12-14	
Wed	Genesis 3: 9-15, 20	Ps 97	Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12	Luke 1: 26-38
Thurs	Isaiah 41: 13-20	Ps 144	Matthew 11: 11-15	
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	Zephaniah 3: 14-18	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 10-18

help some of our neighbours. We do have plenty of tinned beans, spaghetti, soup and dried pasta. Help us make a nutritious balance in the food we give. Thank you.

St John's School was planning to welcome you to a Christmas Lunch as they did before Covid. Despite making arrangements and a seating plan for a reduced number, sadly the event has been cancelled. With the Omicron new virus strain and the incidence of infection generally in the area, safety has made the decision for us. Everyone at school, staff and students are disappointed. I'm sure you'll understand.

Ushaw Illuminations - (events@ushaw.org) On the first 3 weekends in December Ushaw will be lit up with many exciting features and trails. Booking is essential via the website above.

Thanks also from the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) for the money donated to help others know you care and that they matter and are not overlooked. Your kindness means a lot and makes a big difference. Thank you.

What's the parish and the Church for? You'll have views and ideas. Pope Francis wants us to talk about it and to let our bishops know our thoughts. We have a meeting at St Mary's at 6.30pm this Wednesday preceded by Mass at 5.45pm for the Feast of The Immaculate Conception. We'd love to see you and hear from you. The word Synod covers what is in many ways a normal but thought-out process of trying to be aware of what we think God may be asking of us.

Irrespective of what our bishops take to the Pope, this meeting and what we may decide to come out of it, will be valuable to us here. What we understand about why we are here and how we choose to make that work for us can broaden our appreciation of what the Church is for. Do come and join us. Come and let us know what you think. Thank you.

The white envelope this month (our 'second collection') goes to help the work our Youth Ministry Team and the work done by St Cuthbert's Care. Thank you.

The Woman's Refuge Centre will not be taking any more items of clothing for the moment. Thanks to all who have helped. Your thoughtfulness is wonderful.

Christmas Masses as we did last year we will need to work out how many seats we will be able to make available for each of our Christmas Masses. We will let you know next week.

KEEP SAFE. SMILE BEHIND YOUR MASK!