

Induction Mass: My formal induction as your Priest will be this **Thursday at 7pm**. Everyone is very welcome to attend. If anyone feels able to bring any item of refreshment perhaps you could bring them to St Mary's on Thursday at 5.30pm.

St John's Secondary School: On Friday morning during term time we usually have a Mass at St John's School at 8.15 am. This is for staff, but also for any parishioners who might like to attend. You may wish to park in the school's main (staff) car park and then, inside the door, sign in at the reception desk. The school chapel is nearby. All welcome on 11th October.

Foodbank: A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, tea and tinned potatoes. 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.

SVP Membership: If any of our parishioners would like to see what we do in the SVP, just have a word with one of our members. As the Lord said, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few". If we don't have the members we can't do the work.

SVP Summer Raffle: The Summer Raffle tickets that were on sale recently have all been sold. The stubs and funds raised sent to the Raffle Team and the prizes will be drawn later in the month. Many thanks to all who purchased tickets and also to the people who helped sell the tickets at both churches. We can look forward to the prizes list some time later. It would be nice if we managed to pick up a winner. We can always hope.

St Wilfrid's Social Evening: Friday 11th October, the eve of St Wilfrid's Day - a chance to get together with quizzes, bingo and a raffle. Tickets (still only £1!) available at the back of each church. Come and join the fun! Offers of food and raffle prizes will be very welcome.

FLAME 2025: Flame 2025 takes place on **Saturday 15th March**. The theme is '**UNSTOPPABLE. FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE**'. It is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young adult age. Under 18s must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along. Two years ago, over 700 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take a large number of young people (up to 1,000 including accompanying adults). **COST: £45** per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr

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
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden
Mary Curry
Adam Quarmby
Eileen Kelly
John Green
Lynette Stott
Mary Oldfield*



Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact mary.hughes@ymt.org

Life in the Spirit Seminars: An introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord. To be held at St Mary's, Newton Aycliffe - **please see poster at the back of churches**. It is not necessary to book onto these sessions in advance, although it would be helpful in managing the numbers. Refreshments will be served from 6.30 - 7.00 pm before the start of the seminar each Monday evening. Please book your place via <https://bit.ly/CDSLIFEinTheSpirit> or scan the QR code on the poster.

Tea/coffee - remember we have tea and coffee after 9.30am Mass each Sunday at St. Wilfrid's. All are very welcome.

First Steps 2024 - Exploring the Catholic Faith: Are you someone, or do you know someone, who is wondering about their relationship with God and not sure where to start? **Welcome to First Steps!** Join Deacon Shaun and the First Steps team on a journey this autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you, and it may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. We gather weekly online via Zoom and invite you to come along to find out more. This programme is for people new to the faith and to anyone accompanying them on their journey in faith. Starts on Wednesday 2 October at 7pm for 8 weeks. (First Steps is not an RCIA programme, but we can offer guidance to anyone wishing to continue their journey in faith.) You can register here: <https://bit.ly/DHNFirstSteps>.

Bible Alive: October copies of Bible Alive are available now to those on the list. Price £1.50.

Family mass: This Sunday some of the children from St Wilfrid's school are joining us for our 11.00am mass along with their parents. Everyone is very welcome!

Quiz: Thanks to all who came to our quiz last Thursday evening at St Mary's.

Mass count: Each year, over four weekends, all of our churches across the country take a count of the number of people attending services. We may have missed the official start of this count. Sorry! Perhaps we could take the count on October 12/13th, 19/20th, 26/27th, November 2/3rd. Is there anyone who tends to look after this?

'Northern Cross': The October edition of the 'Northern Cross' is available today at £1.50. I know that Fr Dennis was always a great fan and promoter of our diocesan newspaper.

Family Fast Day: This is an opportunity to experience, quite voluntarily, what it is like to go without a meal. What does 'hunger' feel like? Because some people in our world are hungry every day. Perhaps you could put the cost of a meal into an envelope and return it next week.

Also we invite any contributions for Mission Sunday.

Prisoners Sunday: Next weekend will see a Day of Prayer for prisoners, their families and all who work in prisons.

Knitted and crocheted poppies: This year St John's School is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. With this in mind we would like to do something extra special for this year's Remembrance Day. Using knitted and crocheted poppies, we would like to create a cascading poppy display at the front of school. However, in order to do this, we need A LOT of poppies. We are appealing to our families and friends to help us create this special display. There are patterns here you can follow to help you or you are welcome to use a different pattern. Poppies of any size would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support. Knitting patterns are available at the back of church.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 5 October	No Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Paul Maria Chu Sinh</i>
Sunday 6 October <i>27th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Family Mass with St Wilfrid's School</i>
Monday 7 October	No Mass today 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm <i>Craft Club at St Mary's</i>
Tuesday 8 October	10.00 am Mass: <i>Agnes and Michael Coleman</i>
Wednesday 9 October	10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
Thursday 10 October	7 pm Mass: <i>Induction Mass of Fr David Coxon</i>
Friday 11 October	8.15 am Mass: <i>In St John's School - all parishioners welcome</i>
Saturday 12 October	10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
Sunday 13 October <i>28th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>For the people of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Eric Walsh</i>

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle
 Fr David Coxon, St Mary's, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6PQ Tel: (01388) 603431
 website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : Bulletin e-mail: stmarystwilfridba@diocesehn.org.uk
 To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **6 October 2024**

27th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

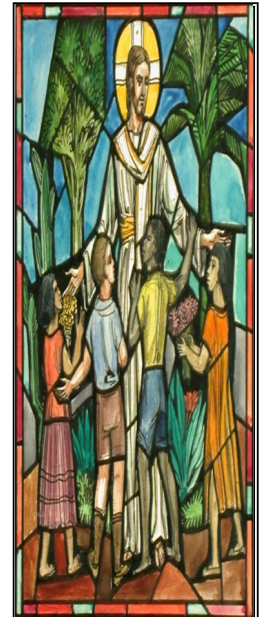
Divorce

Throughout history it is usually men who have held the power. This was also true in the time of Jesus, and it is in this context that some Pharisees approach Jesus to ask him his views on divorce.

Only men at that time had any rights. Women and children had no rights; they were simply 'possessions' which belonged to the man. This meant that a man could dispose of these possessions in the same way as he could dispose of anything else that he owned. If a woman said or did something which displeased her husband then he need only draw up a writ of dismissal and she was evicted.

So why did Jesus speak against divorce? Because there was no social security system in operation in his day and, without income, the dismissed wife might be forced into poverty or prostitution. People without rights can come to be seen as 'objects', things that are disposable. Jesus suggests that our human relationships, our connections with one another, are far more than just business arrangements. Without establishing genuine 'relationships' which acknowledge one another's humanity then the people around us are little more than 'things', things that can be discarded.

David Coxon



Confession Times

St Mary's

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

St Wilfrid's

**before
Sunday
Mass**