

Sincere thanks for your prayers, cards and gifts this Christmas time and for your personal presence in our celebrations. I appreciate your kindness and support very much. A happy new year to you all.

The second collection this weekend supports the work our Church does nationally for Racial Justice.

Next weekend there will be an opportunity to support the White Flower annual appeal. This helps the work done by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children who defend the sacredness of life before birth and in old age.

Confession times Amongst many other things, COVID changed our arrangements for individual confession. You may wish to note that at St Mary's confession times will re-commence on Saturdays from 10.45 to 11.30am and, as always, by request.

The Christmas Season ends on Monday. For those following the readings for Masses, our Sunday readings are from Year B and weekday readings are from Year 2. This week is Week 1 of Year 2.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, tinned tomatoes, bars of soap, pasta sauce and good quality bags for life.**

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. Winter temperatures will drop. Thank you.

World Peace—please have a space in your personal prayer for peace in the war zones of the world and for the plight of innocent children and civilians. Thank you.

Pope Francis' brilliant document on caring for creation (Laudato Si) is now 8 years old! Not enough has happened over this time so he has written a further document called Laudate Deum (meaning 'Praise God') about the climate crisis. We have some copies at £4.95 at the back of church.

Bible Alive – January's copies are available at the back of church. Please collect yours if you ordered a monthly copy. Tick against your name on the list for November. £1.50. Thank you.

The Faith Museum visit - this has now been arranged for Thursday 7th March and will consist of a talk from the Curator, lunch in the library and then exploration of the museum. Details later, but it will cost less for those who have an annual pass from the Auckland Project, so you might think of getting one. Save the date!

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
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
Senara Wilton
Joan Vasey
Patrick Fogarty
John Green*

**Please pray for
TERESA WATSON (88)
MARIA SMITH (89)
who have died.
May they rest in
peace.**



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

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|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sun | Isaiah 60: 1-6 | Ps 71 | Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 | Matthew 2: 1-12 |
| Mon | Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 | Ps 28 | Acts 10: 34-38 | Mark 1: 7-11 |
| Tues | 1 Samuel 1: 9-20 | Ps 39 | Mark 1: 21-28 | |
| Wed | 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20 | Ps 39 | Mark 1: 29-39 | |
| Thurs | 1 Samuel 4: 1-11 | Ps 43 | Mark 1: 40-45 | |
| Fri | 1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22 | Ps 88 | Mark 2: 1-12 | |
| Sat | 1 Samuel 9: 1-4, 17-19, 10:1 | Ps 20 | Mark 2: 13-17 | |
| Sun | 1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19 | Ps 39 | 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20 | John 1: 35-42 |

SVP Club - if you are a member your £12 subscription (for one number for the year) is now due for 2024. If you would like to join as a new member you are very welcome. For more details of the club please see the poster on the left side notice board as you enter church. Please give your money to Zita or leave it in an envelope clearly marked. Many thanks.

Vocations Alert - "Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."

Is the Lord awakening you or anyone you know to consider a vocation to the priesthood? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299012 or vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

The Northern Cross - January's Northern Cross is here today.

Craft Group - the next meeting of the craft group will be at **1 pm this Monday 8th January** in St. Mary's meeting room.

Holy Island SVP Camp — are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs a donation of £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island>. Applications open from 5th December 2023.

This week

| | Services & meetings |
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| Saturday 6 January | 10.00 am Mass: <i>Ian Lloyd</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> |
| Sunday 7 January <i>THE EPIPHANY of THE LORD</i> | 09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Richard and Marion Brownless</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Tommy and Veronica Loye</i> |
| Monday 8 January <i>THE BAPTISM of THE LORD</i> | No Mass 1.00 pm: <i>Craft Group at St Mary's</i> |
| Tuesday 9 January | <u>9.00 am</u> Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> |
| Wednesday 10 January | 11.00 am Requiem Mass @ St Wilfrid's for TERESA WATSON |
| Thursday 11 January <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i> | <u>9.00 am</u> Mass: <i>John Watson Harrop</i> |
| Friday 12 January <i>St Benet Biscop</i> | 8.15 am Mass in St John's School Chapel 10.00 am Mass: <i>Judith Oldfield</i> |
| Saturday 13 January | 10.00 am Mass: <i>Special Intention</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> |
| Sunday 14 January <i>2nd Sunday of the Year</i> | 09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Thanksgiving (B)</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Bridie Clinton</i> |

Quote:

"To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others".

- Nelson Mandela

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

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website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : Bulletin e-mail: office@stmaryandstwilfrid.org.uk

To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **7 January, 2024**

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

An Epiphany Prayer of Blessing for your home

God of light, bless our home. Make it a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of that Epiphany star.

May all who enter, throughout the year, find love and light: for Christ has come to dwell in this home and in these hearts.

Amen



Confession Times

St Mary's

**Saturday's at
10.45-11.30
and by request.**