

This week

Day/Date	Services & meetings
Saturday 7 January	10 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 8 January THE BAPTISM of THE LORD	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Lina and Luigi Quagliari</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>Tommy and Veronica Loye</i>
Monday 9 January	No Mass 10.00 am - <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i>
Tuesday 10 January	9.00am Mass: <i>Deceased of the Ottewell & Coleman Families</i> 11.00 am Funeral Service at St Mary's for NEIL SEAGRAVE
Wednesday 11 January <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	10.00 Mass: <i>Brian, Dot and Jim Donlan</i> 6.30 pm Laudato Si meeting at St Mary's
Thursday 12 January <i>St Benet Biscop</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Eric Walsh</i>
Friday 13 January	No Mass
Saturday 14 January	No morning Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 15 January <i>2nd Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Recovery of Mary Curry</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>Bridie Clinton</i>

Quote

"I am always doing what I cannot do yet in order to learn how to do it"
- Vincent van Gogh (1885)

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 [8 January, 2023](#)

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

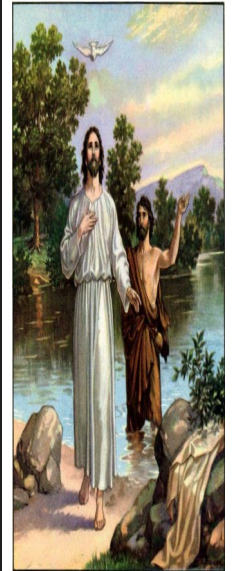
Understanding Mercy

Many good people struggle with intimacy with God in prayer. If mercy is not at the forefront of their thinking about God, if they have not been taught to see in Jesus Christ the face of the Father's mercy, their relationship with God will be dominated by fear. Because they believe in the all holy God, who detests sin, they unconsciously begin to think that because they have sinned God really detests them. They despair of holiness. This is a direct contradiction of God's word "Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it". (*Wisdom 11:23-25*).

Pope Francis has this liberating word of encouragement for us all:

To become a saint only one thing is necessary; to accept the grace which the Father gives us in Jesus Christ. This grace changes our heart. We continue to be sinners for we are weak, but with this grace which makes us feel that the Lord is good, that the Lord is merciful, that the Lord waits for us, that the Lord pardons us, that this immense grace changes our heart.

- Fr Jim McManus



Confession Times St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Craft Club - the next meeting will be on 9 January.

SVP - your conferences would like to say a big 'thank you' for your support since we re-started holding 'the box' after church at weekends. You may have noticed that we didn't make a Christmas appeal this year because we didn't need to, thanks to your generosity. With your help we have directly helped approximately 50 local people with food and gifts, helped children from needy families and our people in Care Homes and housebound also. Without your help we could not have done so.

Churches with warm spaces during winter - The Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches have made arrangements to have safe and warm places where individuals can come to socialize over a cuppa and biscuits.

Woodhouse Close Church, Proudfoot Drive, DL14 6PD - open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30 am to 2.30pm.

The Parish Centre, Middlewood Avenue, St Helen's, DL14 9DJ - the lounge is open on Tuesdays from 10am - 3pm and Thursdays from 11am - 2pm.

The Ark - at the back of St Helen's Church DL14 9DN—open on a Wednesday from 10.30am to 4pm.

Bishop Auckland Baptist Church, Cockton Hill Road, DL14 6AH, from week beginning 31st October their Church will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am - 3pm, Thursdays—Wellbeing Café, from 9.30am including a light lunch from 12.30pm.

St Mary's Catholic Church, Vart Road, DL14 6PQ—Thursdays and Fridays 11am to 2 pm.

Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, Cockton Hill Road, DL14 6DN, Monday and Fridays 10—3 pm.

Coffee morning/Warm Space - Thursdays and Fridays in St Mary's Meeting Room 11am—2pm. Please see the helpers rota at the back of church. Any problems ring Zita on 01388 604926 or 07722219173.

Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's - Very few people now come to the Holy Hour on Mondays at 2.00 pm, so before we restart it in the New Year it would be helpful to know whether a change of day or time would encourage a bigger attendance. If you have an opinion or a suggestion, please make it known!

SVP 200 CLUB - we are advised by SVP that the 200 club will restart in 2023 after a 3 year break due to Covid. Is anyone interested in dealing with this for the Parish. The club arrangements are simple. Each member pays £12 in advance for a years membership. The club organiser collects the money and passes this on to a contact in Durham. There is a monthly draw and the contact will ensure that the prize winners list is circulated to all parishes. The proceeds of this venture go to help feed the homeless at Vinnies Cafe in Newcastle. The 200 club coordinator is at the end of a telephone and will help and advise as necessary. Anyone interested please contact Fr Dennis or John Stockton.

Care for Creation - the wonder and drama of space, galaxies, planets and stars is mind-bending. We may be fascinated by the sheer numbers and dimensions of what's going on in our own galaxy and beyond in the whole

Please pray for the health of:

Irene Welford
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Norah Hutchinson
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
Alan Harrison

Please pray for

NEIL SEAGRAVE (50) and
SIDNEY ROBERT ELLIOTT
(81)

who have died.
May they rest in
peace.



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7	Ps 28	Acts 10: 34-38	Matthew 3: 13-17
Mon	Hebrews 5: 1-10	Ps 109	Mark 2: 18-22	
Tues	Hebrews 6: 10-20	Ps 100	Mark 2: 23-28	
Wed	Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17	Ps 109	Mark 3: 1-6	
Thurs	Hebrews 7: 25-8:6	Ps 39	Mark 3: 7-12	
Fri	Hebrews 8: 6-13	Ps 84	Mark 3: 13-19	
Sat	Hebrews 9: 2-3, 11-14	Ps 46	Mark 3: 20-21	
Sun	Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6	Ps 39	1 Corinthians 1: 1-3	John 1: 29-34

cosmos - it's all God's creation. Our part is to look after and responsibly protect our Earth. We've damaged it severely and it needs our deliberate intervention.

The Laudato Si group are planning to hold a food/cookery event as part of this year's Season of creation. If anyone has any expertise in cookery or recipe ideas and would like to be involved in a small group of us, please get in touch via email - jeanniemariehardy@gmail.com/mobile Tel: 07708108119, or with Eileen Thornton at St Mary's.

From the Parish Laudato Si Group (Care of Our Common Home)

We would like to ask parishioners to continue checking your purchases and if possible reduce buying plastic packaging.

The Facts about plastic:

- 1 Plastic pollution is a huge problem and made worse by excess consumption
- 2 Microplastics are being found in food and have been detected in human blood.
- 3 A truck load of plastic enters the ocean every single minute and the UK produces more waste per person than almost any other country. Also, Christian Aid is campaigning to support the funding for countries devastated by the climate changes. We will be placing a small Christmas tree (and poster) at the back of each church and a prayer person template to write on. We would like to ask people to write a prayer supporting this work and place it on the tree during the season of Advent.

Laudato Si - the next meeting is on Wednesday 11th January, starting at 6:30 pm in St Mary's meeting room.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, UHT milk, rice and packet custard. 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 heating 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. Thank you.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023 Can you help the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year? We need nurses, healthcare assistants, doctors and volunteers to provide care to the assisted pilgrims who travel with us. Previous helpers have found it is a rewarding and spiritually uplifting week. We plan to travel on Friday 28th July. If you would like to find out more information please email or look at our website <https://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk/> or email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk