

**Penitential Rite :** We often use the 'Lord, have mercy/ Christ have mercy/ Lord, have mercy' option of the Penitential Rite at the beginning of mass. Might we try Option B for a few weeks until we get to know it?

PRIEST : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

PEOPLE : **For we have sinned against you.**

PRIEST : Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

PEOPLE : **And grant us your salvation.** [page 8 in mass books]

**Christmas Quiz:** Thanks to all who organised and supported our recent Quiz Night at St Mary's.

**Foodbank:** Thank you for what you feel able to bring in for our food bank, week after week. If you are able to bring anything at all, it is always much appreciated. As the weather gets cooler it really can be a choice between food or heating. **This week we need coffee and tinned vegetables.** A big thank you!

**Contact details:** Any more of those mauve coloured sheets to come in? If you haven't picked one up yet, please do so. They are to help me build up an up-to-date parish address book. If you don't fill in one of these then I won't know where you live! - David Coxon

**Laudato Si Group :** Would you like to help to reduce the waste we create at Christmas? In December a large Christmas card will be placed in both St Mary's and St Wilfrid's churches. If you want to share Christmas greetings with friends in our parish, please add your name and wishes to the card instead of sending individual cards. A donation can be made to the SVP at the same time if you wish. Hopefully this will help to reduce some of the waste this year.

**Christmas essentials :** Please remember when buying wrapping paper and cards: avoid foil/ plastic wrap. If it scrunches, it is paper and can be recycled. Avoid cards with glitter, foil and decorations. In both cases, remove ribbons, bows, tags, Sellotape or any decorations before recycling. Check out this excellent special festive waste site at [durham.gov.uk/christmas\\_recycling](http://durham.gov.uk/christmas_recycling)

**Advent reflections :** Reflections for each day of Advent have been prepared by people from across our diocese. You can access these on-line: <https://bit.ly/DHNAdvent2024>.

**Advent services :** On this second Sunday of Advent we are to have a Blue Christmas celebration at St Mary's church. This will be at 4.30pm. Next Sunday, a Service of Reconciliation at St Mary's. Both of these services will be at 4.30pm. Everyone very warmly welcome to both.

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)  
Mary Curry  
Adam Quarmby  
Eileen Kelly  
John Green  
Lynette Stott  
Brenda Dawes  
Jayne Littlefair



**Weekday masses:** We are now having our parish weekday masses in our smaller rooms rather than the main churches. We don't get very many people attending our weekday masses and the smaller rooms are easier to heat. There are times when we may have funerals or school masses but, generally, we looking to have masses in the meeting room at St Mary's then, on a Wednesday, in the small mass room at St Wilfrid's. For St Mary's, please come to the middle door between church door and presbytery.

**Northern Cross:** The December edition of the 'Northern Cross' is now available at the back of church at £1.50 with news from around the diocese. Please take a copy if you can.

**Christmas Dinner:** Parishioners are invited to St John's school on Tuesday, 17 December, from 12 noon—2.00pm. There will be a Christmas Dinner, a chat with students and a few Christmas carols. Parishioners are asked to contact the school directly [01388– 603246] by Monday 9 December if they wish to attend this lovely occasion. A few people have already booked, but there are plenty of places. It will be free of charge, though donations to the school's Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be very welcome.

**Bible Alive:** Decembers copies of Bible Alive are now available at the back of church for those on the list. Price £1.50.

**Gift Aid :** A parishioner who puts £5 on the plate each week can contribute an additional £65 to the parish if that parishioner signs a simple Gift Aid form. A GAD. All that is needed are a few pieces of info on one simple form AND of course the person must be paying tax. In this example £65 tax over the tax year, ie., £1.25 per week. In return, the parish gives you a nice shiny box of numbered envelopes, one per week, to put your donation in. No name on the envelope, just your unique number. We use the envelope to support the Gift Aid claim. If interested - talk to John Stockton (St Wilfrid) or Tony Murphy (St Mary).

**Non-cash offerings :** Did you know that more than 35 parishioners don't have to bother with cash to make their offerings to the parish. They sign up to pay (usually monthly) by bank transfer from their bank account to the parish account. A good system, saves a lot of cash handling. If interested see the usual suspects, John Stockton or Tony Murphy.

**SVP 200 Club :** December winning numbers are 63 and 81. We have a winner this month - congratulations. Many thanks to all for your continuing support.

**St Mary's Piety Shop:** now have some Christmas cards, Advent calendars and small items for sale. Pop in and have a look.

**St Mary's Christmas Dressing of windowsills:** We will have sixteen of the large red candles for sale. They are £3 each and burn for a week. Would you like a candle named as a Family Remembrance Window? A card with the family name will be placed in the window. Only 16 will be available - so first come first served. See the sheet at the back of church. Many thanks.

**St Wilfrid's Christmas windows:** We will be decorating each of our church windows for Christmas. If you would like to have a window dedicated to your family and your prayer intentions please just sign your family name on the list at the back of St Wilfrid's by Sunday 15th December. There is no cost but if you would like to make a contribution to the food bank a money box is available at the back of church.

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 7 December</b> <i>St Ambrose</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Birthday blessings</i> * <u>in meeting room</u> <i>followed by confessions.</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Holy souls</i>
<b>Sunday 8 December</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Oldfield and Teesdale families</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>For everyone in our parish.</i> <b>4.30pm at St Mary's:</b> <i>Our Blue Christmas celebration</i>
<b>Monday 9 December</b> <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i>	<b>No Mass today</b> <b>10.00 am</b> <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> <b>1.00 pm</b> <i>Craft Club at St Mary's</i>
<b>Tuesday 10 December</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i> * <u>in meeting room</u>
<b>Wednesday 11 December</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b> <u>in mass room at St Wilfrid's:</u> <i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Thursday 12 December</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Intentions of Fr Woodhall</i> * <u>in meeting room</u>
<b>Friday 13 December</b> <i>St Lucy</i>	<b>8.15 am mass in St John's school chapel :</b> <i>Eric Walsh</i>
<b>Saturday 14 December</b> <i>St John of the Cross</i>	* <b>No 10.00am Mass or confessions today.</b> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Andrew Murphy</i>
<b>Sunday 15 December</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Kenneth Clarkson</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>For everyone in our parish.</i> <b>4.30pm at St Mary's:</b> <i>Service of Reconciliation</i>

## 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 December 2024**

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

### The Message of Hope

Sometimes our eyes can simply glaze over during the first reading at mass. Passages from the Hebrew bible, or 'Old Testament', can seem so obscure and unrelated to our lives in 2024. But then, notice the poetry and the description here and, perhaps, just a little bit of the history.

Babylon was the great super power of the day and, in the summer of 587 BC, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, attacked Jerusalem, destroyed the temple and deported many of its leading citizens to Babylon, some 500 miles away. Out there in Babylon, they felt that God had abandoned them. Meanwhile, Jerusalem no longer had any leaders and no workable temple.

It is then that the man called Baruch sends his message of hope that God would never abandon his people. "Jerusalem, take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction and put on for ever the beauty of the glory of God. For [your leaders] went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies ; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne". This is a messianic message, a message of hope to a forlorn people. This is a message that came to be applied to Jesus by his followers. And 'hope' is what this season of Advent is all about. God has not abandoned us. Jesus brings God's presence into the ordinariness and mess of our world and our lives. And this is what John the Baptist was seeking to announce in today's gospel passage. "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

What can I, you, each of us, do to allow the Lord into our lives a little more? Let's prepare a way for the Lord.

David Coxon

### Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and the Diocese's policies and procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Jeannie Hardy for St Mary's and Fiona Ottewell for St Wilfrid's or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at [safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)

### Confession Times

#### **St Mary's**

**Saturdays at 10.30-11.00 and by request.**

**St Wilfrid's before Sunday Mass**