

Blue Christmas Service - at St Mary's at 6pm this Sunday. This is a service for those who have suffered a loss, or who wish to seek the comfort of the Church at this time of memories of former times with those who are not here to celebrate with us. Everyone is welcome. Invite and bring others with you.

Our Service of Forgiveness this Advent - is next Sunday at St Mary's at 6pm. This is open to everyone and again please let others know, invite them to come. We all stand in need of the Lord's forgiveness and this is a great opportunity to receive mercy and love. Bring your non Catholic friends. They're most welcome.

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve: 5.30pm at St Mary's and 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's
 Christmas Day: 9.30am at St Wilfrid's and 11am at St Mary's
 Everyone is welcome. We'll be delighted to see you.

Annual Parishioners' Christmas Lunch - St John's ask us to join them on Tuesday 19 December from 11.45 to 2 pm for Christmas lunch. This event is free of charge, however they are raising funds to support the Pilgrimage to Lourdes so any donations will be gratefully received. **RSVP by 11 December on 03188 603246.** Please see poster at back of church.

Bishop Auckland Baptist Church are offering free food and festive fun on Christmas Day from 12 noon until 3pm. To book a place please call **01388 450838 before 3pm on Thursday 14 December.** Please see poster at the back of church for more details.

St. Mary's Piety Shop now has Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, Chocolate and Small Christmas items for sale.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, UHT milk, bars of soap 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. More are on order.

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*

**Please pray for
 CHRISTINE WASS
 (71)
 who has died.**



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11	Ps 84	2 Peter 3: 8-14	Mark 1: 1-8
Mon	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Ps 84	Luke 5: 17-26	
Tues	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Ps 95	Matthew 18: 12-14	
Wed	Isaiah 40: 25-31	Ps 102	Matthew 11: 28-30	
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	Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11	Luke 1: 46-50 53-54	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	John 1: 6-8,19-28

Advent Extra copies are now available at £2.00—great value and price.

St. Mary's Christmas Church Clean and Decoration - will be done on Friday 22nd December after 10am Mass. Could you spare us half an hour or an hour to prepare our beautiful church for Christmas. We need cleaners and those who could decorate the altar trees. Bring the children along - all are welcome. It's a much easier and quicker task with a few more bodies. Many thanks.

Craft group - the craft group will not be meeting at St. Mary's on 11th December.

Bible Alive - December'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 - is the stunning new building at Auckland Castle. It has opened now. This new asset to Bishop Auckland will explore the many ways faith has shaped lives and communities across Britain. There are four galleries with displays and changing exhibitions. It houses over 250 objects from across the UK, some national treasures and personal mementos. The museum's story begins 6000 years ago, taking visitors on a journey through time, considering the ways faith has shaped our lives throughout history and continues to do so. Plan to visit sometime in the Autumn. Tickets can be booked in advance. We hope to arrange a group visit.

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 - the new Northern Cross is available today.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 9 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Fr Harry Ryan</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 10 December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Arthur Oldfield and Wilfred Teesdale</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Jason King</i> 6.00 pm Blue Christmas Service at St Mary's
Monday 11 December	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's
Tuesday 12 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Special Intention (M)</i>
Wednesday 13 December <i>St Lucy</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Eric Walsh</i>
Thursday 14 December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Alice Cahill</i>
Friday 15 December	8.15 am Mass in St John's School Chapel 10.00 am Mass: <i>Ian Lloyd</i>
Saturday 16 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Fr Pat O'Connell</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Amore Foody</i>
Sunday 17 December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Arnold Smith</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i> 6.00 pm Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Quote:

"One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present".

- Golda Meir

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle
Fr Dennis Tindall, St Mary's, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6PQ Tel: (01388) 603431
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 **10 December, 2023**

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer

Loving God, from earliest times you have been at work in our world, striving to fulfil your purposes, preparing the way for the coming of your kingdom.

We praise you for the witness of the prophets foretelling the coming of the Messiah.

We praise you for the ministry of John the Baptist, a voice in the wilderness calling people to repentance, making ready the way of the Lord.

We praise you for those who made the Gospel known to us, giving us the opportunity to respond.

Help us now to truly prepare for Christmas, not simply outwardly but inwardly, so that we may joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ and receive him into our lives.

Amen



Confession Times St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.