

Lent - begins on Wednesday. Talk to yourself (or others) about whether you routinely do the same thing each Lent and quiz yourself (maybe to share with others) about what it means to you and what you get from it. It needs to involve prayers. Why not also consider coming to weekday Mass if you can? It's an excellent way of learning more about Mass and what God may be doing in your life. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

Special days - today is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and it's a day of prayer for all sick people. It's also nominated as a day of prayer for unemployed people.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. Copies of Lent Extra are on sale at the back of church at £2.75 each. **For those who have ordered Bible Alive, your January copy takes you through to the start of Lent. February's is available now.**

The Faith Museum visit - we have arranged a visit for Thursday 7th March. The Curator will give us a talk at 11.30 in the library and we'll then have lunch there and head into the museum after that. Cost of the talk and lunch will be £15 - entry to the museum is £9.50, but free if you have an Auckland Project Annual Pass (worth getting!). There's a list at the back of each church - please sign up if you are interested as numbers are limited.

The Northern Cross for February is on sale today. £1.50. What a bargain!

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Pope Francis recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it. Various invitations are under way to provide and suggest ways and routines of praying and there will be others coming from the diocese. You may be interested in accessing an online site from the Jesuits which gives you a prayer time each day. It's called Pray As You Go, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly while travelling to and from work, study etc. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Lasting 10-13 minutes, it combines music, scripture and

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

**CATHLEEN RITSON (84)
GRAHAME MAUGHAN (58) and
TREVOR COOK (76)**

**who have died.
May they rest in peace.**



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46	Ps 31	1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1	Mark 1:40-45
Mon	James 1: 1-11	Ps 118	Mark 8: 11-13	
Tues	James 1: 12-18	Ps 93	Mark 8: 14-21	
Wed	Joel 2: 12-18	Ps 50	2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
Thurs	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20	Ps 1	Luke 9: 22-25	
Fri	Isaiah 58: 1-9	Ps 50	Matthew 9: 14-15	
Sat	Isaiah 58: 9-14	Ps 85	Luke 5: 27-32	
Sun	Genesis 9: 8-15	Ps 24	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1:12-15

some questions for reflections. Download the Pray As You Go app.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, jam, rice pudding and more 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.

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.

Saving food from Landfill - The Bread and Butter thing (charity). Go on their website and it will explain about being a member. It's free to join. It isn't about benefits, it's about saving food wastage. Anyone can join. 3 bags of food for £8.50.

Big Chef Little Chef - run by volunteers, again it's about saving food from landfill. The Community Hub, LCBC, 11 Selby Close, Bishop Auckland DL14 9ED opens Monday to Thursday. Telephone 07507 666805 for more information.

Piety Shop Sale!!!!!! - St Mary's Piety shop. Various items for sale outside of the shop. If not individually priced—all other items are 50p.

Fashion Show - St John's sixth form students are holding a charity fashion show raising money for Cancer research. They would like as many people as possible from the St John's community to come and watch the show on **Friday 8th March at 6:30 - 8:30**, the price is £5 a ticket including a meal. If you would like to attend, you can purchase a ticket at main reception with cash or email stjohns.bhccet.org.uk and reserve your seat and pay on the night.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 10 February <i>St Scholastica</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>The Ottewell Family</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Marie Green & Margaret Parry</i>
Sunday 11 February <i>6th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>People of the parish</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Private Intention</i>
Monday 12 February	No Mass 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm: <i>Craft Group at St Mary's</i>
Tuesday 13 February	2.30 Requiem Mass at St Mary's for GRAHAME MAUGHAN
Wednesday 14 February <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	9.00 am Mass: <i>Eric Walsh</i> 10.30 am Funeral Service at Wear Valley Crematorium for TREVOR COOK 11.30 am Funeral Service at St Mary's for CATHLEEN RITSON
Thursday 15 February	No Mass
Friday 16 February	No Mass 6.30 pm Stations of the Cross at St Mary's
Saturday 17 February	No morning Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i>
Sunday 18 February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</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>Private Intention</i>

Quote:

"What a wonderful life I've had! I only wish I'd realised it sooner"
- **Colette (French author 1873-1954)**

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **11 February, 2024**

6th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Prayer

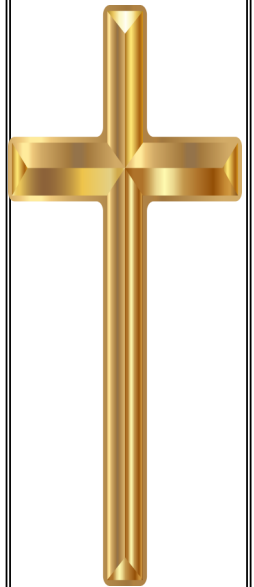
Some days, although we cannot pray, a prayer utters itself. So, a woman will lift her head from the sieve of her hands and stare at the minims sung by a tree, a sudden gift.

Some nights, although we are faithless, the truth enters our hearts, that small familiar pain; then a man will stand stock still, hearing his youth in the distant Latin chanting of a train.

Pray for us now. Grade 1 piano scales console the lodger looking out across a Midlands town. Then dusk, and someone calls a child's name as though they named their loss.

*Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer—
Rockall, Malin, Dogger, Finisterre.*

- Carol Ann Duffy



Confession Times St Mary's

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