

Fr David Coxon will be here from the weekend of 7 & 8 September. I know you will make him welcome. Let's arrange to have a simple get together on the Monday evening of 9th September with some food as an enjoyable way to facilitate introductions. More on this later. Thank you.

Caring for children - The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) that we support in January through the White Flower collection, has asked that we petition the new government to end the two-child benefit cap. Sadly, one of the biggest drivers of abortion in the UK is **poverty**, and one particular policy which penalises families and contributes to poverty is the current government policy on Universal Benefits. Some abortion providers themselves have identified that the government's punitive two-child Universal Credit limit is 'a **significant factor**' in many women deciding to abort their children. Can I ask if you would sign one of the petition cards while you are here in church and leave it here so we can send the signed cards back to SPUC. Thank you.

The Foodbank - a huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, small tinned meats, pasta sauce and soup. 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.

SVP raffle we have recently received tickets for the above Annual Raffle and the prizes start at £5000 for first prize and £1000 for second, plus additional prizes with all details on the sheet on the porch notice board. Tickets will be on sale now and during August. The draw date is 26 September. Please give the raffle your usual support.

Hour of Prayer at St Wilfrid's - on the first three Wednesdays of August (7th, 14th and 21st) at 5.00pm there will be an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Mass Room (entry via the front door of the presbytery). No need to come for the whole hour - just join us for as long as you like.

Laudato Si - A big THANK YOU to everyone who completed our annual environmental survey. We had a good response this year.

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)
Margaret Pattenden
Mary Curry
Adam Quarmby
Eileen Kelly
John Green
Lynette Stott
Mary Oldfield
Brenda Dawes
Jayne Littlefair*



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Acts 12: 1-11	Ps 33	2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18	Matthew 16: 13-19
Mon	Ezekiel 1: 2-5, 24-28	Ps 148	Matthew 17: 22-27	
Tues	Ezekiel 2: 8-3:4	Ps 118	Matthew 18: 1-5, 10, 12-14	
Wed	Ezekiel 9: 1-7, 10: 18-22	Ps 112	Matthew 18: 15-20	
Thurs	Apocalypse 11: 19, 12: 1-6,10	Ps 44	1 Corinthians 15: 20-26	Luke 1: 39-56
Fri	Ezekiel 16: 1-15, 60, 63	Isaiah 12: 2-6	Matthew 19: 3-12	
Sat	Ezekiel 18: 1-10, 13, 30-32	Ps 50	Matthew 19: 13-15	
Sun	Proverbs 9: 1-6	Ps 33	Ephesians 5: 15-20	John 6: 51-58

Thank you to Tom Bowman who has again collated the results and put them into a display which will be available shortly in both churches. If anyone has any comments they would like to give us, we would be very happy to receive alongside any suggestions for ways we can help with care of our environment.

Plant Swap - this was part of the Laudato Si week in May. Thanks to all who took part in bringing and exchanging plants.

Care of Creation will be celebrated in September and we are hoping to have a parish event of displays. Anyone interested would be most welcome to get involved, more information to follow.

Our wild flower garden is now in full bloom and part of encouraging bio-diversity. Please take a look at the back of the church. Many Thanks to Ernie for his work on this.

Bible Alive - August copies of Bible Alive are available now to those on the list. Price £1.50.

Pope Francis recognises 2025 as a year of Jubilee and asks that 2024 be a Year of Prayer leading up to it.

Little Sisters of the Poor - Used postage stamps (any period or country) foreign currency (notes & coins from any country or period), old, broken or unwanted pieces of gold & silver (even earring backs) & military medals which no longer have meaning for the families help the Sisters and residents of St Joseph's Home in Newcastle.

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.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 10 August <i>ST LAWRENCE</i>	No morning Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For the health of Michael Robinson</i>
Sunday 11 August <i>19th 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>Veronica and Tommy Loye</i>
Monday 12 August	No Mass 10.00 am <i>Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00 pm <i>Craft Club at St Mary's</i>
Tuesday 13 August	10.00 am Mass: <i>Eric Walsh</i>
Wednesday 14 August <i>St Maximilian Kolbe</i>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Jack Moran and Fr Ciaran McDonnell</i> 5.00 pm <i>Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at St Wilfrids</i> 7.00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Thursday 15 August <i>THE ASSUMPTION of OUR LADY</i>	10.00am Mass: <i>Nancy McEvoy</i>
Friday 16 August	10.00 am Mass: <i>Elaine Miller</i>
Saturday 17 August	10.00 am Mass: <i>Joe and Ann Tindall</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Mick and Shirley Degnan</i>
Sunday 18 August <i>20th Sunday of the Year</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Lowther and Thom Families</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>

Quotation

*"The older we get, the better we used to be".
- John McEnroe*

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube **11 August 24**

19th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Praying in a world of dementia

Lord Jesus,

You held the hand and walked the way with so many affected people.

Be with all who suffer the great loss of knowing themselves and others.

Restore dignity to all who feel misunderstood and who inhabit an inner world to which we seem uninvited or excluded.

Hold and support those who love them, who grieve them, and spend themselves helping while watching dear ones change before their eyes.

Give endurance to all who care, skill to each one searching for ways to lessen dementia and who work and hope for healing and protection.

God and Man, show us how to love and keep on loving.

AMEN

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

Confession Times

St Mary's

Saturdays at 10.45-11.30 and by request.

St Wilfrid's

before Sunday Mass