

This week

Day/Date	Services & meetings
Saturday 10 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Hugh Ottewell's birthday</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 11 December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Kenny Clarkson</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>Joan and Bernard Hannon</i>
Monday 12 December	No Mass 10.00 am - Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm - Craft Group in St Mary's meeting room 2.00 pm - Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's
Tuesday 13 December <i>St Lucy</i>	No Mass 12.00 Christmas Lunch at St John's School
Wednesday 14 December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	10.00 am Requiem Mass at St Wilfrid's for BILLY TAGUE
Thursday 15 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Eric Walsh</i>
Friday 16 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Mick and Shirley Degnan</i>
Saturday 17 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> 10.30 am - 5 pm Advent Reflection Day at St Mary's 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 18 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Arnold Smith</i> 11.00 am Mass St Mary's: <i>Vasey, Hogg and Cruddace Families</i>

Quote

"We shall have to repent, not so much for the evil deeds of the wicked, but for the appalling silence of the good people"
- **Martin Luther King**

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

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To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [11 December, 2022](#)

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

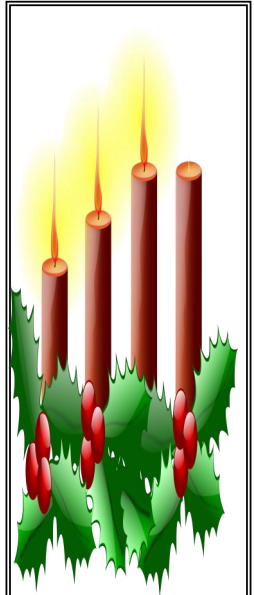
THIS IS THE TIME TO BE SLOW

"This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning".

- **John O'Donohue**



Confession Times
St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Advent Prayer Day - this coming Saturday 17 December, St Mary's church will remain open after the 10 am Mass and we'd love you to call in for a visit. There will be prayer stations around the church to stimulate reflection and support your prayer during this sacred time of preparation. In the middle of this busy time you may well find that a pause before God's presence will be a genuine help and find the prayerful ideas available to be a good Advent help. Refreshments will be available in the meeting room. We'd love to see you. Thank you.

Advent Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation - our usual service this year is slightly later - primarily to avoid World Cup football fixtures! If you're able to join us we'll meet at 7pm on **Tuesday 20 December** at St Mary's. Bring someone else with you - as many as you wish. Thank you.

Christmas Masses - will be as last year:

Christmas Eve: No morning Mass, 5.30 pm St Mary's and 7.30 pm St Wilfrid's.

Christmas Day: 9.30 am St Wilfrid's, and 11.00 am St Mary's.

All Christmas Masses will be offered for the People of the parish and world peace.

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.

The Police Choir event raised £377.89 clear profit for Marie Curie.

SVP - St Wilfrid's SVP intend, as in previous years, to provide a small gift to those in Care Homes and Housebound. We are finding it difficult to get names from the Care Homes and feel that we may have lost touch with some who are housebound or elderly.

There is a list at the back of St Wilfrid's and we would ask if parishioners would put down names/contacts of anyone from the parish who may be in a care home or in poor health/housebound.

Christmas Dinner will be provided again at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, courtesy of our Fellowship of Christian Churches. This is for anyone who will be alone this Christmas. Please ring 01388 450838 to book by 15 December. Please spread the word. Thank you.

Big thanks for all who organised, gave prizes and attended our Christmas Quiz on Thursday. We had a great night and raised £300. High fives all round!

St John's School and Sixth Form College, Parishioners Christmas Lunch - we warmly invite you to attend our parishioners Christmas lunch, which will take place on Tuesday 13 December. Arrival from 11.45am, lunch served at 12pm with departure at 2pm. Please be aware that onsite parking is limited and there are parking restrictions in place on Woodhouse Lane. We hope you are able to attend and we look forward to seeing you once again. Please RSVP by Tuesday 7 December by calling 01388 603246 or email: admin@stjohns.bhccet.org.uk

CAFOD's World Gifts Catalogue for 2022/2023 is available to be picked up free from the back of church. They note that we should order by 15 December, free delivery for Christmas. Do take one today.

St. Mary's Christmas Church Clean and Decoration - We will be doing our church clean on Wednesday 21st December after the 10am morning Mass. If you have a spare hour or two please come along and help clean and decorate our beautiful church for the celebration of Christmas. If the children are off school they can dust and polish with the reward of something sweet at the end. Hope to see some of you there - many hands make like work. Thank you.

HOLY ISLAND VINNIES CAMP 2022-23 URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS - Have you got some time spare to help out our Term Time Camp? We urgently need volunteers to work in the

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*

Please pray for

**BILLY TAGUE (85)
and
MICHAEL DOWSON (70)**

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



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Ps 71	Romans 15: 4-9	Matthew 3: 1-12
Mon	Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17	Ps 24	Matthew 21: 23-27	
Tues	Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13	Ps 33	Matthew 21: 28-32	
Wed	Isaiah 45: 6-8, 18, 21-26	Ps 84	Luke 7: 19-23	
Thurs	Isaiah 54: 1-10	Ps 29	Luke 7: 24-30	
Fri	Isaiah 56: 1-3, 6-8	Ps 66	John 5: 33-36	
Sat	Genesis 49: 2, 8-10	Ps 71	Matthew 1: 1-17	
Sun	Isaiah 7: 10-14	Ps 23	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1: 18-24

kitchen or do a bit of cleaning/ caretaking at Holy Island Camp, washing dishes, serving food and clearing /cleaning the dining hall. We cannot offer glamour but we can offer friendship and a worthwhile cause to help. Term Time Camps take place between Easter and the Summer Holidays and then September and October. Commitment involves training, a DBS check and the choice of anything from a few days to a week helping on the beautiful island itself. We also need volunteers to work as part of a team of helpers to supervise and look after children, taking part in our weekly holidays over July and August. Volunteers would help organise activities and supervise the care of the children, aged between 9 and 12. Again, very little glamour, and admittedly tiring, but so worthwhile! Commitment is for training, a DBS check and a week on the island. All roles can be applied for, in November 2022 on line at <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/> where there is also much more information. We hope to meet you soon!

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 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)

As we are now moving into the season of Advent and preparation for Christmas, we would like to ask parishioners to consider 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.

The Foodbank - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, tinned carrots, Christmas puddings and chocolate. 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.

Recipes - During the covid pandemic we received recipes from parishioners and have been planning to put them together into a booklet to be shared. We would also like people to send in and share any recipes which they have that would include 'cheap and nutritional' ingredients. We are aware that many people are struggling with money worries and it would be good to offer ideas that may help stretch family budgets.

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