

White Flower appeal : The Catholic Church does not support abortion. In fact, it actively works against abortion since a fetus is a growing human being which the Church sees as entitled to rights. However, things are not always so clear cut in practice. There are times when women might opt for an abortion because they feel trapped and can see no other solution. This does not demand condemnation, but support. The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child seeks to offer support, and also to put pressure on governments to protect the lives of the unborn. This is the purpose of the White Flower appeal. Today we will have an opportunity to support this in a retiring collection.

Jubilee 2025: In 2025 we are celebrating the 'Jubilee Year' or 'Holy Year'. With its Old Testament roots it is a special time of debt cancellation, forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme of our Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Documents from Rome are usually for worldwide encouragement and so the original texts are issued in Latin. The Papal document announcing the Jubilee is entitled 'Spes non confundit' ('*Hope does not disappoint*'). This encouraging document urges us to look for, and be, signs of hope in the world around us and to work for peace and justice at home and across our world. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

ALSO: Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishops' Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

'Northern Catholic Calendar' 2025 : This book offers (almost) up-to-date information about parishes, schools, convents and clergy across our diocese. Available today at £3.50

Finding out more: One or two people who are not Catholic have recently asked the possibility of finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe. I'm just wondering if anyone else might be interested. – DC

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

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

*Please pray for
JANE HARDY (52)*

*Who has died.
May she rest in peace*



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 are hoping for small tins of meat, tinned tomatoes and bags for life again** A big thank you!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025: a United Service is to be held on Sunday 19 January 2025 at 3pm at St Anne's Church, Market Place, DL14 7NJ. All are very welcome.

Fr Dennis Tindall: Fr Dennis says 'thank you' to those who were kind enough to send him Christmas cards and good wishes. He appreciates your thoughtfulness!

Northern Cross: The January edition of the 'Northern Cross' is available at the back of church this weekend at £1.50 with news from around the diocese.

Finance committee meeting : 5.30pm, Tuesday 14th January .

Parish Pastoral Council : Next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be at 5.30pm on Tuesday 21 January at St Mary's.

Thoughts from a newcomer: Whenever I arrive new to a parish I think it is courtesy to observe and to learn. However, after four months with you, might I suggest a few things for our masses? First, I never think it to be a good idea for people to be 'moving' during prayers so perhaps those who are readers could wait till the opening prayer is finished before leaving their seats to go up to the lectern. Similarly, maybe those people leading the intercessions could wait until we have finished the creed before going to the lectern - and then wait until after the priest's conclusion before returning to their seat. It is also good during the intercessions to give us the 10 seconds of silence since it is actually the silence when we do our praying. The reader's part in the intercessions is simply to offer us the theme for which we are to pray! Then, our Holy Communion ministers: rather than approach the altar while a prayer is being said, perhaps come forward during the sign of peace when there is already movement in the body of the church. Then, a health and safety point: while ministers do already sanitise their hands when they arrive on the sanctuary, it can be good practice to sanitise hands again before distributing the hosts to others. Finally, other priests may not do this but I always tend to hold up the Book of Gospels to say 'The Gospel of the Lord'. Perhaps remain standing until I lower the book? Thank you very much. - David Coxon

Friday mass: Parishioners are very welcome to attend our Friday mass in St John's school chapel. Park in the main (staff) car park and thn inside the door check in at the reception desk. Our mass is at 8.15am.

St Mary's Piety Shop: is looking for a new volunteer to run the shop. This is not an onerous task and no experience is necessary. If you have any questions at all, please speak to Zita after 11am Mass.

Please pray for for Jane Hardy who died in hospital on 27 December. Jane is the daughter of Margaret Kirby. Her funeral service will be at St Mary's church at 1.30pm on Thursday, 16th January. Also, one of our diocese's priests, Fr Kevin Cummins, died on 12 December.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 11 January	* <i>No morning mass or confessions today.</i> 5.30pm mass : <i>John Watson Harrop</i>
Sunday, 12 January	9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : <i>Richard & Marion Brownless ; Joanne Dinsley (for a successful operation)</i> 11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>Bridie Clinton</i>
Monday 13 January	No Mass today 10.00 am : <i>Holy Communion Service at St Wilfrid's</i> 1.00pm: <i>Craft Club in St Mary's meeting room</i>
Tuesday 14 January	10.00am mass : <i>Eric Walsh</i>
Wednesday 15 January	10.00am Mass (at St Wilfrid's): <i>Holy Souls</i>
Thursday 16 January	10.00am mass : <i>Agnes & Michael Coleman</i> 1.30 pm Funeral service for Jane Hardy at St Mary's
Friday 17 January	8.15am mass in St John's school chapel
Saturday 18 January	10.00am mass : <i>Holy Souls</i> 5.30pm mass : <i>For everyone in our parish.</i>
Sunday, 19 January 2nd Sunday of the Year	9.30am mass at St Wilfrid's : <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.00am mass at St Mary's : <i>Jonathan Beddard</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 **12 January 2025**

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Baptism

Jesus was an adult when, along with others, he went down to the River Jordan to be dunked under the water by John. This dunking represented a washing off of the past, and a new beginning. It was called a baptism.

This is what is meant by 'baptism' today too. It can often be seen as an 'event', an 'occasion', whereas, in reality, baptism is about a 'beginning'. So, it is not so much that I **was** baptised as the fact that, here and now, I **am** a baptised person. It is ongoing.

Baptism does not make us a child of God. We are already children of God. How can any of us not be children of God, and much loved children at that. Baptism is a personal calling by God, but it is not *only* personal. What baptism seeks to do is to draw us personally into the wider community of believers so that, together, we can try to make Jesus' love, encouragement and forgiveness real for others. The message of Jesus, then, is not simply something that we listen to in a church. It is something to be experienced in our everyday lives. We are called upon not only to bring good news to others, but rather to BE good news for others.

Who are the people who, for me, are 'good news'? Why do I feel that way about them? How can I try to be the same for others this week?

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

Confession Times

St Mary's

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

**St Wilfrid's
before
Sunday
Mass**