

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 11 September	10 am Mass: <i>Remembering 9/11</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Jim Arthurs and Christine Bestford</i>
Sunday 12 September <i>24th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Intentions of Shirley Wallis</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Mick and Shirley Degnan</i>
Monday 13 September	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer
Tuesday 14 September <i>EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS</i>	No Mass:
Wednesday 15 September <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	10 am: <i>Eric Walsh</i>
Thursday 16 September <i>SS Cornelius and Cyprian</i>	2.00 pm: Requiem Mass for ANNE FOSTER at St Wilfrid's
Friday 17 September	10.00 am Mass: <i>Deceased of the Shaughnessy Family</i>
Saturday 18 September	10 am Mass: <i>Private Intention</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Tony Dolan</i>
Sunday 19 September <i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Eileen Stockton</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>People of the parish</i>

Quote:

“There is another way to live, on terms of greater intimacy with the woods and land - slower, more deliberate and benign: a quiet assertion of greenwood values”.

- **Roger Deakin**

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: (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 **12 September 2021**

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY of the YEAR

Go outside and play

It is simply common sense that if you are constantly indoors within four walls looking at a rectangular screen, hopping in and out of a vehicle to take you to another square box where you stare at a different screen or fill your trolley with stuff you don't really need, you're missing out on something incredible - the real world. Nature is an antidote to what ails us at a time when processed foods, long hours at a desk and decreased human interaction with the advent of social media are all wreaking havoc on our bodies, minds and relationships.

Time in nature is not a luxury; its essential to our physical, emotional and mental well-being. As our creative flow is directly linked with these it seems to me to be a 'no-brainer'. 'Go outside and play'.

Most research agrees that we live in a society that has become increasingly distanced from nature and its life-giving benefits. Human connection with nature is widely believed to be in decline, with a cultural shift away from it towards a modern lifestyle of increased virtual and indoor recreation. Many children, especially, seem to be suffering from this nature deficit. Our nature vocabulary is disappearing as children know the names of more Pokemon characters than wildlife species. Some researchers estimate that humans spend up to 90 per cent of their lives indoors, with more and more time spent online. The balance between technology and nature is out of kilter. These findings are a cause for concern because they indicate that we are missing out on the physical and psychological benefits from engagement with nature. There is also a theory that as our disconnection increases, the less responsibility we feel to protect our natural environment.

- **Ann Blockley, artist**

Copies of the weekly bulletin, the Partnership Note and any other handouts are available in a plastic storage box at the door of St Mary's and St Wilfrid's presbyteries. Please take what you need.

Following government advice, and that from our Bishops, church will be open for private prayer and for Mass. See this bulletin for details. We continue to take the safest measures we can. Please do your best to stay safe.

Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.

Caring for our Common Home - on Saturday 25th September, St Mary's will be open from 10 am to 2 pm for a day of reflection about Caring for the Earth. There will be displays of the 4 seasons of the year, prayers and reflections. Come for a while and enter a prayerful space to give thanks for creation and our responsibility to care for our corner of it. Thank you. Refreshments will be available throughout.

Also on Sunday 10th October, starting from St Wilfrid's at 2 pm, Melvyn will lead a Creation Walk to help us connect with nature and appreciate what we have all over again. Refreshments at St Wilfrid's afterwards. Make a note of the dates please folks. Thanks.

Sunday Mass obligation - when Covid and lockdowns came, churches were closed, individuals vulnerable by health or age were cautioned to stay indoors, remain safe and protect themselves from possible exposure to the virus which was spreading dangerously. Sunday Mass obligation, our expression of the 3rd Commandment about keeping the Sabbath day holy, the backbone of Catholic worship, was suspended. Sundays have been radically changed by commercialism and other factors but the obligation remained. In fact, in an increasingly secular world it's more relevant and important than ever.

Our Bishops intend to restore the Sunday Mass obligation from this coming Advent - the end of November onwards.

Many have got out of our Sunday (or Saturday vigil) Mass habit, and, sadly many no longer give it the seriousness which it has never lost. To give God an hour or so of worship once a week is not asking much for most people and should be considered as a basic requirement.

Streaming of Masses has been a great help for many and will continue, but it's no substitute for expressing Communion with the Lord and communion with the living community of the Church and the parish.

I mention the restart of the obligation now so that we can begin to prepare for attending Mass again. Vaccinations have helped greatly but have not dismissed the possibility of infection. The layout of our churches may change again and we'll let you know. I'll

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford
Michael Dowson
Mrs Aitken
Val Mundell
Joan Lightfoot
Monica Fuller
Michael Nicholson
Adam Hudspeth
Christopher Browne
Tyler Quinn
Maureen Nicholson
Norah Hutchinson
Robin Davis
Angela Graham
Stephen Gregory
Frank Ridley
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Teresa Brown
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh
Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Margaret Pattenden*

Please pray for

**ANNE FOSTER (90)
ANNE MORRIS (75) and
JOHN Wm DAVISON
who have died.**

May they rest in peace.



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 50: 5-9	Ps 114	James 2: 14-18	Mark 8: 27-35
Mon	1 Timothy 2: 1-8	Ps 27	Luke 7: 1-10	
Tues	Numbers 21: 4-9	Ps 77	Philippians 2: 6-11	John 3: 13-17
Wed	1 Timothy 3: 14-16	Ps 110	Luke 7: 31-35	
Thurs	1 Timothy 4: 12-16	Ps 110	Luke 7: 36-50	
Fri	1 Timothy 6: 2-12	Ps 48	Luke 8: 1-3	
Sat	1 Timothy 6: 13-16	Ps 99	Luke 8: 4-15	
Sun	Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20	Ps 53	James 3: 16-4: 3	Mark 9: 30-37

give you more information when we have it. In the meantime, let's give thought to what Communion and community means as we prepare carefully to celebrate more together again - as safely as possible. Covid has affected us all and we'll have to live with it wisely and carefully from here onwards. I'll keep you posted.

New Foodbank note - the foodbank is now accepting food items once again but we have an excess of some items and a shortage of others. We'd love you to help with: **tinned fruit, UHT milk, pasta sauce and meat paste.** Food can still be handed in at St Mary's and St Wilfrid's. As always, money to help with gas and electricity need is a godsend. The ending of furlough and the end of the £20 addition to Universal Credit will cause severe problems. Let's see what we can do. Enormous thanks.

Red Mission boxes - It's time for your box to be brought to church for emptying please. If you don't have a box at home and would like one, just let me know. For the last 3 months St Wilfrid's boxes have raised £292.41 and St Mary's £232. Thank you all.

Parish finances - Please remember to use your green envelopes, not forgetting the white second collection envelope also. The envelopes are important as it enables us to identify offerings that are Gift Aided. The tax recovered from HMRC is an important amount which requires us to use the envelopes as part of our recording systems. No envelope, no gift aid reclaimed.

Payment of Offerings by Bank Transfer - Any parishioner who wishes to stop paying their offerings in cash, can arrange to pay direct from their bank account into the church account. See copies in the plastic box on the presbytery doorstep. Thank you.

Used stamps - can be brought to church for helping the work of the Little Sisters of the poor. Thanks.