

This week

	Services & meetings	Location
Saturday 12 December	10.00 am Mass: Marie and Joe Robinson 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: Kenneth Clarkson	
Sunday 13 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	10.00 am Mass: Eric Walsh	
Monday 14 December St John of the Cross	No Mass 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer	
Tuesday 15 December	10.00 am Mass: Christine Bestford	
Wednesday 16 December	10.00 am Mass: Special Intention (B) 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer	
Thursday 17 December	10.00 am Mass: Ken Pritchard	
Friday 18 December	10.00 am Mass: Thanksgiving (J) 11.00 - 1.00 - St Mary's open for private prayer	
Saturday 19 December	10.00 am Mass: Bob Ireland 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: Elaine Miller	
Sunday 20 December 4th Sunday of Advent	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's People of the parish 11.00 am Mass: People of the parish 6 pm: Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation	

ST MARY'S

Collection: £

Thank you

Quote:

"A determined soul will do more with a rusty monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the tools in a machine shop"-
Robert Hughes (Australian art critic)

ST WILFRID'S

Collection: £

Thank you

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

Sunday, 13 December 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Give this a title

When the good Lord was creating mothers, he was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said 'You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one'.

And the Lord said, 'Have you read the specifications on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic ... have 180 moveable parts - all replaceable ... run on black coffee and leftovers ... have a lap that disappears when she stands up ... a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair .. and six pairs of hands'. The angel shook his head slowly and said, 'Six pairs of hands? No way.'

'It's not the hands that are causing me problems,' said the Lord. 'It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have.' 'That's on the standard model?' asked the angel. The Lord nodded. 'One pair sees through closed doors when she asks, "What are you children doing in there?" when she already knows.. Another in the back of her head that sees when she shouldn't but what she has to know. And, of course, the ones in front that can look at a child when he gets himself into trouble and say, "I understand and I love you", without so much as uttering a word.'

'Lord,' said the angel, touching his sleeve gently, go to bed. Tomorrow is another 'I can't said the Lord.' I'm so close now. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on one pound of mince, and can get a 9 year old to have a bath.' The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. 'She's too soft', he sighed. 'But tough!' said the Lord excitedly. 'You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure.'

'Can she think?' asked the angel. 'Not only think, but reason and compromise,' said the Creator.

Finally the angel bent over and ran its finger across the cheek. 'There's a leak', he pronounced. 'It's not a leak,' said the Lord. 'It's a tear. What's if for?' 'It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride.' You are a genius,' said the angel.

The Lord looked sombre. 'I didn't put it there.'

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

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

Confession Times

St Mary

By request and by simple arrangement.

More details very soon.

Christmas arrangements - please read carefully the separate note detailing our advice about Christmas in St Mary's and St Wilfrid's. It's different this year for obvious reasons. Let's see how successfully we can manage. It's a time of goodwill - it will be needed!

Masses

- Church is now open for Mass with a congregation. Please ring to book for Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. Masks are required.
- St Mary's is open for private prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11am to 1.00pm.
- We are streaming Mass each weekday at 10am, except for Mondays, (access via St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube).
- Funeral services can go ahead with 30 people in church and or at the Crematorium or graveside. Any additional attendees at funerals will sadly need to remain outside.

Please note that next Sunday's Mass at St Mary's will be back to its old time of 11am and will be streamed.

We will be back celebrating **Mass at St Wilfrid's next Sunday at 9.30am**. Masks are required. Booking is essential because social distancing has reduced spaces available. Please ring 01388 603431. Thank you. **Please ring** to book a place for next Sunday's Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation at 6pm in St Mary's. Thank you.

St Wilfrid's church cleaning - Monday 14th, from 9.00am. This will be a 'double clean' as required by the diocese for reopening after a long period, so all help will be very welcome!

The Foodbank - needs you. Big thanks for what you donate and for money donations. Items needed are **sugar, jam, potatoes-tinned or packet, rice pudding, toothpaste, toothbrushes and shower gel**. At the moment we have plenty of pasta, beans and soup. Lets see what we can do to help. **New opening hours Mon-Thurs 10-5 & Fri 9-1**.

Food and crisis help - Money donations are especially welcome to help those with gas and electricity needs. Your generosity is wonderful.

December's Northern Cross is now here at £1.50 . Get yours now!

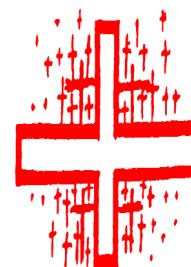
CAFOD's World Gifts - brochures are available at church. A brilliant solution to what to give instead of unnecessary material gifts.

Huge thanks - to David and Jennifer Dow who, at no cost to the parish, have completely renovated the main chairs on St Mary's sanctuary. A beautiful, professional job. Brilliant!

SVP Christmas Appeal - we asked for your support and the response was far beyond our expectations. The funds

Please pray for the health of:

Betty Shoulder
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
Jack Tobin
Jacob Thomas
Charlotte Thomas
Sheila Campbell
John Boyle
Teresa Brown
Joan Hannon
Christina Marsh (3)
Ian & Kathy Lloyd
Roman Banks
Jane Hardy (Kirby)
Wilf Teesdale



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11	Luke 1:46-50, 53-54	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	John 1: 6-8, 19-28
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	Genesis 49: 2, 8-10	Ps 71	Matthew 1: 1-17	
Fri	Jeremiah 23: 5-8	Ps 71	Matthew 1: 18-24	
Sat	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25	Ps 70	Luke 1: 5-25	
Sun	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14-16	Ps 88	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38

received from parishioners, their friends and relatives totalled £1860. We wish you to know that both St Mary's and St Wilfrid's SVP Conferences will ensure that the sum will be spent on supporting those in need in our local community. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and compassion. God bless you all.

Parish Finances - please remember to use your yellow envelopes, not forgetting the white 2nd 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 of Standing Order forms in the plastic box on the presbytery doorstep. Thank you.

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? If you are new to the Catholic faith and would like to know more, you are invited to join a weekly online programme arranged by the Diocese. It's called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and registration is now open - Tuesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30pm. The hour long online meetings will enable you to meet others who are also beginning the programme. You can also get in touch, please with Father Dennis. To register or find out more, email: adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk. Thanks.

Christmas Market some of you may remember the Sisters from St Elizabeth Convent in Belarus who have visited us a couple of times with their handmade goods. They have established their first online Christmas Market which can be found at catalog.obital-minsk.com/Christmas-market. They export all over the world. Have a look. Their goods are great quality. Thank you.

Please continue to send us your email addresses and telephone numbers. Thank you.

THE VIRUS IS STILL VERY ACTIVE PLEASE STAY SAFE