

Penitential Rite : We often use the 'Lord, have mercy/ Christ have mercy/ Lord, have mercy' option of the Penitential Rite at the beginning of mass. Might we try Option B for a few weeks until we get to know it?

PRIEST : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

PEOPLE : **For we have sinned against you.**

PRIEST : Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

PEOPLE : **And grant us your salvation.** [page 8 in mass books]

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 tinned spaghetti, pasta sauce and hot dogs.** A big thank you!

Laudato Si Group : Would you like to help to reduce the waste we create at Christmas? In December a large Christmas card will be placed in both St Mary's and St Wilfrid's churches. If you want to share Christmas greetings with friends in our parish, please add your name and wishes to the card instead of sending individual cards. A donation can be made to the SVP at the same time if you wish. Hopefully this will help to reduce some of the waste this year.

Christmas essentials : Please remember when buying wrapping paper and cards: avoid foil/ plastic wrap. If it crunches, it is paper and can be recycled. Avoid cards with glitter, foil and decorations. In both cases, remove ribbons, bows, tags, Sellotape or any decorations before recycling. Check out this excellent special festive waste site at [durham.gov.uk/christmas recycling](http://durham.gov.uk/christmas-recycling)

Advent reflections : Reflections for each day of Advent have been prepared by people from across our diocese. You can access these on-line: <https://bit.ly/DHNAdvent2024>.

Northern Cross: The December edition of the 'Northern Cross' is still available at the back of church at £1.50 with news from around the diocese. Please take a copy if you can.

Christmas Dinner: Those people wanting to take up the invitation from St John's school to share in a Christmas Dinner have now booked their places. This will be on Tuesday, 17 December, from 12 noon—2.00pm. It will be free of charge, though donations to the school's Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be very welcome.

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

Gift Aid : A parishioner who puts £5 on the plate each week can

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



contribute an additional £65 to the parish if that parishioner signs a simple Gift Aid form. A GAD. All that is needed are a few pieces of info on one simple form AND of course the person must be paying tax. In this example £65 tax over the tax year, ie., £1.25 per week. In return, the parish gives you a nice shiny box of numbered envelopes, one per week, to put your donation in. No name on the envelope, just your unique number. We use the envelope to support the Gift Aid claim. If interested - talk to John Stockton (St Wilfrid) or Tony Murphy (St Mary).

Non-cash offerings : Did you know that more than 35 parishioners don't have to bother with cash to make their offerings to the parish. They sign up to pay (usually monthly) by bank transfer from their bank account to the parish account. A good system, saves a lot of cash handling. If interested see the usual suspects, John Stockton or Tony Murphy.

SVP 200 Club : December winning numbers are 63 and 81. We have a winner this month - congratulations. Many thanks to all for your continuing support.

St Mary's Piety Shop: now have some Christmas cards, Advent calendars and small items for sale. Pop in and have a look.

St Mary's Christmas Dressing of windowsills: We will have sixteen of the large red candles for sale. They are £3 each and burn for a week. Would you like a candle named as a Family Remembrance Window? A card with the family name will be placed in the window. Only 16 will be available - so first come first served. See the sheet at the back of church. Many thanks.

St Wilfrid's Christmas windows: We will be decorating each of our church windows for Christmas. If you would like to have a window dedicated to your family and your prayer intentions please just sign your family name on the list at the back of St Wilfrid's by today, 15th December. There is no cost but if you would like to make a contribution to the food bank a money box is available at the back of church.

Two requests : 1. If you are wanting a mass intention for a particular day, perhaps you could let us know a couple of weeks in advance, and in which church you want the mass. 2. If possible, could you let us know as soon as you can in the week if you want an item included in our parish bulletin. If items arrive when we are about to print then it often means we need to take out some other item so as to squeeze it in.

Christmas masses : Christmas Eve, 5.30pm at St Mary's; Christmas Eve, 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's; Christmas Day 10.00am at St Mary's.

Jubilee 2025: Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we'll be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

Craft group : Next meeting in St. Mary's meeting room will be on Monday 6th January.

Please pray For Dawn Dunn who died on 1 December, and for Dominic Gregory who died on 4 December. Their funeral services will be this week.

This week

	Services & meetings ** Note changes this week!
Saturday 14 December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	* No 10.00am Mass or confessions today. 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Andrew Murphy; Eric Walsh</i>
Sunday 15 December <i>Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Kenneth Clarkson</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Anna Gazdikova</i> 4.30pm at St Mary's: <i>Service of Reconciliation</i>
Monday 16 December	No Mass today 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm Craft Club at St Mary's
Tuesday 17 December	9.15 am Mass: <i>Maureen & John Nicholson</i> * <u>in church</u> <i>(with students from St John's School)</i>
Wednesday 18 December	10.00 am Mass: <i>Madeleine, Tony & Dominic Ottewell</i> *<u>in meeting room</u>
Thursday 19 December	10.00am mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> * <u>in mass room at St Wilfrid's</u> <i>(St Mary's church used all day for students' Advent liturgies)</i>
Friday 20 December	8.15 am mass in St John's school chapel 1.30pm at St Mary's: <i>Funeral service for Dawn Dunn</i>
Saturday 21 December	10.00am Mass : <i>Wilson & Welch families</i> *<u>in meeting room</u> followed by an opportunity for confession. 5.30pm Mass : <i>For everyone in our parish.</i>
Sunday 22 December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)</i>	9.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Arnold Smith;</i> <i>Lina & Luigi Quagliari</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Holy Souls</i>

The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

Fr David Coxon, St Mary's, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6PQ Tel: (01388) 603431

website: Parish of St Mary and St Wilfrid : e-mail: stmarystwilfrid.bishopauckland@diocesehn.org.uk

To access streamed Masses: St Mary's Bishop Auckland YouTube [15 December 2024](#)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Advent: Part Two

Tuesday is when it is all going to change! So far in our season of Advent, the daily gospel readings have had the adult Jesus being presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament people's hopes. Until now, no mention of Mary's pregnancy.

This Tuesday is when it all changes. The second part of Advent is a prayerful preparation for the remembrance of the birth of Jesus. Tuesday's gospel, for example, will record Jesus' genealogy, his family tree, though this has a theological twist to it rather than being an actual family tree. Wednesday's gospel will tell us how Mary and Joseph came to be together. On Thursday we will hear of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist. And so on. This second part of Advent will, over nine days, take us, in our reflections, to the birth of Jesus. A 'novena of prayer'; the word 'novena' means 'nine'.

In the Liturgy of the Hours (also known as 'the Prayer of the Church' or 'Divine Office'), the evening prayer will, each day, have one of the "O antiphons" as a sort of thought for the day. Each of the texts, in the original Latin, begins with the [vocative particle](#) "O". Each antiphon is a title of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture, as in the hymn 'O come, O come Emmanuel'. From the back of church you can pick up a sheet with these "O antiphons". You may find them helpful in your prayerful reflections as we journey through this second part of Advent towards Christmas.

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