

**First Steps – Exploring the Catholic Faith online – Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start?** First Steps is aimed at people who are thinking about their faith or their relationship with God. Perhaps you were baptised a Catholic, but didn't make First Communion, or receive Confirmation, or were baptised as a member of another Christian Church, or have never been baptised at all. If you are currently wondering whether joining the Catholic Church is the next step for you this may be the way forward. For further information, or to register, please visit <https://bit.ly/3sHgZOF>. First Steps online begins on Wednesday 11 October at 7 pm for 7 weeks and will be delivered via Zoom.

**Cancer Support —** No one should have to face cancer alone. Team Solan Cancer Trust will be available at Woodhouse Close Church Centre each Wednesday morning, providing a Drop-In session from 10.00 to 12.00. Their aim is to help improve the quality of life for those living with a cancer diagnosis or a cancer bereavement. It's a bespoke support service to adults and children who have been impacted by cancer. If you need support or further information please contact: [admin@teamsolan.org.uk](mailto:admin@teamsolan.org.uk) or telephone 01388 205294. You'll be welcome to call in to meet the team members during the Drop-In sessions each week.

**Our Schools** continue to go to enormous lengths to help all our pupils, students and their families. Schools have changed as much as our young people and their families have changed and in the complexities of today's society our school staff give over the odds to help our young people not only to learn but to feel cared for. Here faith is practiced and taught. The Gospel is being lived out in the signals given by our wonderful staff teams, support staff and governors. Pray for our young people, our schools and our families and if you can help out at all we'd love to hear from you. Never take our schools for granted. They're doing creative and important work in forming future generations. As far as we know we don't have the RAAC concrete here. Ferryhill and Durham St Leonard's however are affected.

**Bishop Stephen** our new Bishop will be visiting us on 2nd and 3rd December, the First Sunday of Advent. I know you'll make him very welcome. Make a note. This is a great opportunity to meet our Bishop.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, UHT milk, tinned fruit and tinned tomatoes and good quality bags for life. 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

Please pray for the health of:

*Irene Welford  
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)  
Margaret Pattenden  
Mary Curry  
Adam Quarmby  
Eileen Kelly  
Patrick Fogarty*

Please pray for

VICTOR COGLAN (83)  
and  
VALERY MUNDELL (70)

who have died.  
May they rest in  
peace.



Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:

Sun	Ezekiel 33: 7-9	Ps 94	Romans 13: 8-10	Matthew 18: 15-20
Mon	1 Timothy 2: 1-8	Ps 27	Luke 7: 1-10	
Tues	1 Timothy 3: 1-13	Ps 100	Luke 7: 11-17	
Wed	1 Timothy 3: 14-16	Ps 110	Luke 7: 31-35	
Thurs	Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13	Ps 18	Matthew 9: 9-13	
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	Isaiah 55: 6-9	Ps 144	Philippians 1: 20-24, 27	Matthew 20: 1-16

help folks with fuel costs 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.

**The Passion Play** is scheduled for next Good Friday in the Market Place. If you are interested in being part of the cast or helping in practical ways, please do get in touch. Thank you.

**School Governors** do an invaluable job helping our schools here. We have vacancies at present, so if you'd love to help in giving back in gratitude for what school gave us, please have a word.

**As the year moves on** could we be thinking about social and spiritual events and services to express what we want to say to God and to each other. If you don't say, we don't know!

**Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's** - in view of the low attendance there will be no Holy Hour at St Wilfrid's for the rest of the summer. If there is a demand we will start again in the autumn.

**The Faith Museum —** is the stunning new building at Auckland Castle. It opens on 7 October. This new asset to Bishop Auckland will explore the many ways faith has shaped lives and communities across Britain. There are four galleries with displays and changing exhibitions. It houses over 250 objects from across the UK, some national treasures and personal mementos. The museum's story begins 6000 years ago, taking visitors on a journey through time, considering the ways faith has shaped our lives throughout history and continues to do so. Plan to visit sometime in the Autumn. Tickets can be booked in advance. We hope to arrange a guided tour.

**KYNREN** - I hope you'll book up to enjoy the amazing spectacle. There are more new things to see each year!

**St. Mary's September Church Cleaning** - Tuesday 26th after morning Mass. Many thanks.

**A huge thank you** to the kind person that cut the grass at St Wilfrid's this week. It is very much appreciated!

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 16 September</b> <i>SS Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Fr Mick McKenna</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>Jacqueline Smith</i>
<b>Sunday 17 September</b> <i>24th Sunday of the Year</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>People of the parish</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>Vasey, Hogg and Cruddace families</i>
<b>Monday 18 September</b>	<b>No Mass</b> <b>10.00 am</b> Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's <b>1.00 pm</b> <i>Craft Club at St Mary's</i>
<b>Tuesday 19 September</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday 20 September</b> <i>The Korean Martyrs</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass @ Our Lady &amp; St Thomas, Willington</b>
<b>Thursday 21 September</b> <i>ST MATTHEW</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Michael Pugh and Jayne Streatfield</i>
<b>Friday 22 September</b>	<b>8.15 am Mass in St John's School Chapel</b> <b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Holy Souls</i> <b>3.00 pm Wedding of Joanne Dent and Gary King at St Mary's</b> <b>5.00 pm</b> St Wilfrid's Presbytery meeting
<b>Saturday 23 September</b> <i>St Padre Pio</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass:</b> <i>Mary Baker</i> <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>for Sue Broomhead</i>
<b>Sunday 24 September</b> <i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>	<b>09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's:</b> <i>Thanksgiving (B)</i> <b>11.00 am Mass at St Mary's:</b> <i>People of the parish</i>

**Quote:**

"Everything will be all right in the end. If it's not all right, it is not yet the end."  
- *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*

## The Parish of St Mary + St Wilfrid

In the Escomb Partnership of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
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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 **17 September, 2023**

# 24th SUNDAY of the YEAR

### MERCY

*The quality of mercy is not strained,  
it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
upon the place beneath: it is twice blessed:  
it blesseth him that gives and him that takes:  
'tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes  
the throned monarch better than his crown:  
his sceptre shows the force of temporal power,  
the attribute to awe and majesty,  
wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;  
but mercy is above the sceptred sway,  
it is enthroned in the hearts of kings,  
it is an attitude to God himself,  
and earthly power doth then show likest God's  
when mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,  
though justice be thy plea, consider this,  
that in the course of justice none of us  
should see salvation: we do pray for mercy,  
and that same prayer doth teach us all to render  
the deeds of mercy.*

- *William Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice*  
(speech of Portia to Shylock Act 4, Scene 1)



### Confession Times St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.