

Northern Cross: There are still some copies of the November edition of the 'Northern Cross' at the back of church at £1.50 with news from around the diocese.

Christmas Quiz: it's that time of year again when we have our amazing quiz. **Thursday 5 December, 6.30pm.** Put the date in your diary. If you have any bottles for the bottle stall please take a bottle bag from the back of church.

Foodbank: We have received fewer items for the food bank over the last few weeks but, 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 need sugar, UHT milk and chocolate for the children.** A big thank you!

St Wilfrid's Social Evening: on **Friday 22nd November at 7.00pm** in St Wilfrid's Presbytery. If you have a ticket for the earlier date, please hang on to it - if not, tickets (£1 only!) are at the back of each church. It's always a fun evening-. Come and join us for quizzes, bingo and a chance to meet and chat! Offerings of food and raffle prizes would be very welcome.

Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal: Boxes need to be taken to The Well by this Monday, 18 November. You can also give a donation for transporting boxes; there's a tin at the back of church.

Music at St Wilfrid's meeting: Today (17 November) we will have a meeting after 9.30 Mass for ANYONE interested in singing or playing music during Sunday Masses. This brief meeting is just to talk about what we want to do and how we will do it. Probably starting with practising carols for Christmas. All ages are welcome.

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

'The Season of Singing out Loud is Soon Upon Us': If you feel inhibited about singing within the congregation try joining us in the choir and release your worship inhibitions. Reading music is not required. A "good" voice is not necessary. Enthusiasm helps. Simply join us before mass and add so much to the joy of your faith.

Next weekend we will celebrate the feast of Christ the King.

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*

*Please pray for
PAUL SUMPTON
and
MARGARET PATTENDEN
who have died.
May they rest in peace*



Contact details: Thank you to all who have already filled in those new mauve coloured contact lists. Unfortunately, I forgot at first to ask for phone numbers! Many thanks to those who have nonetheless provided them. Do, please, continue to give me your forms. - David Coxon

Volunteer census: Jeannie Hardy and Fiona Ottewell spoke at masses recently with a message from the diocese thanking parish volunteers for their ongoing sterling work. They also invited people to fill in a simple 'volunteer census form'. Please return your forms as soon as possible so that they can be sent off to the diocese to allow them to see what great work is being done here.

World Gifts: Sometimes, at Christmas, we give and receive gifts that are not necessarily 'wanted'. It can be useful to look through a simple CAFOD catalogue. With this, you can certainly give a gift to a friend, but poorer people in our world can also benefit. Pick up a CAFOD catalogue from the back of church or, for a more extensive range, go to cafod.org.uk/world_gifts

Weekday masses: We don't get a lot of people at our weekday masses at St Mary's but some of those who attend have suggested having mass in the meeting room during the colder months. It's easier to heat! Also, any thoughts our having our Wednesday morning mass at St Wilfrid's church in the small 'mass room'? It would be good if we had a reasonable number come along so that we could gather around the altar. Let me know what you think. - DC

SVP200 Club - It is now the time of year to renew our annual subscriptions if you hold a number. The amount is £12 per number - some of you have more than one. The money raised supports St Vincent's in Newcastle providing 150 hot meals weekly to the homeless and emergency food parcels via the food bank. The new draw will take place from December and see us through until November 2025. Your continued support to this cause is beyond simple words. Please contact Zita 07722219173 via text or phone if you have any questions. I know some kind soul at St Wilfrid's will collect their subs and get it down to us. Once again many thanks.

SVP200Club: November winning numbers 56 & 49. No winners for us this month.

SVP: The SVP have supported the Sudan for many years but it remains a divided country and women and children suffer greatly. Latest figures are that 2 million women and children face acute malnutrition. See posters at back of church.

Little Sisters of the Poor Christmas Concert : The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 7th December 2024 at 7.00pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters at St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home – 0191 273 1279.

Recently deceased: Paul Sumpton of West Auckland died on 27th October. His funeral service will be in St Wilfrid's at 12 noon on Tuesday, 19 November. Then Margaret Pattenden died on Monday 28th October. May they rest in peace.

This week

	Services & meetings
Saturday 16 November	10.00 am mass : <i>For all who have died</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For all who have died</i>
Sunday 17 November <i>33rd Sunday of Year (B)</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>For all who have died</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>For everyone in our parish</i>
Monday 18 November	No Mass today 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's 1.00 pm Craft Club at St Mary's
Tuesday 19 November	10.00 am Mass: <i>Margaret Pattenden</i> 12 noon : <i>Funeral service at St Wilfrid's for Paul Sumpton</i>
Wednesday 20 November	10.00 am Mass: <i>Peter Maria Chu Sinh</i>
Thursday 21 November	10.00 am Mass: <i>Madeleine, Tony & Dominic Ottewell</i>
Friday 22 November	8.15 am mass in St John's school chapel
Saturday 23 November	- No mass or confessions this morning. - 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For everyone in our parish</i>
Sunday 24 November <i>Christ the King (B)</i>	09.30 am Mass at St Wilfrid's: <i>Eileen Relton</i> 11.00 am Mass at St Mary's: <i>Dave Fleming</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 **17 November 2024**

33rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Assisted Dying Bill

The 'Assisted Dying Bill' was introduced in Parliament last month and, on Friday, November 29th, the Bill is to have its second reading. This the point where there will be a general debate and MP's will have the opportunity to vote on the Bill.

This is a delicate topic for all of us, MP's included. We, as Catholics, see life to be a gift from God to be treasured and protected in all its vulnerability. Yet when we see relatives and friends who are now really struggling with serious health issues, our hearts go out to them. We want to do anything to relieve them of their suffering.

In any group of people, whether football fans, people at the pub, or those who attend church, there are going to be those who support this Bill and those who object to it.

It is difficult to make a decision on the basis of what *might* happen, but it is true that in some of the countries where this law has been passed, the candidates eligible for assisted dying has shifted so that it is no longer a 'serious' or 'terminal' illness which becomes the criterion. And that is my concern. I well understand how, at present, people may want for themselves or for their relatives only 'what is for the best', but how might expectations change later?

Do give this subject some time for reflection and prayer and, yes, do think about writing to our MP with your own views.

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 10.45-11.30 and by request.

St Wilfrid's

before Sunday Mass