

### **Christmas Masses:**

Christmas Eve: 5.30pm at St Mary's and 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's  
Christmas Day: 9.30am at St Wilfrid's and 11am at St Mary's  
Everyone is welcome. We'll be delighted to see you.

**Diocesan Safeguarding** - you may have seen a report on the local BBC TV news about Safeguarding in our diocese. With this bulletin you'll see the statement from the diocese. Its helpful to see the full statement as the news item only gave a brief quote from it. If you have any questions, I'm always ready to hear from you.

**Thanks again** - to all who organised, helped and attended the smashing social evenings we've had lately. The Christmas Quiz raised £489.09 made up to £500, to be donated to The Foodbank, The Woman's Refuge and The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project. We'll donate our Christmas collections to the same charities as you indicated at last weekend's Masses. The money donated to Samaritan's Purse (shoebox appeal) was £113 together with £150 from the Quiz Night held on 26th October. This helps to send the shoeboxes to the children abroad.

**Marie Curie Nursing** - raised £358 from the evening with Durham Constabulary Brass Band. Thank you everyone for your generosity and for making these evenings so enjoyable. You not only help to build community, you create a great night out and support superb care.

**Annual Parishioners' Christmas Lunch** - St John's ask us to join them on Tuesday 19 December from 11.45 to 2 pm for Christmas lunch. This event is free of charge, however they are raising funds to support the Pilgrimage to Lourdes so any donations will be gratefully received. Please see poster at back of church. The list is now closed.

**Bishop Auckland Baptist Church** are offering free food and festive fun on Christmas Day from 12 noon until 3pm. Please see poster at the back of church for more details.

**St. Mary's Piety Shop** now has Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, Chocolate and Small Christmas items for sale.

**The Foodbank** - A huge thank you for the donations received last week. **The following items are needed this week, pasta sauce, UHT milk, small tins of meat, 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 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. Winter temperatures will drop. Thank you.

**World Peace**—please have a space in your personal prayer for peace in the war zones of the world and for the plight of innocent children and civilians. Thank you.

**Pope Francis'** brilliant document on caring for creation (Laudato Si) is now 8 years old! Not enough has happened over this time so he has written a further document called Laudate Deum (meaning 'Praise God') about the

### **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  
Senara Wilton  
Joan Vasey  
Patrick Fogarty*

**Please pray for  
CHRISTINE WASS  
(71)  
who has died.  
May she rest in  
peace.**



### **Scripture Readings for this week's Masses:**

<b>Sun</b>	Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11	Luke 1: 46-50 53-54	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	John 1: 6-8,19-28
<b>Mon</b>	Genesis 49: 2, 8-10	Ps 71	Matthew 1: 1-17	
<b>Tues</b>	Jeremiah 23: 5-8	Ps 71	Matthew 1: 18-24	
<b>Wed</b>	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25	Ps 70	Luke 1: 5-25	
<b>Thurs</b>	Isaiah 7: 10-14	Ps 32	Luke 1: 39-45	
<b>Fri</b>	1 Samuel 1: 24-28	1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8	Luke 1: 46-56	
<b>Sat</b>	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24	Ps 24	Luke 1: 57-66	
<b>Sun</b>	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16	Ps 88	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38

climate crisis. We have some copies at £4.95 at the back of church. More are on order.

**Advent Extra** copies are now available at £2.00—great value and price.

**St. Mary's Christmas Church Clean and Decoration** - St. Mary's Church cleaning and Christmas decorating. This will take place on Friday 22nd at 10am. Can you spare us half an hour or an hour to clean our church and decorate in preparation for Christmas. Perhaps you could help dress the altar trees? Bring the children along - we have no shortage of benches to dust. Many hands make light work. Thank you.

**Bible Alive**— December's copies are available at the back of church. Please collect yours if you ordered a monthly copy. Tick against your name on the list for November. £1.50. Thank you.

**The Faith Museum**— is the stunning new building at Auckland Castle. It has opened now. 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 are arranging a group visit.

**SVP Club** - if you are a member your £12 subscription (for one number for the year) is now due for 2024. If you would like to join as a new member you are very welcome. For more details of the club please see the poster on the left side notice board as you enter church. Please give your money to Zita or leave it in an envelope clearly marked. Many thanks.

**December SVP 200 Draw** - This month's winning numbers are 188 and 103.

**Vocations Alert** - "Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."

Is the Lord awakening you or anyone you know to consider a vocation to the priesthood? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299012 or vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk

**The Northern Cross** - December's Northern Cross is available today.

**A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS.  
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY**

# This week

	Services & meetings
<b>Saturday 16 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Fr Pat O'Connell</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Amore Foody</i>
<b>Sunday 17 December</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	09.30 am Mass at <b>St Wilfrid's</b> : <i>Arnold Smith</i> 11.00 am Mass at <b>St Mary's</b> : <i>People of the parish</i> 6.00 pm Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation
<b>Monday 18 December</b>	No Mass 10.00 am Eucharistic Service at St Wilfrid's
<b>Tuesday 19 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Special Intention</i> 11.45 am <b>St John's School Christmas Lunch</b> 6.00 pm Primary Schools Carol Service at St Mary's
<b>Wednesday 20 December</b>	<u>9.00 am</u> Mass: <i>Elaine Miller</i>
<b>Thursday 21 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>Holy Souls</i> <b>IN ST WILFRID'S MASS ROOM</b> 6.00 pm <b>St Wilfrid's: Reception of Christine Wass</b>
<b>Friday 22 December</b>	8.15 am Mass in <b>St John's School Chapel</b> 10.30 am Requiem Mass @ <b>St. Wilfrid's for CHRISTINE WASS</b>
<b>Saturday 23 December</b>	10.00 am Mass: <i>People of the parish</i> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass: <i>Margery and John Watson Harrop</i>
<b>Sunday 24 December</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	09.30 am Mass at <b>St Wilfrid's: Thanksgiving</b> 11.00 am Mass at <b>St Mary's: Private Intention</b> 5.30 pm @ <b>St Mary's Christmas Mass for the People of the parish</b> 7.30 pm @ <b>St Wilfrid's Christmas Mass for the People of the parish</b>

**Quote:**

*"Almost all my middle aged and elderly acquaintances, including me, feel about 25, unless we haven't had our coffee, in which case we feel 107"*

**- Martha Black**

## 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 Tel: (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 **17 December, 2023**

# 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Joy Chose You

*Joy does not arrive with a fanfare. Nor on a red carpet strewn with the flowers of a perfect life.*

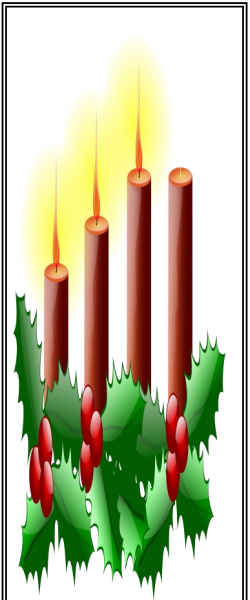
*Joy sneaks in as you pour a cup of coffee watching the sun hit your favourite tree, just right.*

*And you usher Joy away as you are not ready for it, because your house is not ready for such a distinguished guest. But Joy cares nothing for your messy home, or your bank balance, or your waistline, you see.*

*Joy is supposed to slither through the cracks of your imperfect life. That's how Joy works. You cannot invite her. You can only be ready when she appears.*

*And hug her with meaning. Because in this very moment joy chose you.*

**Poem by Donna Ashworth (edited)**



### Confession Times

St Mary's

By request and by simple arrangement.